

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – July 17, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 pm. Council Members Present: Laura Mann, Ryan O'Connor, Phil Jones, Catherine Kiewit, Isolde Schroder (by telephone). Staff Members Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, City Attorney Chris Lanz. Audience Present: Ken Park, Jan Brending, Mike Meskimen.

Public Comment

Jan Brending, City of White Salmon

Brending said WSDOT was ready to meet regarding the 2020 paver project. She noted that a roundabout was being considered at the intersection of SR 141/Jewett Blvd and Garfield Ave.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if Bingen should plan to send a delegate to the meeting since the last meeting had been a joint meeting.

Brending said no, not at this time. She said the current communication was focused on the possible roundabout.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Police Chief Mike Hepner

Hepner apologized for taking some time off recently and said he hoped Sergeant Randall did well filling in for him at council meetings. He said the call volume had been low for June, which was good.

Hepner noted that Bingen's Daubenspeck Park started to get hit in early July, and that the department would be focusing on that area of Bingen. He explained that playground equipment had been damaged and a toilet had been blown up.

Chief Hepner said it would be prudent to move the surveillance camera to the park, and mentioned that the idea had been discussed at the recent recycling site meeting. Hepner said the park needed observation to enable better follow up.

Councilmember Mann proposed the camera be immediately moved.

There was a consensus that Public Works Department should move the camera.

Councilmember Kiewit reported that a camera purchase was discussed at a recycling meeting and that the county would be purchasing one for the recycling center.

Chief Hepner told the Council that the ordinance adopted for keeping people out of dumpster had been very effective, and that he believed the camera would do a lot more good in the park. He noted that the Public Works Department would have to move the camera signage.

Mayor Barnes said early summer was a busy time for the park. She noted that about the same time last year there was a significant amount of drugs found at the park.

There was a consensus that the Public Works Department should move the camera to Daubenspeck Park.

Councilmember Kiewit noted she saw three calls for fireworks on the police log and said she felt this year had been the best so far in terms of illegal fireworks discharged.

Chief Hepner confirmed the calls for fireworks had been very minimal in Bingen, and said that temporary signage posted had been very effective and that the Public Works Department had placed the signs well.

Mayor Barnes agreed. She said she felt that most people understood the fire danger this year.

Councilmember Mann said she felt it would be great if fireworks were not sold in the area anymore.

Councilmember Schroder asked if fault had been established in the rollover vehicle accident on Humboldt Street.

Chief Hepner said the cause was failure to yield when pulling out of a driveway. He said speed had not been a factor in the crash.

Councilmember Mann said there had been a portable toilet on Humboldt Street brought in when the fireworks stand was active but was never picked up. She said she had called the number listed on the portable toilet three times to ask that it be removed but had not had any luck.

Clerk Willey said she would take care of it by calling Bishop Sanitation and the Yakima Nation.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 3, 2018

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 1, paragraph 1

“Council Members Present: Catherine Kiewit, Laura Mann, Ryan O’Connor, Phil Jones, Isolde Schroder (via telephone).”

Page 2, paragraph 8

“Meeting Chaired by Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit.”

Page 4, paragraph 5

“Councilmember Kiewit moved ~~to repeal motion~~ to adopt Proposed Ordinance 2018.02.685 repealing Bingen Municipal Code 5.20 Public Dancing, Public Dances, and Dancehalls.”

Council Member Mann moved to approve the meeting minutes of the July 3, 2018 regular council meeting as corrected. Council Member Jones seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Gray & Osborne – Humboldt Street Project Update

Mike Meskimen

Mike explained that a letter had been received from the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) stating that TIB had decided not to fund the replacement of the water line underneath Humboldt Street. He said TIB made the decision based on a gray area concerning the age of the pipe and its eventual need to be replaced. Meskimen pointed out that if TIB were to fund the water line replacement and in the future it was deemed an unconstitutional use of funds, the Washington State Auditor could pull the City of Bingen into the issue.

Mayor Barnes stepped out of the meeting for five minutes. Meeting chaired temporarily by Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit.

Meskimen asked the Council re-address the question of the size of the replacement pipe, since the replacement would be essential to the street project. He noted that the previously approved two inch size would be adequate, and that in a perfect world he would recommend an eight inch pipe. He suggested meeting in the middle and installing a 6 inch pipe.

Councilmember Mann asked if TIB was still willing to pay for the rest of the Humboldt Street project.

Meskimen said that was correct.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if the TIB award had initially covered the line replacement.

Meskimen said no, the line replacement was not in application but was found to be necessary in the engineering design process to the road having to be re-graded which would expose the line to a very shallow depth.

Councilmember Mann said she was a proponent of installing a six inch replacement pipe.

Councilmember Kiewit confirmed with Meskimen that both ends of the replacement pipe would connect to six inch pipe.

Councilmember Jones asked about funding options.

Meskimen explained a few funding options to the Council, including various loans.

There was a discussion about the different loan options.

Councilmember Kiewit asked Clerk Willey what her thoughts were.

Willey said from the overview she believed that expanding the scope of the USDA Rural Development loan application to include the water line replacement would cause the least administrative impact.

Councilmember Kiewit moved to replace the Humboldt Street Project water line with a six inch pipe. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Jones asked about the storm water on Steuben Street.

Meskimen said that WSDOT had initially said very firmly that the storm water was not to be directed to the storm drains on Steuben due to the capacity needing to be reserved for the Bingen Point Access Improvement Project. He said the discussion had continued and WSDOT eventually gave permission for the storm water system to be used. He said Public Works Superintendent Spratt was fine with the result and that is appeared to be resolved.

Meskimen said as part of the project the crossings on the North side of Steuben will need to be updated to include ADA curb ramps.

Councilmember Jones clarified that Meskimen was talking about the crossings at Cedar/Steuben and Cherry/Steuben.

Meskimen said now all corners are considered to be crossings, and the only way to get around that designation was to officially close a crossing and post the required signage.

Councilmember Kiewit said she had safety concerns about installing ramps that led to an unsigned and unmarked highway crossing.

Meskimen said unless the crossing was closed the ramps would be required.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if there would be any need to renew permits if the project was postponed while funding was secured.

Meskimen said that the state specifications would need to be redone in 2020, but that it would just require a couple of hours to address those and the work involved would be very minimal. He noted that inflation would be the biggest issue, and suggested putting the project out to bid early in January.

Councilmember Mann asked Meskimen to speak with The Society Hotel about their projected plans.

Mann thanked Meskimen for his work on the funding options. She said it was very helpful after receiving such awful news about TIB pulling part of their funding.

Meskimen agreed that it was an unexpected setback.

Mann asked Jan Brending if interfund loans authorized in the past could have the terms modified to extend the life of the loan or increase the loan amount.

Brending said there had been two loans authorized for 2018, and that only one was activated. She suggested creating a new interfund loan instead of attempting to alter a previously approved one. She said the authorized loans could be paid off early. She said a term of five years would be the longest she would suggest, and noted that the State Auditor would prefer three years or less.

Proposed City of White Salmon 2018 Agreement to Purchase Water

Mayor Barnes said the proposal was the newest revision to the 2018 agreement.

Jan Brending

Brending said she met with Councilmembers Mann and Kiewit, as well as two White Salmon City Councilmembers and White Salmon City Administrator Pat Munyan to develop the revised agreement.

Brending said that after sending a revised agreement she had reviewed her notes and found that some of the numbers were off. She said the revision presented reflects the corrected, lower amounts. She thanked Councilmember Mann for catching the incorrect figures.

Brending explained the changes to the base rates, and said language had been added regarding the possible circumstance of Bingen exceeding the allotted amount. She noted a fire event would be an exception.

Councilmember Kiewit asked for clarification regarding the use of the word “consecutive” in the agreement. She said it was important to establish a clear policy or procedure.

Councilmember Jones said he felt that all in all, both sides had come quite a way toward the center, and he was happy with the proposed agreement.

Councilmember O’Connor asked where the readings were obtained for billing.

Brending said the City of White Salmon monitored the interties in addition to the records kept by Bingen Public Works Superintendent David Spratt.

Councilmember O’Connor moved to approve the proposed City of White Salmon 2018 Agreement to Purchase Water as presented. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed Resolution 2018-024 Metropolitan Park District (MPD)

Councilmember Mann explained that in total, over 800 signatures in support of the MPD had been collected, so the target had been met. She said the petition used to collect signatures was supposed to have had a warning on the sheet, so many signatures were invalid.

Mann said there was only a two week window to push for signatures to be recollected and meet the deadline to be on the ballot. She said because of this, the decision was made to switch to a city resolution. She said the County Commissioners may not support the Cities in placing the MPD on the ballot, so if the resolutions aren’t effective there would still be a two week window for signatures.

Jan Brending explained that the signatures reflect public support, and the resolution would show the cities want it on the ballot.

Councilmember Mann said the ballot choices do not reflect the name of the specific MPD, and instead just reference “a” Metropolitan Park District.

Councilmember Kiewit agreed with Mann that the language seemed open-ended.

Brending said the County Prosecutor had been concerned about language of the ballot proposition because it would be the ruling language. She said the choices on the ballot were not the ruling language, just the proposition.

Councilmember Kiewit said she felt people may have a harder time voting against an MPD formed for the pool versus against a vague MPD.

Councilmember Kiewit moved to approve Proposed Resolution 2018-024 Metropolitan Park District. Councilmember O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Barnes stepped out of the meeting for five minutes. Meeting chaired temporarily by Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit.

Proposed UTC Petition for Crossing #090168N

Mayor Barnes explained that changes to crossings required petitions, and that this one had been put together by the Utilities and Transportation Committee (UTC), with the City of Bingen as the petitioner and Burlington-Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) as the respondent. She said BNSF had looked over the paperwork and would not be contesting the crossing arms.

Councilmember Mann moved to approve Proposed UTC Petition for Crossing #090168N. Councilmember O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

WSDOT Bingen Point Access Project – Design Discussion

Clerk Willey presented a memo regarding questions asked in a recent meeting with WSDOT and other stakeholders in the Bingen Point Access Improvement Project. She said some of the information that was supposed to have been provided by WSDOT engineers had not been received yet.

Councilmember Kiewit said she would be interested in seeing the examples of other roundabouts and the guidelines for gateway entrances to Cities that WSDOT would be supplying.

There was a consensus that there should be an art installation in the center, as well as electricity in the center of the roundabout and the medians. The Council expressed a desire for lighting under the underpass, and for the lighting around the roundabout to be decorative.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Mayor Barnes said the maintenance agreement with BNSF will be last thing necessary for the Walnut Street Crossing project to move forward.

Barnes said she spoke with Jessie Burke from the Society Hotel about train horns. She said residents and business owners should get together a little further down the road to talk about the past, present, and future of the noise caused by the trains in Bingen. She noted that there was still a widespread misconception that BNSF would be required to pay for crossing updates, and that most people are shocked to find out that isn't the case.

Barnes said the City of White Salmon had been able to get a quiet zone for their crossing, but that the crossing is a very different one from the crossings in Bingen. She reminded the Council that the City of Bingen was not even able to pay for the cost of having wayside horns demonstrated in the past.

Councilmember Schroder asked about the status of the stop sign updates in Bingen. She said public safety was her priority and she felt the City should implement more preventative measures. She said she would like to see speed limit lowered to 20 mph in Bingen. She said at the very least she wanted stop signs added along East and West Jefferson and Franklin Streets.

Clerk Willey reminded the Council she had passed along a stop sign map obtained from Public Works at a previous Council meeting, and that she never heard any feedback. She said she would ask Public Works Superintendent Spratt for a cost estimate on stop sign purchase and installation.

It was requested that Clerk Willey speak with Public Works about trees on the Southwest corner of the Cedar/Humboldt Street intersection, and bushes at the corner of Elm and Humboldt Streets.

It was requested that Clerk Willey follow up on the City Safety Grant.

Councilmember Mann said she loved having the previous month's police report given to Council members. She asked that if possible, a year-to-date report be provided, to show the percentage of calls in each city.

Councilmember Mann said The Enterprise newspaper had misquoted her. She said the article reported her saying almost exactly the opposite of what she had actually said. Mann said she emailed Doug Ellenberger to say she felt she was seriously misquoted and hoped he would continue to work with the Cities of Bingen and White Salmon on the wastewater loading issue.

Councilmember Mann said the point she had intended to make was that The Bingen City Council was told that Everybody's Brewing would not be receiving their occupancy permit until the loading issue was mitigated. Mann felt the city of White Salmon & Bingen need to be transparent with Everybodys as to the treatment plant capacity and their impact on the facility.

Councilmember O'Connor gave a report of the tour he attended at Full Sail Brewery in Hood River. He said they basically have mini wastewater treatment plant, and they send their sludge to Dirt Huggers and their water goes to the City of Hood River for processing through their treatment plant. O'Connor said the brewery processed about 30,000 gallons per day.

Clerk Willey gave examples of water usage in Bingen to show the scale of that amount of water usage.

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 July 17, 2018.

The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list:

Checks 20110-20112 and Payroll EFT (Dated 7/16/18) totaling \$16,889.86. General Fund - \$6,894.56, Street Fund - \$2,870.93, Water Fund - \$1,937.03, Sewer Fund - \$364.35, Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,822.99.

Checks 20113-20132 (Dated 7/17/18) totaling \$46,407.21. General Fund - \$3,418.23, Street Fund - \$349.63, Street Construction & Maint. Fund - \$7,054.05, Water Fund - \$10,929.24, Sewer Fund - \$13,338.64, Treatment Plant Fund - \$1,691.36, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund \$9,626.06.

The council adjourned at 10:30 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor