

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

DRAFT – July 7, 2020

Meeting Via Teleconference

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J Barnes at 7:07 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Phil Jones, Ryan O’Connor, Joseph O’Sullivan, Isolde Schroder. Staff present: Clerk-Treasurer Cheyenne Pantoja Wright, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz, Public Works Superintendent David Spratt, Police Chief Mike Hepner.

Mayor’s Essential Services Update

Mayor Barnes said the governor had paused all counties moving forward in reopening. She said Public Works had removed the bench in front of Beneventi’s restaurant to make room for outdoor seating. She said the parklets had been well-received by almost everyone with the exception of one business owner, but that she dealt with that situation over the holiday weekend.

Bingen White Salmon Police Department Update

Chief Hepner asked if the council had any questions for him.

Council member Kiewit asked about the fourth of July holiday.

Chief Hepner said it was very quiet and noted the Yakama Nation did not open their fireworks stand this year.

Minutes of July 7, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Council member O’Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 council meeting as presented. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Police Department Update

Council member Kiewit asked is there had been any issues related to the fourth of July holiday.

Chief Hepner said there had been no problems and noted that the Yakama Nation had not opened their fireworks stand this year.

Humboldt Street Driveways

Council member Jones made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the driveways on Humboldt Street as presented. Council member O’Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Humboldt, Cherry, & Cedar Street Project Waterlines

Public Works Superintendent Spratt explained that the connection points for the new waterline had been successfully isolated, preventing project delays and change orders.

Humboldt, Cherry, & Cedar Street Project Estimate #1

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve Estimate #1 for the Humboldt, Cherry, and Cedar Street Project as presented. Council member O’Sullivan seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote count:

Kiewit – Aye

O’Sullivan – Aye

Jones – Aye

O’Connor – Aye

Schroder - Abstain

Skatepark Closure- Discussion

City Attorney Lanz discussed the email he sent to City Council and Staff.

Council member Schroder asked about the City’s liability for a lawsuit if the City chose not to adhere to the governor’s requirements.

Council member O’Sullivan asked about liability if the 5-person capacity and mask requirements were enforced by the City.

There was discussion about various ways to ensure the state requirements were met.

Council member Schroder said she wanted to see the City ready to go the moment Klickitat County moved into phase 3. She said she took issue with the fact that the City was willing to help businesses and not children.

Chief Hepner reminded the council that even with a 5-person limit, his officers would still be having to enforce that and he foresaw issues with deciding who got to stay and use the park, and who would need to leave.

Council member O’Sullivan said he did not like the idea of creating opportunity for tension between the police department and the public given the current climate.

Council member Kiewit asked about the Port of Klickitat keeping their park open at the marina.

Chief Hepner said that was in the County and noted Sheriff Songer’s choice to not enforce the Governor’s proclamation regarding COVID-19.

City Attorney Lanz said the situation was new for everyone and that every level of government was currently trying to navigate the pandemic.

Council member O’Connor asked that the questions the council had be summarized.

Mayor Barnes said Councilmember Kiewit would address the questions on the Community Connections call, and asked that the council’s questions be put to the risk management agency as well as MRSC.

The council agreed to send their questions to Clerk Pantoja Wright.

Mayor Barnes said that if new information were received that a special meeting could be called. Council member Kiewit reminded the council that phase 3 could still be some time away and that the council should be prepared to find a resolution to the Skate Park closure while still in phase 2.

Mayor Barnes noted the increase in cases locally.

Special allowances to property owners after the time for public comment had passed could potentially cause issues in the future.

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 7, 2020.

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

Claims and Payroll Checks 21620-21625 and Payroll EFT (Dated 6/18/2020, 6/25, 2020, and 6/30/2020) totaling \$31,934.53. General Fund - \$14,701.52, Street Fund - \$4,987.25, Water Fund - \$3,460.11, Sewer Fund - \$640.06, Treatment Plant Fund - \$8,145.59

Claims Checks dated 6/18/2020 and 6/25/2020:

Motion: Kiewit

Second: Schroder

Payroll Checks and EFT dated 6/30/2020:

Motion: O'Connor

Second: Jones

Claims Checks 21626 -21659 (Dated 7/7/2020) totaling \$138,477.18 General Fund - \$11,522.57, Street Fund - \$3,224.02, Street Construction & Maintenance Fund \$23,577.78, Water Fund - \$4,923.35, Sewer Fund - \$329.56, Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,601.41, Water Capital Reserve Fund \$10,555.67, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund \$79,742.82.

Motion: Schroder

Second: O'Sullivan

The council adjourned at 9:00 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor