**BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**December 5, 2023**

**Meeting Via Teleconference and In-Person**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Catherine Kiewit at 7:00 p.m.

Council members present: Phil Jones, Ryan O’Connor, Izzy Schroder, Brittany Spratt and Michael Stahl. Staff present: Fire Chief Carl Spratt, City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Krista Loney. Audience present: Jamin Ankney – Gray and Osborne.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Michael Stahl Oath of Office**

Michael Stahl was sworn in as a Bingen City Council member by Mayor Catherine Kiewit.

**Meeting Minutes – 11/21/2023**

Chris Lanz pointed out that he did attend the 11/21/23 meeting remotely. Councilor Schroder did not attend but was listed in the minutes. Councilor Spratt attended and was not listed in the minutes. Councilor O’Connor made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Councilor Jones provided the second and the motion carried.

**Oak Street Reservoir Progress Estimate 4**

Jamin Ankney attended the meeting to explain Progress Estimate number four. The site preparation is complete, the retaining wall is complete, and the site is buttoned up until the tank arrives. The tank is delayed again with an early February 2024 ship date. Bingen is contracted with AES to do the work; AES is contracted with Shearer, the tank installer; and Shearer is contracted with CST, the tank manufacturer.

Mayor Kiewit inquired if there is anything that can be done to put pressure on to shorten the delay. The City’s only option is to pursue liquidated damages but would have to prove that the delay has caused the City financial harm. Also, the City would have to sue AES who would sue Shearer who would sue CST which would unfairly harm AES.

Councilor Schroder asked Jamin Ankney if there is proof that CST is manufacturing and delivering tanks. Jamin will inquire for some recent deliveries from CST.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve Progress Estimate 4. Councilor Schroder provided the second and the motion carried.

**Bingen Fire Update**

Fire Chief Spratt provided an update that there were 33 calls in November, bringing the 2023 total-to-date to 383. The BFD is almost done spending the $100,000 DNR grant that was awarded in early 2023. The remaining funds will be spent on more radio equipment and pagers. The BFD submitted a grant to DNR for HB 1168 to purchase wildland PPE. Since the BFD was awarded funds in 2023 they are at the bottom of the list for potential awards but applied anyway.

**Bingen Police Update**

Police Chief Mike Hepner could not attend the meeting as he was in a meeting in Goldendale. Council was provided with the November 2022 and 2023 police response counts. Chief Hepner provided some updates via email including:

* Officer Clifford has finished his out of state registration check in the City of Bingen. It is 80 plus in Bingen alone. He is going to finish his informational flyer and once Chief Hepner approves it he will send a copy to Administrator Loney. This will be mailed out with the next round of utility bills.
* The B-WSPD has started citing people who are driving with expired registration.
* 7 people have been cited in the last two weeks for running the stop sign on Ash Street next to city hall.
* The B-WSPD is almost fully staffed again.

**Klickitat County Interlocal Agreement for Judge Services**

Administrator Loney provided the interlocal agreement and a memo to Council. The Cities of Bingen and White Salmon have been working on this agreement for approximately 16 months. The Cities have met with Judge Baker, Sally, and Commissioner Jake Anderson. The County Commissioners passed an ordinance earlier this year that was against the terms that Bingen agreed to. This interlocal agreement has been finalized with the terms that were agreed upon. The interlocal agreement is on the agenda for the December 12, 2023 County Commissioners meeting.

Councilor Schroder made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement between the City of Bingen and Klickitat County for West District Court Services. Councilor Jones provided the second and the motion carried.

**Public Hearing – Adoption of 2024 Budget/Ordinance 2023-15-748**

Mayor Kiewit opened the public hearing at 7:53 p.m. Administrator Loney presented the 2024 budget that has already been discussed at two previous meetings. There was no public comment. Mayor Kiewit closed the public hearing at 7:54 p.m.

Councilor Jones made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-15-748 Adopting the Budget for the City of Bingen for 2024. Councilor O’Connor provided the second and the motion carried.

**Council Retreat Discussion**

Mayor Kiewit shared that she learned at the Mayor’s conference that she attended that other municipalities take their retreats/visioning sessions off-site. Council came to consensus that having the meeting at City Hall is fine and having it off-site is also fine. Administrator Loney will look for a place to hold the visioning session in mid-January 2024.

**Staff Updates**

Administrator Loney had the following updates for Council:

* The 2021-2022 audit is over and Bingen got the best possible result.
* Bingen was awarded Public Works Board emergency funds totaling $600,000 that is 15% grant and 85% loan. These funds are for Section 1 of the east Steuben waterline.
* Loney met with Ashley Emery on 12/4 and Emery is wrapping up the rate study. It will be presented at the December 19 council meeting.
* Loney is working with J&J Overhead Door on a quote for the fire hall door that was damaged
* Riverside Electric fixed the electric boxes on trees along Steuben. There are some that are not working and Pat will fix them next week.
* Loney is working on swag orders for Centennial.
* Loney got the Shoreline Substantial Development Permit submitted for SDS’s kilns project.
* Many thanks to Phil and Izzy for their work on the scoring rubric for the RFQ for Alder and Cedar sidewalks.
* Bingen was awarded $35,000 from the Department of Commerce for middle housing policies and ordinances.

**Mayor’s Update and Council Comments**

Councilor Schroder shared that Sarah Fox is willing to do a Sense of Place lecture or variety show in Bingen as part of the Centennial celebrations.

Mayor Kiewit shared that she attended a meeting with Everybody’s Brewing and the City of White Salmon. Bingen will be doing a true-up at the end of 2023 and that EB will be testing three times per week for the remainder of the year to collect additional data.

**Voucher Approval**

Claims Checks (Dated 11/27/2023) and Claims EFT (Dated 11/27/2023) totaling $4,477.28; General Fund - $1,112.39, Street Fund - $6.05, Water Fund - $2,636.57, Sewer Fund - $304.48 and Treatment Plant Fund - $417.79

Councilor O’Connor made a motion to approve the Claims dated November 27, 2023. Councilor Spratt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Payroll Checks (Dated 11/30/2023) and Payroll EFT (Dated 11/30/2023) totaling $40,935.74; General Fund - $12,743.99, Street Fund - $7,416.02, Water Fund - $4,733.68, Sewer Fund - $1,567.43, and Treatment Plant Fund - $14,474.62.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the Payroll dated November 30, 2023. Councilor O’Connor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Claims Checks (Dated 12/5/2023) and Claims EFT (Dated 12/5/2023) totaling $201,797.55; General Fund - $24,378.53, Street Fund - $7,525.50, Park Construction and Maintenance Fund - $3,490.46, Water Fund - $16,583.61, Sewer Fund - $3,394.82, Treatment Plant Fund - $9,174.52, and Water Capital Reserve Fund - $137,250.11.

Councilor Schroder made a motion to approve the Claims dated December 5, 2023. Councilor Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Kiewit adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.