

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Izzy Schroder, Dan Armstrong, Stephanie Porter. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending, Police Chief Tracy Wyckoff. Audience present: Michelle Scott, David Roth, Amanda Lawrence, Mary Harmon, Linda Atkisson, Audrey Irwin, Laura Mann, Sandy Montag, Becky Miles, Debbie Olson, Michelina Roth, Linda Bitter, Constance McKee, Jaime Mack, Jennifer Rowlen, Ron Montag, Kalama Reuter, Barbara Miller, Morris Miller, Jennifer Silapie, Karleen Swarztrauber, Jaco Klinkenberg, Erin Erickson.

## **Council Vacancy**

Betty Barnes reported the council has received no applications for the vacant position.

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

Chief Tracy Wyckoff reported that one of the officers did not successfully complete the academy and has been let go. He said he will open the position up first to lateral applicants and if there are no candidates through that process he will open it up to entry level applicants. Wyckoff said it has been fairly quiet and there were no major incidents due to the weather.

Betty Barnes asked if there has been any results into the investigation related to the bb gun shootings.

Wyckoff said an individual was arrested in Hood River who confessed to the incidents that took place in Hood River and The Dalles. He said he is hopeful that he will also confess to the Bingen-White Salmon incidents.

## **Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2016**

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

Page 3, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence should read: “Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.”

Page 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph should read: “The council discussed the route of the parade.”

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

## **Columbia Gorge Women’s Action Network (Network)**

Laura Mann said she is a Bingen resident and a member of the recently formed Columbia Gorge Women’s Action Network. She said there were more than 100 attendees at the first organization meeting that took place on December 5. Mann said the Network is coming to the city council asking for a declaration of diversity and inclusiveness. She said the Cities of Mosier and Hood River are currently working on a declaration and the Network will be making a presentation to White Salmon in January. Mann said some additional information has been provided tonight including hate crime statistics and four letters of support from Jaime and Andy Mack (Zepher), Margie Lemberger (Margie’s Pot Shop), Colin and Kristin Franger (Blue Bus Foods), and Kirby Erdely (KE Designs Cabinetry). She said that it is the Network’s hope that if the Bingen city council adopts a declaration that it would be put on the city’s website and included in the utility billing.

Dan Armstrong said he loves people who are standing up for human rights. He said he and his wife have been very vocal for human rights. Armstrong said he appreciates what the Network is doing.

Amanda Lawrence, White Salmon, said the City of Mosier is preparing their own declaration and that she believes the City of Hood River is moving towards sanctuary city status. She noted that the Network is not asking the City of Bingen to establish itself as a sanctuary city. Lawrence said she believes the declaration is an affirmation of what the community is already. She said people from all over the world are coming to the area. Lawrence said it is important to embrace and affirm all people with the changes that have been happening, the polarization in the country.

Becky Miles, White Salmon, said the hate crime statistics show that Washington state is #4 in hate crimes reported. She said Washington is a state that has issues.

The council and members of the Network discussed how students and the schools are getting involved.

Amanda Lawrence, White Salmon, said the City of White Salmon included a Hanukkah sign with its Christmas tree display. She said she is Jewish and had asked the city to put the sign up. Lawrence said that she heard a comment at the school by someone who said the “Islamic sign” should be taken down. She said it is an indicator that people don’t know about Jewish symbols. Lawrence said Klickitat County has been homogenous for many years but things are rapidly changing and change is hard. She said there have been a number of hate crimes and polarization since the election. Lawrence said it is important to address diversity in the community.

Linda Bitter, White Salmon, said a student at one of the schools referred to a teacher as a “pussy.” She said it is important to say that these type of things are not acceptable.

Izzy Schroder said she feels like a declaration is a no brainer but would like to see it put on the table. She said she feels it is important to include the Hispanic community.

Becky Miles said she would like to see it published in both languages.

Constance McKee, White Salmon, said she is very focused on the Hispanic community. She said she contacted the Father at St. Joseph’s Church to let him know that she is willing to help anyone who needs sanctuary.

Stephanie Porter said she is very appreciative that people are being proactive and looking at education and prevention. She said her own children have had a reaction that was sad and fearful which she believes mirrors many children’s feelings in the school system.

Jaime Mack, Zepher, said she believes the declaration is an affirmation of the community’s diversity. She said Zepher has diverse employees. Mack said Zepher’s Hispanic employees are fearful. She said Zepher hires from across the country and that families come with needs and wants to make sure they are welcome.

David Roth, White Salmon Rotary, said the Rotary has a strong youth exchange program. He said he feels the declaration is vital. Roth said the Rotary will be hosting “Peace Poles” that will have 8 different languages represented on them.

Karleen Swarztrauber, White Salmon, said the Columbia Gorge area won an award in part for its expression of diversity in health care.

Jaco Klinkenberg, Husum, said she is part-owner of Wet Planet. She said she is not a citizen but lives here legally. Klinkenberg said she is proud to call this her community. She noted that Wet Planet has a diverse staff that needs to feel safe and at home in the community.

Catherine Kiewit said she has no problem in moving forward with a declaration. She said that the second sentence of the first paragraph seems to indicate that all members of the community have the same ideals and values. Kiewit recommended the sentence just read “Human rights belong to everyone equally.”. She said it is despite everyone’s differences that members of the community are willing to come together.

Chris Lanz said he has no concerns regarding a proposed declaration of diversity and inclusiveness.

Chief Tracy Wyckoff said the police department does not target any particular group and has not in the last 5 years. He said he will not tolerate such actions from his officers. Wyckoff said if any individual commits a crime that individual will be dealt with appropriately including, if necessary, talking to other agencies. He said all individuals will be treated fairly and respectfully by his department.

Betty Barnes said she believes Bingen is well known for its diversity and how we treat our residents. She said that she sees some of the concerns that have been raised as somewhat political.

Laura Mann said she believes different political views are okay. She said as a city council, members have sworn to uphold the laws of the United States, the state of Washington and the city. Mann said she does not see the declaration as political.

Amanda Lawrence said the declaration is being presented in response to a political climate.

Jaco Klinkenberg said that after the election this group of women got together because of fear and anxiety in general and not in a direct response to either Clinton or Trump.

There was a consensus of the city council to develop a draft resolution declaring diversity and inclusiveness for review at the January 3, 2017 council meeting.

Catherine Kiewit said she had heard that this group was forming and suggested they talk to the police chief.

Tracy Wyckoff said that while his department does not deal with immigration, the department may notify them of an individual who has committed a crime. He said the department does not detain or hold individuals solely on immigration issues.

Betty Barnes noted that hate crimes and violence has also occurred against individuals who supported President-Elect Trump.

### **Public Hearing – Proposed Amendments to 2016 Budget**

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the 2016 budget.

Jan Brending said that a change to the proposed amendments has been provided to the council. She said because of the recent snowfall the city has incurred additional costs in the street department including the need to repair sanding equipment and having the City of White Salmon provide sanding services. Brending said \$4,000 has been added to “Repairs and Maintenance” in the Street Fund. She said because there has been a change in expenditures there is also a need to revise the overhead cost allocation. Brending reviewed the changes made in the General Fund, Street Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, and Treatment Plant Fund. She said the revised ordinance for the budget shows the changes highlighted.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

### **Proposed Ordinance 2016-15-671, Amending the 2016 Budget**

Catherine Kiewit moved to adopt the revised ordinance 2016-15-671, amending the 2016 budget, Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Treasurer’s Report – November 2016**

Jan Brending presented the November 2016 treasurer’s report.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept the November 2016 treasurer’s report. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

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

#### ***Santa Parade and Santa in the Park***

Betty Barnes said that unfortunately due to weather, the Santa Parade and Santa in the Park was cancelled this year. She it is too difficult to reschedule but plans on doing it next year.

#### ***Steuben Street (Highway 14) Truck Traffic***

Betty Barnes said she and Jan Brending met with representatives from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding truck traffic on Highway 14. She said WSDOT said the city could do whatever they wanted to but we would need to pay. Barnes said she pushed back on the issue saying that if it was not a state highway the city would not be having the problem with truck traffic. She said the WSDOT representatives said there might be some funding that could pay for the solar-powered push button flashing signs at two of the crosswalks, Oak and Walnut. Barnes said she told WSDOT that the city is not interested in sharing costs. She said she also contacted the governor’s office about the issue. Barnes said she was contacted by Charles Knutson out of the governor’s office who said there are some set-aside funds for safety purposes for projects that are under \$150,000. She said Knutson intends to contact the Southwest Region WSDOT office about the funding.

#### ***Council Vacancy***

Betty Barnes said that she wants to check into the requirement of a candidate having to reside in the city for a year or more.

### **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 December 20, 2016, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 18890-18904 (dated 12/20/2016) totaling \$17,033.43. General Fund – \$11,264.83; Street - \$340.95; Street Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$882.45; Water - \$1,003.45; Sewer - \$182.48; Treatment Plant - \$64.65; Water Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$3,294.62.

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 December 20, 2016, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT and checks 18870-18889 (dated 12/15/2016) totaling \$21,119. General Fund – \$12,269.65; Street - \$2,743.61; Water - \$1,954.74; Sewer - \$341.42; Treatment Plant - \$3,809.58.

**Executive Session**

Betty Barnes announced at 8:25 p.m., the city council will meet in Executive Session to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 20 minutes.

At 8:45 p.m. the council resumed regular session and adjourned.

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City Clerk

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Mayor