

## BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

**April 7, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Stephanie Porter, Izzy Schroder, Maria Perez, Sandra Guzman. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending, were present. Audience: Joan Long, Charlie Long, Jeanette Fentie, Patti Newman, John Newman, Mika Clark, Tony Clark, Cody Hipskind, Esther Harris, Michelle Scott, Jerry Olson, Betty LaFevers.

### **Oath of Office – Sandra Guzman**

Betty Barnes swore in Sandra Guzman as council member.

### **Public Comment**

#### ***Jerry Olson, Bingen***

Jerry Olson said that he was late on his water bill and the city charged him \$50 for a disconnection fee. He said that he tried to go to city hall (on March 24<sup>th</sup>) to pay the bill but it was not open.

Jan Brending explained that Olson was charged a disconnect fee because he did not pay the bill by noon on March 24. She said the minimum amount was actually due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20. Brending explained that it is policy on the day water is to be disconnected is to let the account holder know that the water will be turned off if not paid by noon. She said the bill was not paid by noon and public work crew was dispatched after 1:30 p.m. to Mr. Olson's home to turn off the water. Brending said she was in the office on the 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. She said she did not leave prior to 12:30 and returned at 1:30 p.m. Brending noted that past due amounts are noted on the billing that goes out at the end of the month with a due date. She said the city then sends a separate past due notice after the bills are mailed and then has public works staff place notices on the door two days prior to the due date. Brending said in addition, the city takes one final step on the day water is scheduled to be turned off.

#### ***Betty LaFevers, Bingen***

Betty La Fevers said that dogs are using the playground near the skate park for a potty so that it can not be used by children. She said the city needs to take care of it.

### **Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2015**

Changes to the minutes of the March 17, 2015 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph: Sandra Guzman was a member of the audience.

Page 1, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph, last sentence should read: "She noted that Guzman was the first City of Bingen's student council member in 2010."

Page 3, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence should read: "Tracy Wyckoff reported that Officer Lauren Baker is doing well at the police academy."

Page 4, add the following paragraph after the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph: "Catherine Kiewit asked staff to follow-up with the City of Goldendale regarding monthly animal control reports."

Izzy Schroder moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015 regular council meeting as corrected. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2015-03-643, Water Shortage Emergency Procedures**

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing for proposed Ordinance 2015-03-643, Water Shortage Emergency Procedures.

Patti Newman said the previous version of the ordinance allowed irrigation to occur from 6 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and the latest version now says 4:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. She said 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. is ludicrous and she feels should be revisited. Newman said she likes the previous time period better and feels that people should also be allowed to water in the evening for Stage II which was also in the previous version of the ordinance.

Mika Clark said she agrees. She said that it would be difficult for some people, like her neighbor Esther Harris, to water from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Jeannette Fentie said that she thinks 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. with a timer is an option. She said she can understand using a time period of 6 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for those people without timers. Fentie said she feels that watering after 7 a.m. is less efficient due to the heat.

Joan Long said she likes to water at night.

Charlie Long said the ordinance might be overkill. He said he feels like the council is discrediting the community. Long said he feels like if there is a problem the citizens will take care to make sure they are not using too much water. He said that he feels watering at night is not a problem because it takes longer for the water to evaporate. Long said that by watering at night then it is possible to water less frequently.

Betty LaFevers asked if the Port of Klickitat properties are on the city's water system.

Staff said yes and that they pay 1.25 times the prices residents and business owners within the limits do.

It was noted that Dickey Farms and SDS Lumber have their own water sources in addition to city water sources.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

John Newman asked how much more water is used in the summertime by residents. He said he is not sure that the proposed water restrictions would save much water. Newman suggested using a penalty rate for using water over a certain amount or requiring customers to reduce their water usage by 10%.

Staff noted that a number of water customers are already using a minimal amount of water and that it didn't seem fair to require them to reduce their water usage by 10% while there are others who use substantially more water in the summer time.

Staff said they will prepare an analysis to present to the council at the next meeting documenting the increase of water in the summer time.

The council discussed the proposed ordinance. There was consensus to change the time period back to 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., to include 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the State II level, to provide for a longer period of irrigation for those systems using timers, and to include language that states the requirements also pertain to the City of Bingen properties.

The proposed ordinance and additional information will be brought back to the council at the next council meeting prior to scheduling another public hearing.

### **Proposed Agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation – Highway 14/Cross Streets Crosswalks**

Jan Brending said the proposed agreement covers the city's costs related to the installation of crosswalks on the side streets along Steuben Street. She said the work will be done when the state chip seals Highway 14 in August. Brending noted that the city will be required to pay for the maintenance of one of the Steuben Street crosswalks at each intersection – Walnut, Ash and Maple.

Catherine Kiewit noted there is only one crosswalk currently at Maple because there is not a curb cut for a second crosswalk.

Jan Brending agreed.

Patti Newman said she was recently almost hit by a car in a crosswalk on Steuben. She said she was told by staff that she would need to talk to WSDOT about temporary striping. Newman said she feels it is important to put down some type of striping until the project can be done in August even if it means that she has to do it.

Jan Brending suggested that the city could put down some temporary striping using paint until the project is done in August.

Mika Clark noted that the crosswalk at Napa is also a problem. The council and audience discussed the Napa crosswalk and sightline problems. Betty Barnes noted that the crosswalk was recently striped and that WSDOT has agreed to do some improvements at the crosswalk that should help with safety. Audience members noted that part of the problem with the Napa crosswalk is the angled parking in front of Napa.

Betty Barnes noted a request from WSDOT to Bingen has been put forth in relation to White Salmon's desire for additional pedestrian pathways along Highway 141. She said WSDOT has suggested that the speed limit on Highway 141 from Loop Road to Highway 14 be raised (or in areas decreased) to 30 miles per hour. She asked members of the audience how they felt about the speed limit on Oak Street being increased from 25 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour.

A number of audience members expressed concern about increasing the speed limit while several members thought that consistency in the speed limit was a good thing.

Jeanette Fentie said she has a question about when vehicles must stop when a pedestrian is in a crosswalk.

Betty Barnes explained that in Oregon the law requires vehicles to stop when a pedestrian is in any portion of the crosswalk, i.e. curb to curb. She said that in Washington a vehicle must stop when a pedestrian is in the vehicle's travel lane.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the Local Agency Participating Agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation for the removal and installation of crosswalks in the amount of \$15,483.06. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

At 8:40 p.m. the city council took a 5-minute break. At 8:45 p.m. the council resumed regular session.

### **Treasurer's Report – February 2015**

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2015.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept the February 2015 Treasurer's Report. Maria Perez seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

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

#### ***Drinking Fountain – Mosaic***

Catherine Kiewit provided an update to the city council on the mosaic project around the new drinking fountain. She provided documents to the city council on the proposed costs working with Arts in Education.

The council discussed recruiting kids to participate in the project. Signing up for the project will take place through city hall.

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize expenditures of \$1000 for the mosaic art project working with Arts in Education. Sandra Guzman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

#### ***Community Pride Kid's Spring Cleanup***

Stephanie Porter said that she and Maria Perez will head up the Kid's Spring Cleanup at 10 a.m. on April 25 starting at the park. Sandra Guzman said she will also help.

The city will provide gloves, vest, and garbage bags.

Maria Perez said that information should be provided to the kids about items that should not be picked up such as needles.

#### ***Chamber of Commerce Community Business Fair***

Betty Barnes said that everyone had a good time at the Community Business Fair. She said that Bingen's table was popular because we provided fans from Gorge Out and it was hot in the room. Barnes noted that Izzy Schroder helped man the Bingen table.

#### ***AWC Municipal Excellence Award***

Betty Barnes said the city has submitted the skate park for the AWC Municipal Excellence Award in the Small City Successes category.

#### ***Senator Maria Cantwell – Oil Train Legislation***

Betty Barnes said she will be meeting with Senator Cantwell at a private roundtable regarding oil train legislation. She said David Spratt will also be attending representing the fire department.

#### ***Gray Water***

Maria Perez asked if gray water can be used for irrigation.

Jan Brending said that in the State of Washington gray water cannot be used for irrigation except by permit and through an in ground irrigation system. She said Bingen does not currently have an ordinance that permits the use of gray water for irrigation. Brending said collecting rain water does not constitute gray water.

***Eagles***

Betty Barnes noted that the Eagles is currently closed and may reopen after reorganizing takes place.

***Dock Grade***

Betty Barnes noted that Dock Grade is closed the first week of April for maintenance.

***Izzy Schroder***

Izzy Schroder noted that she will be gone the next two meetings due to vacation and out-of-town business trips.

***Maria Perez***

Maria Perez said she has taken a job in Vancouver.

**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 April 7, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 17477-17517 (dated 04/07/2015) totaling \$76197.15. General Fund – \$34246.69; Street - \$2895.72; Park Construction & Maintenance - \$5654.03 Water - \$9869.88; Sewer - \$308.81; Treatment Plant - \$3942.89; Water Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$16823.80; Sewer Construction & Maintenance - \$1221.67; Treatment Plant Improvement Fund - \$1233.66.

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 April 7, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 17496, 17515 (dated 03/31/2015) totaling \$664.57. General Fund – \$664.57.

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 April 7, 2015 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT and checks 17471-17476 (dated 03/31/2015) totaling \$19399.49. General Fund – \$7843.56; Street - \$3386.70; Water - \$1676.99; Sewer - \$510.28; Treatment Plant - \$5981.96.

The council adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor