

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – September 4, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore Catherine Kiewit at 7:02 pm. Council Members Present: Laura Mann, Ryan O’Connor, Phil Jones, Isolde Schroder (via telephone). Mayor Betty J. Barnes was present for part of the meeting. Staff Members Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, City Attorney Chris Lanz, Police Chief Mike Hepner. Audience Present: Ken Park.

Bingen White Salmon Police Department Update

Police Chief Mike Hepner

Hepner said the summer call volume had been steady, and about a third of the calls had taken place in Bingen. He said Bingen averaged two domestic calls and two DUIs per month. Hepner pointed out that the DUI calls could be attributed to Bingen being on the State Highway.

Hepner said there had been five vehicle collisions in Bingen in July, and one in August.

Councilmember Kiewit asked Chief Hepner to track the collision numbers that could help the City obtain a safety grant.

Hepner said he intended to pursue the purchase of a couple of electronic speed signs, and that he would be presenting the information to the City of White Salmon as well. Hepner pointed out that the signs were moveable and that public works could mount them on different poles to place them in different locations.

Hepner noted that since the surveillance camera had been moved to Daubenspeck Park, there had been no reported issues at the recycling site, and that incidents of vandalism had gone way down.

Mayor Barnes said according to the Klickitat County Solid Waste Department, there had been multiple complaints since the surveillance camera was moved.

Hepner said if so, none of those complaints had been reported to the Police Department.

Councilmember Kiewit said she supported the idea and would do some research as well.

Hepner said signs were available with or without the “slow down” feature, but that he liked the slow down versions better. He said it grabs drivers’ attention better.

Hepner said he had spoken with WSDOT about the paperwork required for placing the signs along State highways 141 and 14.

Councilmember Mann asked if taxes from marijuana sales go to law enforcement.

Hepner said the police department sees very little, and that most goes to the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board. Hepner noted that the State of Oregon is different, and directs most of the Marijuana tax revenue to law enforcement.

Councilmember Kiewit asked about the law enforcement plan for the Huckleberry Festival.

Hepner said he would be working the parade for traffic control.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2018

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 2, paragraphs 8, 9, and 10

~~“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.~~

~~**Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit closed the public hearing on the USDA Rural Development Application for Water Line & Reservoir Replacement. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**~~

~~**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.”**~~

Council Member Mann moved to approve the meeting minutes of the August 21, 2018 regular council meeting as corrected. Council Member O’Connor seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor Barnes arrived.

Old Business

WSDOT Bingen Point Access Project – Design Discussion

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit moved the WSDOT Design Discussion up the agenda.

Devin Reck and Bethany Vermaas shared an updated video simulating the roundabout and underpass.

Reck and Vermaas explained the updates, including adding people for perspective, shifting the roundabout to the North to ease traffic flow going East, and noted that the crosswalks were likely accurate. They said a pedestrian pathway would likely connect the Elm Street Cul-de-Sac to the roundabout.

Councilmember Jones asked about the middle of the roundabout being off-center.

Reck explained the shape of the roundabout was specific to the intersection needs, and was influenced by the turning radius required for large trucks and well as the East and West traffic on the highway.

Mayor Barnes asked how the geological tests were coming along.

Reck said the test were going very well and that several samples were taken to help design the railroad bridge footings.

Reck noted that a company called HDR had been hired to consult on the railroad bridge, and that they had worked closely with BNSF railroad in the past. Reck explained the consult was to help design the railroad bridge in a way that allowed for BNSF to complete the work or for WSDOT to bid the project out. He said the plan was to use materials for the bridge that are used in other BNSF bridges to make the transition easier.

Reck said work on the railroad bridge could begin as early as 2019 with the roundabout being constructed the following year.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit asked if the properties would need to be vacated for that work to begin.

Reck said no, but mentioned that the appraisals were underway for the properties needed for right-of-way.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit voiced concern about the roundabout not being used as the primary access point for Bingen Point.

Reck explained that the Maple Street crossing and the underpass would work in concert with one another and noted that the second exit was important in the event of an evacuation or other emergency.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit asked about snow removal on the roundabout.

Reck said the underpass and connecting road would be city streets, but that WSDOT would be responsible for plowing the roundabout itself. He noted that the snowplow drivers were not fans of curbs, so candlestick markers might be needed to reflect the island areas of the roundabout.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit asked about the depth of the road underneath the railroad bridge.

Reck said it would be 17 ½ feet from the bridge to the roadway to accommodate for an assumed future 3rd track. He noted that during construction either rail traffic would go to one track or a temporary shoefly would be constructed.

Vermaas said 30% plans would be provided to BNSF later that week.

Reck pointed out that the sidewalk through the underpass had been moved adjacent to the roadway instead of behind the support columns.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit asked if the greenspace would be the city's responsibility to maintain.

Reck said yes, but WSDOT would landscape it first.

Mayor Barnes said she knew that public works would appreciate a low-maintenance landscape design to minimize maintenance in the middle of the busy highway.

Councilmember Schroder left the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Update – Gray & Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant

Collection System

Nancy Wetch noted that plans had just been submitted and that they were about 70-80% complete. She said the current focus was on WSDOT permitting, and that she knew there was a little bit of concern regarding possibly being in the BNSF right-of-way.

Wastewater Loading Study

Wetch said the question regarding the loading study had been “does this change the criteria for the facility?” She said Ken Alexander had done a tremendous amount of work to try and find where the strong waste was coming from. She noted that the work Alexander had done was partnered with a lot of work done by Manager Tom Hons and Operator James Buckland.

Wetch explained the conclusion was that there was extremely high loading, but that did not change the previous recommendation. Wetch reminded the council that the current plan was mostly maintenance that needed to be done based on the age of the plant. Wetch said the recommended updates would not change the design of the current plant drastically, but she said that might be good to look at in future planning. Wetch said the design plan for the plant would include suggestions and hypotheticals for the future, to be dictated by industrial discharges. Wetch said if the city followed recommendations from coming report, it would be able to meter those industrial discharges more accurately and regularly.

Wetch said the current design with collection would need to go to the Washington State Department of Ecology before December 2018, but that the city would be allowed to apply for funding before that time.

Wetch discussed the plan to apply for funding by October 15th, 2018, noting that any money would be a year and a half out if received. She clarified that the application would be for construction funds only, since last year the city had applied for design and construction but only received approval for the design portion. Wetch explained that although the design was funded last year, the money was delayed by the legislature. Wetch said that since the funding was 50% forgivable, she recommend the city accept it and proceed.

Councilmember Mann said she would likely have some questions on the recommendations, and asked that the Water and Sewer Committee email Wetch to discuss those.

Wetch said yes, she would be available by email, and was also happy to meet with the committee.

Councilmember Mann asked about item #6 in the report.

Wetch explained that the businesses at Bingen Point and the Port of Klickitat were similar to a casino in that there was no residential use and so not much gray water to dilute the high strength human waste. She said it differed from a packing facility in that there was not a high sugar loading, but said that with shift work comes a high strength waste with very little dilution. Wetch said it was not a crisis but having agreement in place would be good so that businesses can grow appropriately. She also pointed out that she wouldn't want the Port to oversell capacity or have any section of businesses subsidize another.

Wetch defined characterization as testing to see what component is high, with examples of ammonia, sugar, and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD).

Wetch said the current project tackles issues with aging plant, but said the real question was where to go in the future. She noted that currently data is limited due to a weekly collection. She said it would be more useful for frequent samples to be taken to show a season or a year, but that due to the time intensive requirements the city may have to have a third party obtain the samples if they were deemed necessary.

Clerk Treasurer Willey shared an email from plant Manager Tom Hons detailing his comments on the study.

Update – USDA Rural Development Funding Application

Clerk Treasurer Willey updated the council on the status of the USDA RD funding application, explaining that everything had been turned in that was requested, and she was just waiting to hear back.

Proclamation – Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit read the proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children, and;

WHEREAS, 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20th birthday, and;

WHEREAS, 43 children per day or 15,780 children are diagnosed with cancer annually in the U.S., and;

WHEREAS, there are approximately 40,000 children on active treatment at any given time, and;

WHEREAS, the average age of diagnosis is 6 years old, compared to 66 years for adults' cancer diagnosis, and;

WHEREAS, 80% of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late and with metastatic disease, and;

WHEREAS, on average there's been a 0.6 percent increase in incidence per year since the mid 1970's resulting in an overall incidence increase of 24 percent over the last 40 years, and;

WHEREAS, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one quarter being classified as severe to life-threatening, and;

WHEREAS, approximately one half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial toxicity due to out-of-pocket expenses as considerable to severe, and;

WHEREAS, in the last 20 years only four new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer, and;

WHEREAS, the National Cancer Institute recognizes the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the associated need for increased funding to carry this out;

WHEREAS, hundreds of non-profit organizations at the local and national level including the American childhood cancer Organization are helping children with cancer and their families cope through educational, emotional and financial support, and;

WHEREAS, researchers and healthcare professionals work diligently dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer, and;

WHEREAS, too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure.

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Bingen, Washington proclaims the month of September, 2018 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month"

The City of Bingen invites all citizens to observe Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and support this cause that so deeply impacts families in every community across our country.

Councilmember O'Connor moved to proclaim the month of September, 2018, as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Council Member Jones seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Councilmember Mann said she had gone to a meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). She explained that in the past the Council had been asked to set goals, and asked the council if they had additional goals they would like to reach, noting that there had not been any progress on goals set in

2012. She suggested implementing goals from that year, including reducing household waste, creating specific plans for businesses, looking into curbside glass recycling, community outreach, and education.

Mayor Barnes said she would like to see more effort put into reaching the Hispanic population, as language barriers might be preventing a large number of people from being reached.

Councilmember Mann said she would like to focus on reducing household waste.

Councilmember O'Connor asked if there was an annual report of local statistics on recycling and waste.

Councilmember Mann said she was sure there was, and added that the data was collected.

Councilmember Mann said she spoke with Mayor Barnes and Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit, and said she would like to hear an update from Building Official Marlon Morat at a later council meeting.

Mayor Barnes said Klickitat County Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King would be at the October 18th, 2018 council meeting. She asked the council members compile their questions to help direct his presentation.

Councilmember O'Connor thanked his fellow councilmembers and said he had really been enjoying his time on council, learning about the current happenings and meeting city employees.

Mayor Barnes thanked O'Connor and said his knowledge had been indispensable.

Councilmember O'Connor said he would really like to hear updates, and would be available for teleconference at meetings until his trip is over.

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 September 4, 2018.

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

Checks 20204-20208 and Payroll EFT (Dated 8/31/18) totaling \$25,330.94. General Fund - \$11,620.30, Street Fund - \$3,892.83, Water Fund - \$2,686.15, Sewer Fund - \$492.69, Treatment Plant Fund - \$6,638.97.

Checks 20209-20233 (Dated 9/04/18) totaling \$66,097.38. General Fund - \$34,848.98, Street Fund - \$1,237.52, Street Construction and Maintenance Fund - \$365.47, Water Fund - \$9,039.08, Sewer Fund - \$1,484.77, Treatment Plant Fund - \$3,147.42, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund - \$15,974.14.

The council adjourned at 9:30 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor