

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Dan Armstrong, Izzy Schroder (by phone). Council members absent: Stephanie Porter. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending. Audience: Michelle Scott, Jeanette Fentie, John Newman, Pattie Newman, Robert Cothran, Suzie Glaser, Tony Gilmer.

Public Comment

Tony Gilmer, Klickitat County EMS

Tony Gilmer reported the EMS board is working its long-term strategic plan. He said the board has issued a Request for Proposals for ambulance services. Gilmer said the board hosted a booth at Spring Fest and hopes to have one at the Huckleberry Festival in September. He said the board is focusing on education and outreach at the festivals. Gilmer said one of the issues that has come up relates to addressing and delays that may result when properties are not correctly addressed.

Jan Brending noted that property owners may think their property is addressed differently than what shows up in the 911 data base. She said she hopes to update all addresses so that the city, property owners, utility companies and 911 all are using the same address. Brending said it is the city's responsibility to assign addresses and to update them when necessary.

The council suggested including information in a future newsletter and/or utility billing about the need for having address numbers on the homes and businesses.

Jeanette Fentie, Bingen WA

Jeanette Fentie said she is asking the city council to take a stand on crude oil transportation in the Gorge preferably by saying that the city is opposed to all transportation of oil by rail. She said the Friends of the Columbia Gorge have a website which states that the City of Bingen is taking a "wait and see" stance on the issue.

Betty Barnes noted that the city adopted a resolution asking the governor of Washington and the federal legislature to address safety issues and concerns regarding the transportation of crude oil by rail.

Fentie said she would like the city council to take a more firm stance in complete opposition to transportation of oil by rail. She said the city should stand in solidarity with other communities in the Gorge that have taken that stance. Fentie said the City of Bingen has a number of facilities adjacent to the railroad that could cause an even greater impact if there was a derailment and fire.

Betty Barnes noted there are safety issues that need to be addressed. She said the city has sent several firefighters to crude oil by rail training in Colorado which was funded entirely by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF).

John Newman, Bingen WA

John Newman said the incident in Mosier could have been a lot more serious if there had been any wind. He said it is important to address issues that affect Bingen. Newman said the trains affect the livability of the city whether there is a crash or not. He said hopefully the city will address a quiet zone in the future. Newman noted that an overpass crossing is needed for safety purposes. He said the city needs to issue a strongly worded statement to the legislature, both state and federal, asking them what they propose to do about the issues.

Betty Barnes noted the Bingen Point overpass has been funded. She said one of the issues that has come up is that the railroad usually wants to close an at-grade crossing when a new crossing is permitted. She said it is important to keep all crossings open for safety and economic development purposes. Barnes said she has met with Senator Maria Cantwell who is big on making the railroads accountable. She said a lot of things are being done to address safety concerns and making sure that local agencies are ready to respond. Barnes noted that an emergency response plan for Bingen Point is in the process of being finalized.

Newman said he thinks there needs to be a more proactive response needed such as addressing speed limits, etc.

Patti Newman, Bingen WA

Patti Newman said she thinks the city council should take a much stronger position and be in line with the rest of the communities in the Gorge. She said that if everyone is on board with the same message

then it shows that it really matters. Newman said that addressing safety and speed limits is just treating the symptoms and not getting to the root of the problem.

Laura Mann, Bingen WA

Laura Mann noted that Highway 14 is in pretty bad shape after the traffic was diverted from Interstate 84 to the Washington side.

Betty Barnes said Washington State Department of Transportation is looking at the highway to see what needs to be done.

Betty Barnes thanked the public for attending and making comment. She said the council may discuss the issue further at a future meeting.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Betty Barnes noted that Chief Tracy Wyckoff is not present to make a report. She said that a dog biting incident took place recently at the park which involved two dogs – one biting the other dog.

Barnes said the city is looking at options for animal control and will hopefully present something to the council in July.

Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2016

Changes to the minutes of the May 17, 2016 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 3rd paragraph should read as follows: “Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending, Police Chief Tracy Wyckoff and Officer Mike Hepner.”

Page 2, add the following after the 10th paragraph: “Izzy Schroder, attending by phone, left the meeting.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting on May 16, 2016 as corrected. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Personal Services Contract, Gray & Osborne, 200/300 E. Humboldt Street

Jan Brending presented a proposed personal services contract with Gray & Osborne for the engineering services for the Humboldt Street improvement project. She said the cost of the services is \$22,087 with a contract termination date of August 31, 2016.

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize the mayor to sign the personal services contract with Gray & Osborne, Inc. for engineering services for the Humboldt Street improvement project in the amount of \$22,087. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Personal Services Contract, Gray & Osborne, Underwood Fruit Vault and Meter Replacement

Jan Brending presented a proposed personal services contract with Gray & Osborne for the engineering services for the Underwood Fruit vault and meter replacement project. She said the cost of the services is \$44,331 and includes construction engineering services. Brending said the contract would terminate August 31, 2017.

Dan Armstrong moved to authorize the mayor to sign the personal services contract with Gray & Osborne, Inc. for engineering services for the Underwood Fruit vault and meter replacement project in the amount of \$44,331. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Park Tree Replacement

Jan Brending presented information regarding the caliper of trees that available from Big Tree Inc. She said the caliper of the trees that are 16 to 18 feet tall is approximately 14 inches. Brending said she contacted two other companies that carry big trees and also transport and install. She said both companies are located in Snohomish, Washington. Brending said one company would not transport Giant Sequoia that far and the second company quoted \$2500 for the tree alone. She noted that the second company suggested contacting Big Tree Inc. since they are located closer to Bingen.

Dan Armstrong moved to install three replacement Giant Sequoia trees in the park purchased from Big Tree Inc. at the cost of \$1,935 per tree which includes delivery and installation. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update

Mosier Train Derailment Response

Betty Barnes said city staff and the fire department went above and beyond the call of duty in responding to requests related to the train derailment. She said Terry Wroe, who is trained in crude oil firefighting, responded to the scene and other firefighters and staff assisted in making the oil response trailer available to the Department of Ecology and assisted the Department of Ecology in setting up an air monitoring station.

Bingen Point Overpass – Letters to WSDOT and UTC

Betty Barnes said the city has sent two letters to Washington State Department of Transportation and Washington Utility and Transportation Commission regarding a meeting held between WSDOT, UTC and BNSF. She said that she has spoken to several legislators regarding the issue along with representatives from WSDOT.

Council Comments and Staff Updates

Chips Bar & Grill

Catherine Kiewit asked if Chips Bar & Grill has closed.

Betty Barnes said yes. She said the original owner has taken it back over and will be leasing or selling the business.

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 7, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 18444-18475 (dated 06/07/2016) totaling \$61,049.70. General Fund – \$36,672.43; Street - \$4,562.73; Street Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$75.07; Water - \$14,325.20; Sewer - \$2,501.44; Treatment Plant - \$2,912.83.

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 7, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 18442-18443 (dated 05/31/2016) totaling \$611.74. Court Remittance Agency Fund - \$611.74.

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 7, 2016 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT and checks 18437-18441 (dated 05/31/2016) totaling \$21,538.50. General Fund – \$9,605.50; Street Fund - \$2,901.36; Water Fund - \$2,331.44; Sewer Fund - \$385.73; Treatment Plant Fund - \$6,314.47.

The council adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor