

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

DRAFT – March 16, 2021

Meeting Via Teleconference - Audio Recorded

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J Barnes at 7:00 pm. Council members present: Phil Jones, Ryan O'Connor, Catherine Kiewit, Isolde Schroder, Joseph O'Sullivan. Staff present: Clerk Treasurer Cheyenne Pantoja Wright, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz. Audience Present: Nancy Wetch, Ryan Walters

Minutes of February 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Council member Schroder made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2021 regularly scheduled City Council meeting as presented. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Wastewater Improvements Project – Change Order #1

Nancy Wetch with Gray & Osborne explained that the change order was necessary due to rock being encountered on Depot Street requiring more excavation than expected. She noted that the request was within the 5% allowed contingency but exceeded the line item in the contractor's bid.

Council member Jones made a motion to approve Change Order #1 to the Wastewater Improvements Project as presented. Council member O'Sullivan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Project Estimate #8 Wastewater Facilities Improvements – TEK Construction

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve Project Estimate #8 for the Wastewater Facilities Improvements as presented. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing - Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing.

Nancy Wetch with Gray & Osborne noted that the hearing was part of the public process of the wastewater facilities improvements, and that it had been delayed by the pandemic.

Wetch said the newest parts of the wastewater treatment facility were installed over 20 years ago. She said that in 2012-2016 the City of Bingen had studied project alternatives and addressed the facility plan as a whole before deciding to pursue this project.

Wetch discussed the collections system portion of the project and noted that it was 80% completed. She said the portion of the sewer line crossing SR14/Steuben Street would be completed as soon as the asphalt plants reopened in spring 2021.

Wetch gave an overview of the upgrades and maintenance being completed at the treatment plant, including digester rehabilitation, a new tank and electrical equipment.

Wetch said the costs of the project included \$231,656 for design work, \$2.6 million for construction, and \$273,000 for construction administration. She noted that the project was being funded by the Cities of White Salmon and Bingen through an interlocal agreement with the exception of Schedule B additive items, which are solely the City of Bingen's responsibility.

Council member Kiewit asked about potential environmental justice concerns and how a response would be implemented.

Wetch said the section on environmental justice was included to ensure that the City appropriately educated its citizens and completed any necessary outreach regarding the project. She noted that addressing this item was built into the structure of the existing process.

Wetch discussed the permitting cycle for the wastewater treatment plant.

Water System Plan Update – Gray & Osborne

Ryan Walters with Gray & Osborne said the water system plan was required to be updated every 6 years and that the City of Bingen's current plan expires in June of 2021.

Walters said the City would need to move forward with updating the plan before the current one expired. He noted that the Department of Health would soon be moving to a ten-year schedule.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said she would have funding recommendations following the April budget amendment.

Old Business

Update on Projects – Ryan Walters, Gray & Osborne

Walters noted that the wastewater treatment facility improvements project would not be completed until May 2021. He said that TEK Construction would be proposing a solution to the crushed pipe outside the manhole on the Depot Street sewer line.

Walters said the Oak Street reservoir civil design was almost complete and that electrical was still four to six weeks out. He said he anticipated advertising the project in May 2021.

Council member Jones asked about the timeline of the Oak Street reservoir construction.

Walters said he thought the bypass and demolition would take place summer 2021 and then the rest would be completed over the winter and spring of 2022.

Walters noted that the new reservoir design included source chlorination.

SR 14 Roundabout Discussion

Council member Kiewit discussed the Washington State Department of Transportation's proposal of basic landscaping, including drought-tolerant plants.

Kiewit suggested the large rocks that council had previously discussed. She said that WSDOT would install the rocks if the City obtained and transported them to the site.

Council member Jones said he would like to see columnar basalt.

There was discussion about sourcing large rocks to install.

Council member Kiewit was WSDOT was looking for input from the council to finalize the roundabout.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Parklets

Mayor Barnes said she had heard from Blair Carroll (Mugs Coffee, Trellis Fresh Flowers) about reinstalling the parklets for summer 2021.

Clerk Pantoja Wright noted an email received from Josh Jimenez (Taqueria El Rinconcito) supporting the parklets as well.

The council reached a consensus to reinstall the parklets for 2021 and to allow business owners to reasonably decorate/design the space provided that safety and visibility was maintained.

Water/Sewer Committee

Council member O'Connor gave an update on recent committee activity including a meeting with the City of White Salmon where it was established that an agreement with Everybody's Brewing would be in place by May 2021.

Council member Kiewit said she was happy to have established a date for that goal.

Pandemic Roadmap to Recovery – Phase III

Council member Kiewit suggested changing the signage at Daubenspeck Park and removing/blocking any portions of existing signage that no longer apply in phase III.

Mayor Barnes cautioned that moving to phase III was not certain yet, but agreed that limiting signage was appropriate.

Executive Session

Mayor Barnes announced at 7:32 pm. that the City Council will go into Executive Session for 30 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 8:00 p.m. the Council resumed regular session.

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 March 16, 2021.

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

Payroll Checks 22184-22186 and Payroll EFT (Dated 3/16/2021) totaling \$17,710.73 General Fund - \$8,119.96, Street Fund - \$2,885.40, Water Fund - \$1,950.67, Sewer Fund - \$359.46, Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,395.24. Interim Approval issued March 16, 2021.

Motion: O'Connor

Second: Kiewit

Checks 22187-22213 and EFT (Dated 3/16/2021) totaling \$297,137.37. General Fund - \$21,813.82, Street Fund - \$342.99, Water Fund - \$7,385.84, Sewer Fund - \$438.42, Treatment Plant Fund - \$1,678.78, Water Capital Reserve Fund \$9,364.21, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund \$256,113.31.

Motion: Jones

Second: O'Sullivan

The council adjourned at 8:18 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor