

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – August 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore Catherine Kiewit at 7:00 pm. Council Members Present: Laura Mann, Ryan O'Connor, Phil Jones, Isolde Schroder. Staff Members Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, City Attorney Chris Lanz. Audience Present: Ken Park, Tamara Kaufman.

Public Comment

Tammy Kaufman

Kaufman informed the Council that Insitu would be partnering with the White Salmon-Bingen Rotary, White Salmon Farmer's Market, Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Partners of Bingen-White Salmon to celebrate international communities. She said the event would be called It Takes a Village 2018, and it would coincide with the final White Salmon Farmer's Market of the 2018 season. Kaufman said the event was in support of the White Salmon-Bingen Rotary Youth Exchange Program and community activities.

Kaufman invited the Council to attend the annual Hood River Fly-In, September 8, 2018, to view the ScanEagle unmanned aircraft joining the Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum's aircraft collection.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2018

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 1, paragraph 1

“Staff Members Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, City Attorney Chris Lanz, **Public Works Superintendent David Spratt**. Audience Present: Ken Park, Tamara Kaufman.”

Page 1, paragraph 2

“Kaufman said **Alisa Esina Alic**, CEO of Insitu, had spoken at a White Salmon/Bingen Rotary Club meeting earlier in the day and would be speaking to the Rotary Club of Hood River on Thursday.”

Page 3, paragraph 4

“It was pointed out by Councilmember Kiewit that stop signs were not recommended to be used for traffic calming.

Councilmember O'Connor mentioned that the manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices also stated that stop signs not be used for that purpose.”

Council Member Mann moved to approve the meeting minutes of the August 7, 2018 regular council meeting as corrected. Council Member Jones seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed UTC Project Agreement #TR-180682 for Rail Crossing #090168N

The Council discussed the funding sources for the Walnut Street Rail Crossing Improvements, confirming that the legislature had approved funding for the majority of the project, and that this Project agreement with UTC was to fund the remaining portion.

The Council discussed the logistics of the Rail Crossing upgrades.

Councilmember Jones moved to approve the Proposed UTC Project Agreement #TR-180682 for Rail Crossing #090168N. Councilmember O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing Conditional Use Permit – Residential Use within a Commercial Facility – 323 E Steuben

Councilmember O'Connor moved to continue the Public Hearing for the Conditional Use Permit Application submitted by Kay Endres for Residential Use within a Commercial Facility at 323 E Steuben, to be addressed at the Council meeting of September 18, 2018.

Councilmember Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – USDA Rural Development Application for Water Line & Reservoir Replacement

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit opened the public hearing on the USDA Rural Development Application for Water Line & Reservoir Replacement.

Clerk-Treasurer Willey explained the administrative side of the process and the current status of the application.

There were no public comments.

Councilmember O'Connor moved to add the water line replacement necessary for the Humboldt, Cherry, and Cedar Street Improvement Project to the USDA Rural Development Application.

Councilmember Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit closed the public hearing on the USDA Rural Development Application for Water Line & Reservoir Replacement.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Traffic Calming

Councilmember O'Connor asked about the use of removable speed bumps as traffic calming devices.

Clerk-Treasurer Willey questioned the speed rating of removable speed bumps.

Councilmember O'Connor stated that according to his research, there were different structures made for different speed ratings, such as speed bumps for low speeds, speed humps for intermediate speeds, and speed tables for higher speeds.

Councilmember Schroder said she assumed warning signage would be required to be installed and removed as the speed features were placed in the spring and removed in the fall.

Schroder said it was her goal to have speed control in Bingen. She said she was nervous about where the City would be in a few years. She asked the Council if they had seen a recent article regarding the influx of people expected to occur in connection with the opening of The Society Hotel. Schroder said Bingen was going to be the new Hood River. She said she was nervous about reacting to traffic instead of being proactive.

Schroder noted that stop signs at every corner would not change the infrastructure, or underlying traffic issues. She said her objective was to change traffic behavior at a digestible cost.

Schroder said she loved that the Council was having this conversation, but she wanted to see line drawn in the sand about when to make the change. She suggested the Council establish a timeframe for action.

Councilmember Mann noted that the traffic issues had been discussed at the previous Council meeting, and that she knew this particular subject was Schroder's passion.

Councilmember Kiewit pointed out that all of the Councilmembers live on the East side of Bingen, and that she wanted to avoid only addressing one side of town.

Kiewit suggested the Councilmembers spend time on the West side of Bingen and driving through all of Bingen to gain a better feel for the issue as a whole.

Councilmember O'Connor pointed out that Public Works Superintendent Spratt lived on the West side of Bingen, and recalled that Spratt had mentioned traffic speed issues in the past in front of his home on Alder Street.

Councilmember Kiewit agreed and noted that Clerk-Treasurer Willey and Deputy Clerk Riggleman had expressed similar issues were a problem on Ash Street in front of City Hall.

Kiewit said she wanted to make sure the Council approached with a city-wide view. She also noted that the traffic the community had worried about when the Smoke Shop was put in on Humboldt Street never really happened. She said from her observations the change in traffic flow had been very minimal.

Schroder suggested that when the Humboldt, Cherry, and Cedar Street Improvement Project began, that could be a good time to test out traffic calming options as part of the traffic control and rerouting.

Councilmember Jones pointed out that the streets on the East side of Bingen would be used heavily during the construction phase of the Bingen Point Access Improvement Project.

Jones asked if the traffic calming study from Gray & Osborne could be brought back for the September 18th, 2018 Council meeting to help further the traffic calming discussion.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if Clerk-Treasurer Willey could find out from WSDOT what the anticipated traffic reroute would be for the construction phase of their project.

Loading Study

Councilmember Mann mentioned the Gray & Osborne loading study, and asked if there had been any updates recently.

Clerk-Treasurer Willey said she would follow up on the status of the study.

Council Vacancy

Councilmember O'Connor said his final meeting would be September 4, 2018. He said he would be departing for Colombia on September 16, 2018.

Councilmember Kiewit asked the Council to reach out within the community to help find a new councilmember.

Councilmember Kiewit said she spoke with Mayor Barnes and that she had shared a quick update with her.

Kiewit reported that Barnes had spoken with Jessie Burke with The Society Hotel again about the possibility of a silent crossing. Kiewit said Barnes planned to speak with legislators and begin to apply pressure in support of a silent crossing once the Bingen Point Access Improvement Project was completed.

Councilmember Kiewit reported that Mayor Barnes would be unavailable for the Huckleberry festival Parade, and suggested that Staff and Council attend in her stead.

The Council discussed options for including staff and elected officials in the festival parade.

Councilmember Mann made a motion to authorize Clerk-Treasurer Willey to utilize BIAS Software services at an extra cost in order to help with the budgeting process.

Councilmember Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit announced at 9:00 p.m. that the city council would meet in Executive Session to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 15 minutes.

The council resumed regular session at 9:15 p.m. and announced it will continue to meet in Executive Session for 15 minutes.

At 9:30 p.m. the city council resumed regular session

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 21, 2018.

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

Checks 20184-20188 and Payroll EFT (Dated 8/15/18) totaling \$18,537.99. General Fund - \$7,678.43, Street Fund - \$3,118.15, Water Fund - \$2,187.86, Sewer Fund - \$385.33, Treatment Plant Fund - \$5,168.22.

EFT for Excise Taxes (Dated 8/15/18) and Checks 20189-20203 (Dated 8/21/18) totaling \$13,483.70. General Fund - \$2,553.44, Street Fund - \$1,188.70, Water Fund - \$4,848.10, Sewer Fund - \$669.54, Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,223.92.

The council adjourned at 9:30 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor