

City of Bingen, Washington
City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 6, 2018

1. Call to Order

Mayor Barnes called meeting to order at 7:05 pm

2. Roll Call Attendance:

Present: Mayor Barnes

City Administrator: Cindy Marbut

City Attorney: Chris Lenz

Councilmember(s): Phil Jones, Ryan O'Connor, Laura Mann, Catherine Kiewit

Absent Councilmember(s): Izzy Schroder

3. Late Changes to the Agenda

None

4. Citizen Communication/ Public Comment:

Tammy Kauffman spoke about the upcoming event "Gorgeous Night in Olympia" that gives opportunity to meet legislators. Registration is through the Chamber for February 21st. Oregon Legislators will once again do their event "Gorgeous Night in Salem" on March 7th for anyone interested in attending either event.

The first Community Pride meeting was held on January 31, 2017 and there is again a great group of people and participation this year.

Alisa Garlington, a resident of Bingen, engaged the council in a discussion on the allowance of chickens in city limits. She read a statement she had prepared for the discussion. She included a letter from resident Jessica Hudec, who supported the allowance of chickens. There was much discussion on the matter including impacts to neighbors. Councilmember Kiewit responses were of support and concern due to lot sizes. Councilmember Mann also questioned the coupes sizes required for chickens and placement on such small lots. The topic had been discussed in the past. It was duly noted that the current code allowed ducks and pigs as pets.

Councilmember O'Conner inquired when the ruling had been placed against chickens. Mayor Barnes asked about diseases and requested that more information on that be brought to the next council meeting. Councilmember Jones was in favor of the idea. Councilmembers agreed there needed to be further information provided and discussed. Discussion to be placed on a future agenda.

ABSTAIN: Councilmember(s):

****Motion Passed Unanimously***

B. White Salmon Water Study Rate Increase

Councilmembers Mann and Kiewit, Mayor Barnes and City Administrator, Cindy Marbut attended a meeting with Pat Munyan, City Administrator of White Salmon to discuss the proposed increase charges of 38% to Bingen for water in 2018. Present at that meeting was Dave Jepsen with Anderson & Perry who provided information for the group on a 2 year water study which had been completed by his firm for White Salmon. No White Salmon Councilmembers were present at the meeting to discuss the rate increase.

Councilmembers Mann and Kiewit gave a report to the Bingen council on the discussions. Including information about costs comparisons provided by the City Administrator. There were budgetary impacts briefly discussed by Councilmember Mann. Councilmember Kiewit brought up the idea of a potential counter offer to the proposed increase. Councilmembers concluded that there needed to be more discussion and research on the issue and taking into account the working relationship that was important to maintain; also to better understand the study and its relation to Bingen including the budgetary impacts since the increased amount requested was not included in the 2018 budget. Councilmember O'Conner asked to receive a hard copy of the study report from White Salmon and would report back to council his thoughts on the report. The Water Committee would meet again in a few weeks and report back to council.

**** Discussion Only***

C. Income Survey Update

Mayor Barnes provided council with email correspondence on the Income Survey. She updated the council advising that of the remaining 33 homes yet to be surveyed, a letter would be sent requesting the information including the importance to the Cities ability to obtain grant funding. The letters language was discussed among Councilmembers to be difficult to understand. Mayor Barnes relayed that the language in the new letter being sent out was different and read the verbiage to those present. Councilmember Kiewit asked if a Spanish version and paid envelope would be provided. Mayor Barnes would check on the details and report findings to the council.

****Discussion Only***

D. Project Updates – Gray & Osborne

Ken Alexander, Engineer for Gray & Osborne reported on several infrastructure projects that were taking place and preliminary work related to some of those projects. He provided the council with his Strategy for Jefferson St. & Traffic Calming project. Ken spoke to the details in the report and the costs, impacts and his recommendations. The discussions included progressive curbing, catch basins, unusable underground piping that had been blocked to correct other drainage issues in the past and grading of the road along with deepening the ditch

City Administrator, Cindy Marbut brought the idea of having the budget committee review the vouchers prior to the Council Meeting and rotating the other Councilmembers every 3 months to allow for all council to have review time on the vouchers. Councilmember Kiewit maintained that she would review vouchers that contained her approval signatures even without a finance committee. The remaining Councilmembers were in agreement with Councilmember Kiewit. The discussion also included the need for all Councilmembers to have a line for signature on the approval page. Mayor Barnes asked that the Council give it a try for 1 month. Councilmembers Kiewit and Jones would come to the next meeting a few minutes early to review vouchers prior to the meeting.

****Discussion Only***

D. Flag Salute Discussion

City Administrator, Cindy Marbut asked Councilmembers to consider allowing the Pledge of Allegiance as part of the council meetings. Cindy was asked to show council what the process would look like. Councilmembers views were no opinion on the matter to the process being to formal for the meetings. The discussion will continue at a future meeting.

****Discussion Only***

E. Visa/ MasterCard Counter Payments Discussion

City Administrator, Cindy Marbut requested the council consider the acceptance of Visa/MasterCard/Debit payments as part of the services provided to the citizens. She noted that there is many requests for this service on a daily basis. Provided to the council were comparisons of different types of payment systems available. She noted that the information from the bank that the City currently holds accounts with had not yet been provided and those merchant services information would be given at the next meeting to be including in the consideration of services selection.

****Discussion Only***

Committee/ Council Reports

Councilmember Mann thanked City Administrator, Cindy Marbut for giving good customer service to a citizen who had expressed appreciation to her.

City Administrator Report

Cindy Marbut reported that the City would be applying for several upcoming grant opportunities and she would be holding her first Staff Meeting on Friday.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Barnes attend a funeral recently of a former City Council member and expressed the families' appreciation of her attendance

Pay Vouchers