

## BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:06 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Dan Armstrong, Izzy Schroder. Council members absent: Stephanie Porter. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending (Via Telephone), Deputy Clerk Cheyenne Willey, Police Chief Tracy Wyckoff, Police Sergeant Mike Hepner. Audience: Laura Mann, Tamara Toppel.

### **Bingen-White Salmon Police Department**

Tracy Wyckoff stated that 2-3 weeks ago they were very busy but everything seems to be calming down. He said that there have been some issues regarding political signs being stolen, but other than that it has been relatively quiet. Wyckoff noted the call volume is much higher than the last 3 years, but that many of the calls have been regarding issues that are not necessarily police matters.

### ***Huckleberry Festival***

Mike Hepner reported that the Huckleberry Festival was busier than normal, and that he worked the night shift that weekend.

### ***Transient Community***

Betty Barnes asked about the current homeless population, and if there seemed to be an increase.

Tracy Wyckoff said that there were a few transient individuals in White Salmon by the Hood River Bridge, but that there are less now, and that it has not been much of an issue this year. He mentioned that there has been a small increase this month as people filter out of Skamania County from the Rainbow Gathering held in Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

### ***Police Department Relocation***

Catherine Kiewit asked Wyckoff to share his perspective about the proposed police department relocation.

Wyckoff mentioned that one suggested location was behind the Seventh Day Adventist church in White Salmon. He said he feels that that location is not conducive to public availability or suited for the needs of the department. Wyckoff said that the current White Salmon City Hall is a relatively easy fix but that it is not ideal. He maintained that it is a good option in terms of cost saving. Wyckoff said a new building would be best, but that it is not currently possible. He said there have been no responses to an RFP sent out regarding new office space for the department as of today.

Wyckoff also stated that the downfalls of the department being relocated to the current White Salmon City Hall include officers and staff having to park at a distance. He explained officers will have to walk or run in the case of an emergency to where vehicles will be parked in order to respond to a call. Wyckoff also stated that because the building has no rear access, those taken into custody would have to be walked down Jewett from the parking area.

Sergeant Hepner added that the current City Hall location is an exposed area and he feels it poses a significant safety issue to escort people in custody past two bars with outdoor seating.

Izzy Schroder agreed and said she feels there would be problems concerning the privacy of victims if the department moved to the location in downtown White Salmon.

Betty Barnes asked if there is maintenance parking in front of the current White Salmon City Hall location.

Wyckoff said no, but there is a 15 minute parking spot and a handicapped spot.

Wyckoff stated that there has been some discussion in the community about businesses suffering if the police department were to be moved to the proposed downtown location. He said that there are no numbers to support those claims.

Catherine Kiewit asked him why the current lease from the school was no longer an option.

Wyckoff replied that it was being discontinued to save money. He summarized the proposed City Hall location as having several pros and cons. He said it is favorable from a cost saving standpoint, and that the building suits the current needs of the department.

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2016**

Changes to the minutes of the September 6, 2016 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence should read “Catherine Kiewit moved to enter into a small works contract with Precision Service & Electric LLC based on time and materials to complete miscellaneous electrical work by December 31, 2016.”

Izzy Schroder moved to approve the meeting minutes of the September 6, 2016 regular council meeting as corrected. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Mt. Adams Park and Recreation District**

Laura Mann from the Mt. Adams Park and Recreation District (MAPARD) spoke about the upcoming levy that will be on the ballot November 2016. She noted that in 2010 MAPARD was created but not funded and that in 2014 a proposed levy of \$0.18/\$1000 was defeated. Mann said the last two years have been spent making changes to philosophy and direction. She said that MAPARD was first developed for aquatic funding, but community outreach and the result of past levies have shown that there is opposition to that being the sole focus.

Mann said MAPARD has done outreach in the communities of Glenwood, Troutlake, Klickitat, Lyle, Husum, BZ Corners, White Salmon, and Bingen to assess what the community wants to see accomplished. She said that MAPARD is developing a suggestion-based format for district communities to submit ideas and give input. She said that there are currently 5 commissioners on the board and one open seat.

Mann said the November 2016 levy will be asking for \$0.09/\$1000, or \$18/year on average through the district, for a term of 6 years. She noted that the full amount of a levy is never collected, so only 96% of the proposed funds have been allocated for a budget of \$50,000. Mann said the monies collected will go toward staffing. She said there is a need for one full-time and one part-time staff member and an intern position through AmeriCorps has also been considered. Mann said the full-time staff member will be paid a living wage and the remainder of the funds raised will go towards projects supported by the district. She said MAPARD will be renting space in the Lyle Activity Center for the amount of \$100 per month. Mann stated that the district is trying to accomplish things nominally, but staff is needed to progress any further.

Izzy Schroder asked about the feedback MAPARD has received.

Mann said that there is a need for more outreach in the Bingen/White Salmon area. She said the meetings in Trout Lake and Glenwood have been fantastic.

Catherine Kiewit asked for a breakdown of support for the failed 2014 levy.

Mann said more than 50% of White Salmon was in favor, as well as parts of Bingen. She said Trout Lake was also in favor, but Glenwood and Dallesport not so much.

Catherine Kiewit asked for clarification on what the November 2016 levy will need in terms of support in order to pass.

Mann said that at least 60% of voters from the last election will need to vote on the issue, and of those, 50% will need to vote yes. She said the MAPARD levy is the only levy on the ballot for November 2016. Mann stated that passing the levy and hiring staff is important because having staff to write grants and develop a volunteer base is the key to sustaining projects. She said the money collected from the proposed levy will be going directly back into the community. Mann said MAPARD has learned that the best way to service the district is to accept suggestions from the communities. She noted that while at the Huckleberry Festival several children approached the MAPARD booth and asked about how they could become involved and what sort of projects would be considered.

Schroder asked about the future of MAPARD if the November 2016 levy fails.

Mann said it will be up to the county commissioners, but MAPARD does not have to dissolve. She stated that in order for MAPARD to benefit the communities in the district, resources are necessary. Mann said that there will be press releases in the newspaper in approximately two weeks, featuring supportive comments from Bingen-White Salmon Police Chief Tracy Wyckoff.

Mann mentioned that a survey was recently conducted in the community of Glenwood regarding goals and projects that the citizens would like to see from MAPARD. She asked if the council would consider sending a similar survey to the residents of Bingen.

Kiewit asked Deputy Clerk Cheyenne Willey how residents return their utility bill every month.

Willey responded that it varies depending on the timing of the due date and billing cycle, but of those who return cash/check payments it is usually split into thirds with one third of residents coming to city hall to pay, one third utilizing the drop box, and one third returning their payments by mail.

Council and staff discussed the feasibility of sending surveys out with the utility bills and collecting them at city hall for return to MAPARD. Mann is going to provide staff with surveys to include in the September utility bills.

### **Field Trip to Daubenspeck Park – Tree Planting Location Review**

Betty Barnes said it is too dark to review during the meeting and requested councilmembers take time this week or next to look at the locations marked by David Spratt as placement options for the 3 Giant Sequoia trees that will be here shortly after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Council discussed that it would be best to leave the open field as is, to allow space for activities that require it, and to focus on the section of the park that already features trees as a general target area for tree placement.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the pine trees that were removed had left stumps or if they were completely removed. Betty Barnes said that the pines were completely removed leaving no stumps.

### **City Tree Maintenance**

Betty Barnes informed the council of a complaint made by a resident about a heritage tree located in the city parking lot by Daubenspeck Park. She said the resident would like the tree cut down as he feels that overhanging branches are a safety issue. Barnes stated the same could be said of any tree. She said that she had previously discussed with City Administrator Jan Brending the feasibility of having an arborist inspect the tree and supervise any cutting deemed necessary.

Catherine Kiewit asked if it was Milling Tree Care that trimmed the trees along Steuben Street in the past.

Barnes said that it was but that John Bartholomew had been the one to arrange and pay for that service.

Kiewit asked if a plan had been drawn up at that time.

Barnes said there was a plan created, and provided a copy of a September 2009 report prepared by James Milling, Milling Tree Care. She said the city will not be cutting down the tree but the property owner can lawfully cut any branches that overhang onto his property, which if not done professionally could potentially create a dangerous situation. Barnes also mentioned that the Cottonwood tree in the skate park needs to be inspected as well.

Izzy Schroder said she felt that the goal of the council should be to preserve trees.

Dan Armstrong said he would like to see an arborist come and inspect the two trees, as an arborist can provide both professional advice and education.

Kiewit asked if it would be feasible to have Milling Tree Care inspect the trees.

Barnes reminded the council of the need to develop a request for proposals for hired services.

Kiewit said she would like to reach out to Milling Tree Care for input and follow up on the plan written in September of 2009, specifically the portion regarding the Heritage Silver Maple.

The council agreed that an arborist would provide a compromise that featured safety mitigation as well as preservation.

Catherine Kiewit moved to contact Milling Tree Care for follow up inspections on the Cottonwood tree at the skate park and the Silver Maple tree at the east end of the public parking area, paid at an hourly

rate with a total not to exceed \$500. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

**Conditional Use Permit Decision, US Autocare (Soroush Kermani)**

Dan Armstrong asked if the conditional use permit will be reviewed in the future.

Chris Lanz said no, it is an indefinite permit as long as Soroush Kermani is the property owner.

Izzy Schroder moved to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision for the Conditional Use Permit, US Auto Care (Soroush Kermani). Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

**Request to Submit Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Application**

Betty Barnes informed the council that they needed to make a decision regarding the application for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan, as it needs to be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Council discussed the terms and amount of the loan application.

City Administrator Jan Brending attended the meeting via telephone starting at 8:10 p.m. to answer a question posed by Izzy Schroder regarding the 1% loan application fee. Schroder asked if this amount was typical.

Brending said yes, it is standard and nonnegotiable. She noted that the previous drinking water loan obtained by the city featured the same fee.

Schroder asked Brending to explain the history regarding why this loan was needed. Brending said the current reservoir is 65 years old and while the city could make improvements to extend its life, that would be cost-prohibitive and it is a better choice to replace the reservoir.

Catherine Kiewit asked Brending if the city increased its utility rates in 2015. Brending said water rates were increased by 5% in 2015 and sewer rates remained the same.

Brending left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Dan Armstrong questioned how long we have had the previous drinking water state revolving fund loan and inquired as to the use of the funds.

Barnes stated that it was for a water line replacement.

Barnes explained to the council that the reservoir will still be needed for storage even if Bingen were to purchase all of its water from the City of White Salmon. She said a new reservoir would help with the sulphur smell and with chlorination issues that have been experienced.

Armstrong stated that the city will need the reservoir for water in the future even if it costs now.

Barnes said an increase in water rates will help offset the cost. She reminded the council that per Bingen Municipal Code (BMC) 13.04.120 the water and sewer rates go up 5% automatically unless decided differently by the council. She asked the council to share their opinions on possible rate changes for 2017.

Kiewit mentioned that the city is saving for an overhaul of the sewage treatment plant.

Barnes confirmed that is the case, but explained that money comes from the sewer fund.

The council discussed raising water and sewer rates, including raising both water and sewer by 5% each.

Kiewit said she would like to see the city hold off on a 10% total increase, as that amount felt jarring. She said that she would like to see the city approach raising the rates at a more even pace. Kiewit also stated she would like to know when the treatment plant loan was going to be presented to the council.

The council continued to discuss possible rate increases.

Catherine Kiewit moved to submit the application for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan in the amount of \$1,177,290, with the funds being used to upgrade the emergency power and telemetry systems - \$462,470; Install CT piping and inlet/outlet valves at the old reservoir - \$71,070; and to

replace the old reservoir - \$643,750. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

### **Mayor's Update and Council Comments**

#### ***White Salmon Community Pool Workshop***

Betty Barnes stated there will be a public workshop regarding the White Salmon Community Pool held on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the White Salmon Fire Hall. The objectives of the workshop are (1) to present the current status and timeline for the pool projected, to be in use in 2019; (2) to discuss design options and gather more feedback from the community in order to prepare pool design and associated costs by November; and (3) to present ways to be involved in fundraising and information sharing.

#### ***Washington Gorge Action Programs Listening Forum***

Betty Barnes informed the council of an upcoming listening forum scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. She said the forum will be held at the White Salmon Library from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and will be a platform for the public to share opinions regarding the current needs assessment that Washington Gorge Action Programs is going through.

#### ***New Restaurant Coming Soon***

Betty Barnes said she was excited about the new restaurant Pine Shed Ribs, based in Lake Oswego, will be coming soon to the old Killer Burger Building.

#### ***Klickitat Lyle Against Substance Abuse Coalition Meeting***

Catherine Kiewit said that Betty Barnes had asked her to attend the Klickitat Lyle Against Substance Abuse Coalition (KLASAC) meeting held in Lyle. Kiewit reported there were about 150 attendees and that the focus was on youth substance abuse prevention. She said it was exciting to see a new coalition forming. Kiewit said she will keep the council informed.

Barnes said she appreciated Kiewit attending the meeting, and asked if the council should appoint an alternate to attend should Kiewit have other obligations.

Kiewit explained that it would not be necessary as the core of the coalition will be comprised of representatives from different community cohorts. She said they will form an entity to formulate a vision statement, identify goals, and write for grants. Kiewit said that the coalition will be asking for community input in January 2017.

#### ***Port of Klickitat Public Notice***

Catherine Kiewit said that if the Port of Klickitat sends a public notice to the city that a copy of it be made available and distributed to councilmembers. She said she has seen a notice posted on a telephone pole and that it would be nice to have them more available.

Cheyenne Willey noted that the public notices from the Port are usually posted in the Bingen Post Office on the community bulletin board.

Betty Barnes said that in the future if a copy of a Port of Klickitat public notice is received by the city, it will be forwarded to councilmembers.

#### ***Stray Cats***

Catherine Kiewit reported that a stray cat had a litter of kittens under her garage and that the mother and all the kittens had been successfully adopted. She said she has noticed a surge in the number of stray cats around her neighborhood. Kiewit said she contacted a program called Cat Link in The Dalles, and that they will trap, spay/neuter, worm, and release stray cats so as to provide stray population control.

Izzy Schroder noted that strays pose a risk to pets as they can carry disease and parasites.

Kiewit proposed that there be a relevant article added to the city's fall newsletter.

#### ***Animal Control***

Izzy Schroder asked about the status of the animal control officer and public works maintenance II position.

Betty Barnes said an applicant is being interviewed on Thursday.

**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 September 20, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: EFT, checks 18671-18683 (dated 09/20/2016) totaling \$39,971.31. General Fund – \$929.86; Street - \$654.64; Water - \$1,605.08; Sewer - \$303.91; Treatment Plant - \$4,052.70; Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan - \$32,425.12.

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 September 20, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT, checks 18667-18670 (dated 9/15/2016) totaling \$13,987.75. General Fund – \$5,782.47; Street Fund - \$1,884.69; Water Fund - \$1,428.24; Sewer Fund - \$262.43; Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,629.92.

**Executive Session**

At 8:40 p.m. Betty Barnes reported the city council will meet in Executive Session for 20 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

The council resumed regular session at 9:00 p.m.

**Water Line Repair**

The council asked Chris Lanz to do further research before responding to the latest letter received.

**Executive Session**

At 9:10 p.m. Betty Barnes reported the city council will meet in Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

The council resumed regular session at 9:25 p.m.

At 9:20 p.m. Betty Barnes reported the city council will meet in Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

The council resumed regular session at 9:30 p.m.

**Boundary Line Adjustment**

There was a consensus of the council that they support modifying the boundary.

The council adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor