

## BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Dan Armstrong, Stephanie Porter, Izzy Schroder (by phone). Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending, Police Officer Ashley Hackett. Audience: Michelle Scott, Charlie Long, Joan Long, Anita Gahimer-Crow, Etta Hepner, Dennis Mullen, Teunis Wyers, Gerald Olson, Phil Jones, Ken Alexander, Mike Meskimen, Tim DeVries.

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

Ashley Hackett reported that the two officer candidates are in their third week of academy. She said that Sean Dawkins is getting married this weekend. Hackett said it has been a great summer.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2016**

Changes to the minutes of the June 21, 2016 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 2, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, last sentence should read: “She said Congresswoman Herrera Beutler is working with the two agencies to get the issue corrected.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the meeting minutes of the July 19, 2016 regular council meeting as corrected. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Humboldt Street Project Options Presentation – Review and Action**

Mike Meskimen, Gray & Osborne Inc. said the City of Bingen has hired Gray & Osborne to provide some preliminary options for making upgrades to the 200 and 300 blocks of East Humboldt. Meskimen provided an overview of the work that has been completed to date and presented two options for the project. He said the main difference between the two options is that one provides for angled parking in front of the museum on the north side of the 200 block of East Humboldt with no parking on the south side directly across from the museum and that the second option provides for a parallel parking on both sides of the street in front of the museum. Meskimen described how the proposal addressed the existing steep cross slope, in particular by adding a landscaping strip between the curb and the sidewalk.

Gerald Olson asked what type of landscape materials would be used in the landscaping strip.

Meskimen said that has yet to be determined.

Phil Jones said he feels that the parallel parking option would be the better one.

### ***Charlie Long, Bingen***

Charlie Long said he needs access off of Humboldt Street to his property located at the corner of Humboldt and Cherry. He said he uses almost all of the area on Humboldt Street as a driveway and would prefer that at least the east 2/3 of the property be designed as a driveway.

Betty Barnes asked how much impact on the project larger than normal driveways would have.

Meskimen said it shouldn't have a big impact.

Betty Barnes reminded the council and attendees that the area that is being discussed is residential. She said the city encourages off-street parking and will try to address the requests for the driveways.

Meskimen said larger driveways can be considered.

### ***Anita Gahimer-Crow, Gorge Heritage Museum***

Anita Gahimer-Crow said she is the President of the Gorge Heritage Museum. She said the museum currently has 10 angled parking spaces in front of two lots with 3 parallel parking spaces on the south side of Humboldt across from the museum. Gahimer-Crow said the majority of the board members are elderly and that some don't like to use parallel parking. She said the museum would like a designated handicapped space. She said that new sidewalks will be awesome but are concerned regarding design due to the front steps that go up to the front door and the side steps that lead down to the basement. Gahimer-Crow also suggested taking the sidewalk up the side of the museum on North Maple. She also suggested having future ports for lighting and signage.

Betty Barnes noted that there may be parking options on the back side of the museum.

Meskimen said that funding agencies always look favorably on funding partners if the museum could help with funding even in a small way.

Gahimer-Crow said another option is to provide benches with some interpretive signage. She asked if anyone had talked to the owners of the Bingen School Inn.

Jan Brending said they are aware of the project.

***Etta Hepner, Gorge Heritage Museum***

Etta Hepner said that the museum does not want to lose its two hour parking and would prefer that it is two hour parking every day of the week. She said they need to have parking available on the weekends.

Gahimer-Crow said the museum does not have much issue with residents using the parking. She said the museum does not want conflict with the residents in the area.

***Teunis Wyers, Attorney***

Teunis Wyers said he owns a business in the area proposed for construction. He said he is supportive of the project as he gets a free sidewalk and cleaning up of his property lines. Wyers said he likes the bump outs at the corners which he feels slows traffic down. He said he also likes the narrower streets.

***Dennis Mullen, Bingen***

Dennis Mullen said he lives at the corner of Cedar and Steuben. He said that he needs two driveways off of Cedar, one at the lower end of the property and one at the upper end of the property.

***Phil Jones, Bingen***

Phil Jones said he lives on the south side in the center of the 300 block of East Humboldt. He said he currently uses the whole area in front of his property as off-street parking. Jones said he will need a wider driveway.

***Gerald Olson, Bingen***

Gerald Olson said he will also need a wider driveway, bigger than what is shown on the current drawings.

Gerald Olson said that he would like someone to do something about the train engineers who improperly blow their horns all the way through Bingen.

Betty Barnes thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting.

Catherine Kiewit asked why there is no parking in areas along Cedar and Cherry Streets.

Meskimen said it is an attempt to avoid impacts with utility poles helping to keep the cost down. He said that in those areas where there is no parking it appears that currently no one uses those areas for parking.

Catherine Kiewit said she likes the parallel parking option the best as it is a cleaner design and connects better with Humboldt Street to the west. She said that she understands the preference of seniors for pull-in parking but she feels it is necessary to look at the long-term of 20 to 30 years. Kiewit said she feels there are options for addressing parking at the museum.

Dan Armstrong said he agrees that he prefers the parallel parking option.

Stephanie Porter said that she likes the angled parking the best in that it gives more options.

Jan Brending noted that with the angled parking option there is no parking across the street and that there is a residence located directly there.

Izzy Schroder said she feels the parallel parking is more attractive and is better for pedestrians. She said angled parking, much like that at the intersection of Humboldt and Oak, reduces visibility.

Stephanie Porter said she does have concerns if there is no parking available in front of a residence.

Catherine Kiewit moved to move forward using the parallel parking option. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Betty Barnes said she will meet with the museum to discuss their parking needs.

### **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 August 2, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 18573-18602 (dated 08/02/2016) totaling \$66,618.29. General Fund – \$30,839.90; Street - \$1,737.81; Street Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$8,224.63; Water - \$13,239.22; Sewer - \$2,403.00; Treatment Plant - \$5,822.95; Water Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$3,426.73; Treatment Plant Improvement Fund - \$924.05.

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 August 2, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 18571-18572 (dated 07/31/2016) totaling \$1,442.86. Court Remittance Agency Fund - \$1,442.86.

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 August 2, 2016 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: Payroll EFT, checks 18566-18570 (dated 07/29/2016) totaling \$21,153.34. General Fund – \$9,454.82; Street Fund - \$2,896.62; Water Fund - \$2,115.86; Sewer Fund - \$384.52; Treatment Plant Fund - \$6,301.51.

Stephanie Porter left the meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report – June 2016**

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2016.

Dan Armstrong moved to accept the June 2016 Treasurer's Report. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Executive Session**

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 8:25 p.m.

Izzy Schroder left the meeting resulting in no quorum of the council.

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

#### ***Humboldt Street Traffic Counts***

Jan Brending presented traffic counts for Humboldt Street and Cherry and Humboldt Street and Pine. The council discussed the traffic counts including average speed which is below the 25 mph maximum speed on residential streets.

#### ***Parking Permits***

Betty Barnes said that Insitu is interested in purchasing parking permits on an annual basis. She said Insitu has been issued parking permits that they pay \$5.00 per day per permit when they are used. Barnes said this would allow Insitu to issue permits to individuals. She said it is her understanding that they will ask employees not issued permits to not use certain parking spaces in front of the Insitu offices on Steuben so those individuals with parking permits will be able to use them. Barnes said she did tell Insitu that there is nothing that prevents the public from parking in any of the spaces in front of that facility. She suggested a price of \$1,000 per permit. Barnes said Insitu has requested five parking permits.

The council asked if the permits would be available to other businesses. Jan Brending said yes. She said she did not think there would be much of a request for annual permits as there hasn't been any request for daily parking permits. Brending said the city does sometimes issue temporary parking permits for individuals when they are moving in or out of a building downtown.

The council adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor