

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Dan Armstrong, Stephanie Porter. Council members absent: Izzy Schroder. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending, Chief Tracy Wyckoff. Audience: Michelle Scott, Tony Gilmer, Suzie Willey.

Public Comment

Tony Gilmer, Klickitat County Emergency Management Services District

Tony Gilmer introduced himself and thanked the city council for their support. He said the district has taken possession of a new ambulance which will be stationed on the west end of the county at first. Gilmer said the district has sold a used ambulance to the City of Goldendale to help foster the first responders. He said the district is finalizing a long range strategic plan and a replacement plan for equipment.

Catherine Kiewit asked how many ambulances the district has.

Gilmer said six and that number is not adequate for the needs.

Betty Barnes asked what the ages of the vehicles are.

Gilmer said the age is not bad but approximately 5000 to 6000 miles per month are put on each ambulance.

Gilmer said joining the district board has been interesting and challenging. He said he feels the board has a lot of good experience and is working together.

City Council Vacancy

Betty Barnes reported that Glenda Rosales has withdrawn her application for consideration for the vacant council position.

Jan Brending reminded council members that candidates for the position of council member must have lived in Bingen full-time for the last year and be a registered voter of Bingen at the time of appointment.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Tracy Wyckoff said Fire District 3 has supplied the department with automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for each vehicle. He said he is working with dispatch so that an officer is dispatched to any medic or fire calls. Wyckoff said all officers have been trained to use the AEDs.

Wyckoff said the testing process for a new officer continues with oral boards scheduled tomorrow. He said there were originally 7 applicants and there are now only 4. Wyckoff said he feels there are some good local candidates and that he plans to hire two officers. He noted that the training academy sessions are all currently full and hopes to get the officers into the August academy.

Wyckoff said he is working with the county Department of Emergency Management through a Homeland Security grant to get new portable radios for all officers. He said the new equipment would not be available until next spring.

Wyckoff said he has met with the County Sheriff and Goldendale Police Chief to address upgrades to the Spellman software system to make getting state and national returns more efficient. He said the three law enforcement entities would purchase the upgrade module with the county Department of Emergency Management paying for the ongoing maintenance of the software.

Criminal Justice Sales Tax Increase

Tracy Wyckoff said he, the County Sheriff and the Goldendale Police Chief have discussed the possibility of implementing a 0.1% sales tax increase in the county. He said the county commissioners must adopt the sales tax increase that would be implemented county wide with the funding dedicated to criminal justice purposes. Wyckoff said the goal would be to use the funding for drug enforcement not currently in the budget. He said the funding would be used to pay for overtime for officers and possibly purchase some equipment such as cameras. Wyckoff noted that it takes a lot of time to do drug enforcement. He said the goal is to work as a group in the area to address the problem. Wyckoff said he is looking for support from the city council.

Dan Armstrong asked if drugs are a growing issue in Klickitat County.

Wyckoff said yes. He said marijuana continues to be a problem, particularly since it is now more readily available to juveniles. Wyckoff said there are problems with meth, heroin and deaths from overdoses. He said new drugs are coming in to the states all the time. Wyckoff said he believes it is important to have two officers working together all times for safety and to make sure that things are being done correctly so that a case will stand up in court.

Jan Brending provided information on the approximate amount of sales tax a 0.1% increase would bring in. She said that based on total sales in the county from 2015 the 0.1% increase would bring approximately \$342,000 with the county getting 10% automatically and the remainder split between the three cities and the county based on population. Brending said Bingen would receive approximately \$10,779 and White Salmon \$35,491.

Catherine Kiewit asked why not just increase the cost to Bingen for services instead of raising the taxes. She said she is concerned about the impact on businesses.

Betty Barnes said Chief Wyckoff is talking about creating partnerships and that if just Bingen increased its contribution to law enforcement it would not be enough to address the problem.

Chris Lanz noted that sales tax is not just paid by the local citizens but those that pass through the area who are also served by the police department.

Wyckoff noted that all of the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department officers are now commissioned in the county so they can assist the county when needed.

Catherine Kiewit asked Wyckoff if he could provide how many hours of overtime might be paid for with the increase in funding.

Stephanie Porter said she does not think that a 0.1% increase in sales tax would be that noticeable. She said that she feels drugs in the area is a growing problem. Porter said she would be supportive.

Wyckoff said the police chief in Goldendale is pushing hard to address the drug issue as Goldendale has an even bigger issue than Bingen-White Salmon. He noted that the county sheriff's department has a designated drug enforcement officer who has assisted the three cities.

Catherine Kiewit said she would personally support the increase but would want to get information out to the citizens and businesses so they know about the proposal and can comment on it.

Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2016

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the meeting minutes of the March 15, 2016 regularly scheduled meeting. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Requests for Proposals – Engineering Services

Jan Brending presented information on three proposed request for proposals for engineering services. She said the city council has discussed the need to address groundwater under the skatepark, sidewalk and street reconstruction in the 200/300 blocks of East Humboldt, and replacement of the meters and vault at Underwood Fruit. Brending explained how hiring engineering firms work in that the city cannot ask for a price proposal in the RFP. She said that once a firm is selected the price for the scope of work is negotiated.

Brending said she believes the replacement of the meters and vault at Underwood should be the priority due to the city's distribution system leakage (DSL) number. She noted the council has the DSL reports for 2015 and 2016 through March. Brending said the DSL is currently about 40%. She said a portion of the DSL may be attributed to the metering at Underwood Fruit.

Brending said the engineering and construction for 200/300 E. Humboldt Street may be expensive. She said, however, that without any proposed options and cost estimates it is impossible to apply for grants that may help the city address the problem. Brending suggested the RFP for the skatepark could be done in the fall so that the engineering firm could see where the water is coming into the park.

Brending said she is concerned about the possible cost to address the groundwater issue at the skatepark. She noted that it is possible that the groundwater will move to another area of the park even after a fix is put in place.

Betty Barnes noted that staff is busy with a number of things including the Bingen Point overpass and Shoreline Management Program.

There was a consensus of the council to move ahead with issuing Requests for Proposals for Humboldt Street and replacement of the water meters and vault at Underwood Fruit while holding off until the fall for the skatepark RFP.

Treasurer's Report – February 2016

Jan Brending said the Treasurer's Report for February 2016 does not include the budget amendments passed by the council in March.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for February 2016. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Skatepark Donor Signage

Catherine Kiewit and Jan Brending reported that the skatepark donor signage is in production and hope that it can be installed by May.

Oil Transportation – Port of Vancouver

Betty Barnes said she has been contacted by Peter Cornelius regarding signing on to a letter asking the Port of Vancouver not to renew its lease with Tesoro. She said she has some reservations about signing the letter as it is very specific. Barnes noted that the resolution the city adopted was more general.

The council said it is up to her as to whether or not she should sign the letter.

Senator Maria Cantwell Meeting

Betty Barnes said she attended a meeting with Senator Maria Cantwell in Goldendale. She said she was able to discuss protecting the city's current at-grade railroad crossings and the city's desire to build a community center.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Betty Barnes said while she was at the meeting with Senator Cantwell she was approached by Jeff King, Klickitat County Department of Emergency Management about the need to develop a county-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan. She said without the plan the county and all three cities are not eligible for FEMA emergency funding. Barnes said the county is seeking grant funding to develop the plan. Barnes noted she signed a document that the city would participate in the county-wide development of the plan.

Public Works

Catherine Kiewit noted that the button on the lower water fountain at the park is not working. She also noted that a branch on a tree in front of Texaco is broken and needs removed.

Fire Board

Dan Armstrong asked when the Fire Board meets.

Betty Barnes said it meets on the second Wednesday of each month. She noted that if there is no business then the meeting will be cancelled.

Smokeshop Neighborhood Meeting

Catherine Kiewit said she has talked to Ty Young about setting up an neighborhood meeting. She said that because of his schedule it does not appear a neighborhood meeting will work. Kiewit said he has asked that his e-mail be forwarded to the neighbors and so they can let him know of their concerns. She said Young has said he has not heard of any complaints except regarding his employees speeding. Kiewit said he has talked to his employees about that issue and will be installing signs on his property reminding customers of the speed limit on Humboldt Street.

Betty Barnes noted that there were some problems about the barricade that has been put in place by the city at the dead-end of Humboldt Street being moved and where cars were being parked. She said she that asked Tracy Wyckoff to speak with the manager at the smokeshop about noting moving the barricade and where they should not be parking.

Community Pride – Youth Cleanup

Stephanie Porter said the youth cleanup will begin at 10:00 a.m. on April 23 at the park. Betty Barnes will contact Benneventi's about a pizza feed after the cleanup.

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 5, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: EFT and checks 18300-18332 (dated 04/15/2016) totaling \$53327.04. General Fund – \$31378.88; Street - \$2780.77; Water - \$14468.80; Sewer - \$658.16; Treatment Plant - \$4040.43.

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 5, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 18259 (dated 03/31/16) totaling \$1119.02. Court Remittance Agency Fund - \$1119.02.

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 5, 2016 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT and checks 18293-18297 (dated 03/31/2016) totaling \$21981.39. General Fund – \$9595.50; Street Fund - \$2919.86; Water Fund - \$2137.92; Sewer Fund - \$385.45; Treatment Plant Fund - \$6942.66.

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 5, 2016 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT (dated 04/05/2016) totaling \$2298.67. General Fund – \$874.80; Street Fund - \$353.49; Water Fund - \$259.00; Sewer Fund - \$45.80; Treatment Plant Fund - \$765.58.

Executive Session

At 9:00 p.m., Betty Barnes announced the city council will go into Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss a potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

The council resumed regular session at 9:10 p.m.

Donation of Sick Leave by Management Employee

There was a consensus of the city council that the City Administrator, who is not governed by the union contract as it is a management position, may donate sick leave to another employee.

The council adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor