

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 pm. Council Members Present: Catherine Kiewit, Laura Mann, Isolde Schroder, Ryan O'Connor, Phil Jones, Student Council Member Chloe McLaughlin. Staff Members Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, City Attorney Chris Lanz. Audience Present: Ken Park, Tony Gilmer.

Public Comment

Tony Gilmer, Klickitat County Emergency Medical Service District (KCEMS) #1

Tony Gilmer said the call volume had been low recently. He said three on the ambulances had been remounted, leaving two ambulances with greater than 200,000 miles. He said improvements were being made where possible, and that the district would see a levy on the November 2018 ballot.

Gilmer said the district was taking in less money than the White Salmon Valley Community Library, or the local cemetery district, and that about 80% of the current budget was going to payroll to cover the full time employees. Gilmer said he would be available if the council had any questions, and that he would like to see community outreach to help educate the public on the need for the levy.

Councilmember Mann asked if the levy would be increasing or remaining at the current level.

Gilmer said the levy would stay at the current level, probably fifty cents per thousand. He pointed out that in comparison, Skamania County gets eighty cents per thousand.

Mayor Barnes asked how Skamania County arrived at eighty cents.

Gilmer said Skamania County collects for a special purpose district as well as a hospital district, even though they do not have a hospital.

Councilmember Mann said Gilmer's point was well taken regarding the library and cemetery comparisons.

Gilmer said maintaining the ambulances was one of the biggest challenges.

Councilmember Mann noted how large of an area the district encompassed.

Councilmember Kiewit asked what would happen if the levy did not pass.

Gilmer said the district goes to a level zero about 20% of the time. He noted that there were systems in place to cover for such times, but that Goldendale was the biggest challenge as it is the most isolated from the rest of the district. He said The Dalles is closest to Goldendale, and even that was 45 minutes away.

Mayor Barnes mentioned that the majority of the City's budget also went to payroll and employee costs. She said when the district chose to have their own employees they took on a lot of costs.

Gilmer said there very little revenue as most calls were for elderly patients on Medicare B, which has an 80% reimbursement rate.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if most transfers were to Portland.

Gilmer said yes, that an Yakima. He said a transfer to either would take an ambulance out of service for about six hours.

Councilmember Schroder asked if calling for aid from Hood River was helpful, and asked where Hood River transferred to.

Gilmer said Hood River would take patients to the closest facility that could handle the care.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if the closest facility was often in Portland

Gilmer said yes, being so close to a high level trauma centers and specialists meant that many patients get transferred to Portland.

Councilmember O'Connor asked if other agencies that provide aid are reimbursed.

Gilmer said yes.

Councilmember Schroder asked that Gilmer contact the council if there was an opportunity to help with local outreach.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2018

The Council expressed appreciated for the detail provided in the meeting minutes.

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 1, paragraph 6

“Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 17, ~~2017~~ 2018.”

Page 3, paragraph 2

“Wetch pointed out that investment in the plant has been minimal, largely due to operations and maintenance being very well done, thanks to the operators.”

Page 4, paragraph 1

“Councilmember Jones said if the phased approach to the project would ~~be having to~~ necessitate repeatedly ~~apply~~ applying for funding, then that was also a compelling factor.”

Page 5, paragraph 7

“Greenwood said he believed a future ~~edit~~ edict would dictate that all tolls in the future will go back into the bridge.”

Council Member Kiewit moved to approve the meeting minutes of the May 1, 2018 regular council meeting as corrected. Council Member Jones seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2018

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 1, paragraph 1

“Council Members present: Catherine Kiewit, Laura Mann, Isolde Schroder, ~~Ryan O’Connor~~, Phil Jones, Student Council Member Chloe McLaughlin.”

Page 3, paragraph 9

“Councilmember Mann asked if the terms of a current interfund loan could be changed once approved.

Page 4, paragraph 3

“Kiewit said the City of White Salmon had paid for 75% of the initial plan and she understood why they wanted to avoid ~~and any~~ further costs and delays.”

Page 6, paragraph 6

“Clerk Treasurer Willey said **both** the Consumer Confidence Report and the Water Use Efficiency Report were completed by her and Public Works Superintendent David Spratt, **and that the 2017 Distribution System Leakage (DSL) had fallen to 12.1% from 22.5% in 2016. Willey said the drop was most likely due to the discovery and repair of a 6” water main leak, a 2” water line leak, and replacement of the 4” vault meter.**”

Council Member Kiewit moved to approve the meeting minutes of the May 15, 2018 regular council meeting as corrected. Council Member Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 29, 2018

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 1, paragraph 2

“She noted the Budget Committee members Catherine Kiewit and Phil Jones also ~~review~~ **reviewed** the annual financial report.”

Council Member Schroder moved to approve the meeting minutes of the May 29, 2018 regular council meeting as corrected. Council Member O’Connor seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Gray & Osborne – Proposal & Contract for Engineering Services

Councilmember Mann asked for the definitions of HMI and PLC

Councilmember O’Connor said PLC was Programmable Logic Controllers and HMI was Human Machine Interface.

Councilmember Mann asked if on page 15 of the proposed contract, the scheduled date of spring 2019 was accurate.

Mayor Barnes said it would depend on the Department of Ecology.

Councilmember Mann suggested that Article 22 on page 8 should list the City’s post office box instead of the physical address.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said Gray & Osborne delivers documents using private services not the United States Postal Service, so the physical address was accurate.

Councilmember Mann moved to approve the contract with Gray & Osborne pending review of the contract by City Attorney Chris Lanz. Councilmember O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staff and Committee Reports

Clerk Treasurer Willey updated the council on the status of the work with LightSpeed (LS) Networks. She said LS Networks had contacted the City regarding the location of their cables crossing under the railroad tracks, and had asked if they could place the cables in the same conduit as a City water line.

Willey explained that Public Works Superintendent David Spratt had responded to LS Networks saying that the City would not allow another utility to be placed in the conduit with the water line, and that he had cited reasons why to back up his decision.

Mayor Barnes said she had read the email as well and said it was extremely well-put and professional.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she would forward the email to the council members for their information.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Mayor Barnes noted that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) had repainted the downtown crosswalks.

The council discussed the recent Spring Festival in White Salmon.

Mayor Barnes said Clerk Treasurer Willey and Deputy Clerk Dena Riggleman had accompanied her in the parade, and that there had been a good turnout.

Councilmember Schroder asked about the updated version of the Traffic Circulation Study from the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC).

Mayor Barnes said the tomorrow she would be attending an RTC meeting and a WSDOT Bingen Point Access Meeting.

The council discussed catching up on small tasks.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she would ask Public Works for a map of traffic signs, and stop signs in particular. She also said she would look into options for a speakerphone for when Councilmember Schroder was out of town.

The council discussed following up with the White Salmon Ops Committee regarding the letter that was sent in early May, 2018.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she would have the newsletter ready for council review soon, as the deadline for distribution was July 1, 2018.

Councilmember Kiewit asked that the information brochure regarding water quality be sent out as an insert in the newsletter.

The council discussed public outreach regarding the water system and water quality.

The newsletter was discussed, and councilmembers suggested that color or colored paper be utilized to help draw attention.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she had noticed a large difference in responses when sending out notices on colored paper.

Councilmember Mann asked if repayment options could be changed on current interfund loans.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she would be working with Jan Brending on budget items, and would find out.

Mayor Barnes said she would put Gray & Osborne in contact with Full Sail Brewery out of Hood River to discuss the loading and how treatment is handled.

The council discussed changes to brewery loadings and management options.

Councilmember Mann asked if Our Savior Lutheran Church had been contacted regarding the storm water issues.

Mayor Barnes said yes, but they had not been contacted about anyone going onto their property. She said she would suggest it the next time she talked with Mike Meskimen of Gray & Osborne.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if the Church representative was aware of and open to solving the issue.

Mayor Barnes said yes, they had spoken early on in the process of addressing the storm water issue. She said the driveway had been in that condition for a very long time. Barnes said that in listening to Gray & Osborne it seems the runoff has many causes, and she wasn't sure what exactly the Church could do to help.

Councilmember Mann suggested they direct the runoff into the drainage ditch.

Mayor Barnes said the ditch needed to be prepared for the runoff first, and mentioned that the runoff could be coming from higher up the hill.

Councilmember Kiewit asked about the weekly water report that was being provided to council.

Clerk Treasurer Willey suggested combining more data collected to provide a larger picture, instead of just production numbers. She said she would speak with Public Works to see what should be provided.

Councilmember O'Connor was asked to speak with Public Works Superintendent David Spratt to gain an understanding of the water system data and report back to the council.

Clerk Treasurer Willey suggested Public Works Superintendent Spratt be invited to speak with the council, as he was the one collecting the data and operating the water system.

Councilmember Kiewit said she had noticed a big difference in the community response to the animal control services provided by Mike Solomon as opposed to other contracted services received in the past. She said she would like give a big thank you to Solomon.

Councilmember Schroder said Solomon was a great employee and she was glad he came aboard.

The council discussed recent theft of construction equipment.

Student Councilmember McLaughlin said this would be her final meeting as school would be out the following week. She said she had a great time and learned a lot from participating as a student councilmember. She said in the future she hoped to have a career in either government or politics and having the knowledge she gained with the Binge nCity Council would provide a good foundation.

Councilmember O'Connor said he would serve through the end of August, 2018, and did not intend to serve through his absence.

Mayor Barnes said representatives from the City of White Salmon would be attending the next council meeting to discuss the idea of a Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District. She said she would pass along information she had received from White Salmon Clerk Treasurer Jan Brending.

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 June 5, 2018.

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

Checks 20017-20021 and Payroll EFT (Dated 5/31/18) totaling \$26,470.83. General Fund - \$11,681.10, Street Fund - \$4,151.01, Water Fund - \$2,959.17, Sewer Fund - \$524.64, Treatment Plant Fund - \$7,154.91.

Checks 20022-20054 (Dated 6/5/18) totaling \$162,256.65. General Fund - \$37,198.10, Street Fund - \$2,932.11, Water Fund - \$10,360.43, Sewer Fund - \$835.73, Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,277.06, Water Capital Reserve Fund - \$106,653.22.

The council adjourned at 8:30 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor