

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Stephanie Porter, Laura Mann, Ryan O'Connor, Izzy Schroder. Council members absent: Catherine Kiewit. Staff present: City Administrator Jan Brending, City Attorney Chris Lanz and Bingen-White Salmon Police Sergeant Mike Hepner. Audience present: Michelle Scott, Tammy Kaufman.

Public Comment

Tammy Kaufman, Insitu and White Salmon Rotary

Tammy Kaufman said Community Pride was a success with a good turnout for volunteers.

Kaufman said the proposed location for the Peace Pole in the landscaping bed at the corner of Walnut and Steuben is okay with Insitu.

Kaufman said Insitu is now running shuttle busses between its facilities in Bingen, White Salmon and Hood River. She said in addition, Insitu has a commuter bus running from Vancouver/Portland to Bingen.

Izzy Schroder asked if the shuttle busses are only available to Insitu employees.

Kaufman said yes that is correct due to security reasons.

Izzy Schroder asked if there had been any comments regarding the requested \$10 donation for Community Pride.

Kaufman said she did not hear any complaints. She said the Community Pride committee will be meeting next week for a review.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Sergeant Mike Hepner said there have been a few thefts and some vandalism on Depot Street in Bingen. He said the department believes they know who is doing it but have no evidence at this point.

Betty Barnes asked Hepner if the police department patrols the skatepark.

Hepner said yes.

Izzy Schroder asked if Hepner had anymore business cards.

Hepner said he can make more available. Jan Brending noted there are business cards for the police officers in the front office at city hall.

Hepner said he can place the speed trailer in Bingen if he knows the locations.

Jan Brending said the areas are the 100 blocks of east Jefferson and Franklin.

Approval of Minutes – April 18, 2017

Changes to the minutes of the April 18, 2017 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 2, 2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence should read: "Mann said she told Baker a traffic light is needed at Highway 14 and 141."

Page 6, 16th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: "He said he expects jobs to pay between \$14 to \$20 per hour."

Page 7, 8th paragraph should read: "Izzy Schroder asked if they would be offering concierge service to customers who may be coming in on Amtrak."

Page 8, 12th paragraph should read: "Ryan O'Connor asked if they have concerns about how the city itself might affect the development and asked what support the city can offer."

Laura Mann moved to approve the meeting minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the city council on April 18, 2017 as corrected. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Conditional Use Permit Application 2017-001, KeyMar LLC (Bingen School Inn) – Decision

Jan Brending reviewed the proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision for Conditional Use Permit 2017-001, Key Mar LLC (Bingen School Inn).

Laura Mann moved to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision for Conditional Use Permit 2017-001, KeyMar LLC (Bingen School Inn) as presented. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Underwood Fruit Vault and Meter Replacement Bid Results, Recommendation to Award Contract

Jan Brending said the city received one bid, Artistic Excavation, in the amount of \$52,351.43. She noted the engineer's estimate for the projects was \$70,950. Brending said the city's engineer, Gray & Osborne, are recommending the city accept the bid from Artistic Excavation and enter into a contract for the project.

Izzy Schroder moved to accept the bid for the Underwood Fruit Vault and Meter Replacement project from Artistic Excavation in the amount of \$52,351.43 and authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Artistic Excavation. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

2016 Annual Financial Report Review

Jan Brending presented the 2016 Annual Financial Report. She noted the Budget Committee which consists of the mayor, Izzy Schroder and Catherine Kiewit also reviews the annual financial report.

Izzy Schroder provided an overview of what the Budget Committee does when it reviews the annual report.

Laura Mann moved to authorize submittal of the 2016 Annual Financial Report to the Washington State Auditor's Office. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2017-004, Closing the Fire Fund

Jan Brending said that when developing the budget for 2017 it was decided to close the Fire Fund, Water Equipment Fund and Sewer Equipment Fund and place the small amount of funds in their corresponding reserve funds. She said the funds have low balances and it makes sense to combine the funds with other corresponding reserve funds. Brending noted there will be a proposed ordinance amendment renaming some of the reserve funds.

Stephanie Porter moved to adopt Resolution 2017-004, Closing the Fire Fund. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2017-005, Closing the Water Equipment Fund

Stephanie Porter moved to adopt Resolution 2017-005, Closing the Water Equipment Fund. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2017-006, Closing the Sewer Equipment Fund

Ryan O'Connor moved to adopt Resolution 2017-006, Closing the Sewer Equipment Fund. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Acceptance of Dickey Farms Waterline Repair, Crestline Construction, as Substantially Complete

Jan Brending said she is recommending the council accept the Dickey Farm waterline repair by Crestline Construction as substantially complete. She said there were two outstanding items that needed attention: the west driveway at D R O'Hara's property and the west bound travel lane of the Highway 14. Brending said the driveway has been repaired and that the west bound paving will be looked at later this spring when it is warmer. She said that issue can be handled as a warranty issue. Brending said the city has been holding retainage since December in the amount of \$33,160.42.

Stephanie Porter moved to accept the Dickey Farm waterline repair by Crestline Construction as substantially complete. Ryan O'Connor seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Joint City Council Workshop – May 31

Betty Barnes said the idea of a joint city council workshop to discuss the possible consolidation of the two cities was intended to be discussed at the last meeting but given the late hour of that meeting it did not happen. She said the next day Jan Brending made contact with all council members about holding a joint city council workshop and that most of the responses were yes the council members were willing to listen to a presentation.

Barnes provided an overview to council members about how the idea of discussing consolidating the two cities came up. She said a staff report will be provided to council members outlining the processes available to the cities for consolidation.

Council members discussed the joint council workshop and identified several things they would want to see discussed including timelines for the process and what happens if one ballot measure passes and another fails (similar to recent park district ballot measures).

Izzy Schroder said she is very fired up about the idea of possibly consolidating the two cities. She said it would be one of the biggest decisions Bingen has ever made and it is not a light decision. Schroder said she does not want to see Bingen rushing into anything. She said she has not seen anyone lobbying for consolidation. Schroder said she feels there are a number of reasons why the time is not right to consider consolidation. She stated that both councils are up for reelection which could result in new priorities and new agendas, Bingen will be transitioning to a new administration in several years and the police force will also be in transition with a new police chief in the near future. She said that was not in favor of meeting to talk about consolidation but she will attend to hear the information. Schroder said it is important to look at both the pros and cons of the issue. She said it is important for people to be made aware that the cities might be considering consolidation.

Betty Barnes said she appreciates Schroder's opinion.

Stephanie Porter said that is her understanding that the joint workshop will not be a decision-making meeting and is informational only. She said no one has approached her about combining the two cities but she does not think everyone would be opposed to the idea. Porter said she feels the council members need to be ambassadors for the community by exploring options and getting feedback from the residents.

Betty Barnes said the council can choose not to pursue consolidation or can choose to put it on the ballot for Bingen citizens to make the decision. She said she agrees it is a very serious decision. Barnes said she and Mayor Poucher want to present the facts about what is possible.

Jan Brending noted that a complete packet of information will be provided to the councils on May 22. She said the workshop will allow for council members to ask staff questions about the process.

Proposed Scope of Work for Request for Proposals for Street Engineering Services

Jan Brending said she is requesting authorization to release a request for proposals for street engineering services. She said the engineer would provide the city with low-cost options for addressing a stormwater problem on East Jefferson and provide the city with traffic calming options with which the city can then determine where they would like to install the traffic calming devices.

Izzy Schroder said she attended the open house for the Bingen Point overpass. She said in speaking with a Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) representation they spoke about the circulation study that is currently underway. Schroder said it is possible that with the installation of the overpass additional impacts may develop in the east side residential neighborhoods. She said traffic calming devices installed now could prevent future impacts.

Laura Mann authorized moving forward with a request for proposals for street engineering services. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Laura Mann said she is interested in lowering the speed limits.

Jan Brending said that issue can be addressed when the council considers the traffic calming options presented by the engineer.

Interlocal Agreement with Klickitat County, Funding for Income Survey

Jan Brending said Klickitat County has agreed to provide economic development funds to the City of Bingen so that an income survey can be conducted. She said the city currently does not qualify as a low to medium income community under the current HUD standards. Brending said she and the other agencies believe that information is incorrect. She said the only way to determine whether the city qualifies is through an income survey. Brending said qualifying as a low to medium income community makes Bingen eligible for indirect Community Development Block Grants and low interest rates on certain public works loans.

Izzy Schroder moved to authorize the mayor to sign the interlocal agreement with Klickitat County providing funding to the City of Bingen for conducting an income survey. Ryan O'Connor seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report, March 2017

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for March 2017.

Laura Mann noted that in the budget position a report a negative amount is shown in one of the line items in the Water Construction & Maintenance Fund (421) for the month.

Jan Brending said an error was made in the previous month in coding a transaction and that transaction was corrected in March therefore showing a negative amount which means those funds were moved to a different line item.

Laura Mann moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2017. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

No Smoking Signage at Daubenspeck Park

Stephanie Porter said she raised this issues at a previous council meeting. She said people are smoking in the parking lot and thought that additional signage might be helpful.

Jan Brending said there is currently a sign east of the restrooms and just west of the Daubenspeck Park sign that contains information regarding park hours and that dogs must be on leash. She said it might be an appropriate location of additional signage.

There was consensus of the city council members to add a sign to the signage immediately east of the restrooms asking smokers to refrain from smoking when children are present.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Walnut Street Railroad Crossing

Betty Barnes said she has spoken with Senator King who said there is funding in the Senate budget for crossing gates at Walnut. She said he has indicated that he hopes to place funding in the next budget for updated gates at Maple Street and wayside horns.

Barnes said she will be meeting with Senator King and Representative Johnson tomorrow.

Port of Klickitat – Recreational Trail

Izzy Schroder said she spoke with Marc Thornsby of the Port Klickitat and asked him if the port still intends to develop a recreational trail around the port property. Schroder said he said yes.

Laura Mann noted that the Port has cut some trees down along Marina Drive and she talked to Thornsby about the trees. She said Thornsby told that the Port is addressing safe access for pedestrians and is also addressing a drainage problem on Marina Drive. Mann noted the Port is doing a lot of earthmoving.

Betty Barnes said it is her understanding that the Port hopes to keep some type of greenway but that the majority of the property is designated for development.

Upcoming Council Meeting

Izzy Schroder noted that she will not be in attendance at the upcoming council meeting on May 16 and will not be available by conference call.

Voucher Approval

Vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 as of this date May 2, 2017. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 19159-19182 (dated 05/02/2017) totaling \$45,184.63. General Fund – \$33,358.70; Street - \$2,730.02; Water Fund - \$5,316.58; Sewer Fund- \$748.74; Treatment Plant Fund - \$3,030.59.

Vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 as of this date May 2, 2017. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 19157-19158 (dated 04/30/2017) totaling \$599.04. Court Remittance Agency Fund - \$599.04.

Vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 as of this date May 2, 2017. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: EFT, payroll checks 19152-19156 (dated 04/28/2017) totaling \$25,748.20. General Fund – \$11,902.76; Street - \$3,918.57; Water Fund - \$2,700.92; Sewer Fund - \$494.52; Treatment Plant Fund - \$6,731.43.

The council adjourned 9:20 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor