**BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**February 21, 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, and Brittany Spratt. Staff present: City Administrator Krista Loney, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz.

Audience Present: Jacob Bertram, Devin Melville

**Public Comment**

None.

**Meeting Minutes – 2/7/2023**

Councilor O’Connor made a motion to approve the February 7, 2023 meeting minutes. Councilor Jones provided the second and the motion carried.

**Shoreline Master Program Review with The Watershed Group**

Devin Melville from The Watershed Group attended the meeting to present the proposed amendments to the Shoreline Master Program. These are the same amendments that were presented to Council in November of 2022. Administrator Loney presented Resolution 2023-003 A Resolution of the City of Bingen Expressing the Intent to Adopt an Update of the Shoreline Master Program and Authorizing the Submittal of the Proposed Shoreline Master Program to the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Councilor O’Connor made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-003. Councilor Jones provided the second, and the motion carried. Administrator Loney advised Devin Melville with The Watershed Group that she would send a scanned copy of the signed resolution the next day.

**Ordinance 2023-01-734 15.04 Building Code Review**

Administrator Loney provided a memo, a clean copy of the resolution, and a marked up copy of the resolution showing the portion that had been added. The portion that had been added incorporated Washington Administrative Code sections 51 through 56, per the request of Councilor Schroder.

Councilor Jones made a motion to adopt ordinance 2023-01-734. Councilor O’Connor provided the second, and the motion carried.

**Everybody’s Brewing Agreement.**

Administrator Loney provided a memo and a copy of the agreement among Bingen, White Salmon, and Everybody’s Brewing. Councilor Jones asked Mayor Kiewit to provide a brief overview of the process. Mayor Kiewit explained that this agreement was ready to go last fall and that Department of Ecology’s Pre-Treatment group wanted to review the permit application, the agreement, and the pre-treatment plans at Everybody’s Brewing. Councilor O’Connor asked if there would be agreements like this for every new customer. Mayor Kiewit explained that this agreement was for an industrial user who is a City of White Salmon customer, and that industrial users in Bingen are subject to Bingen’s industrial user process, so this is a bit of a unique situation.

Councilor Jones made a motion to authorize Mayor Kiewit to sign the Everybody’s Brewing agreement on behalf of Bingen. Councilor O’Connor provided the second and the motion carried.

**White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District Municipal Contribution**

Mayor Kiewit provided a memo to council outlining Bingen’s previous ARPA allocation, the pool district population, Bingen’s population, the financial request from the pool district, and historical information about how much Bingen has spent on swim lessons and pool passes.

Councilor O’Connor asked about the population of the pool taxing district and Mayor Kiewit stated that it is essentially the White Salmon school district out to Husum and BZ Corners.

Councilor Spratt made a motion to pledge $35,000 to the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District. Councilor Jones provided the second and the motion carried. Mayor Kiewit asked Chris Lanz if Bingen should enter an agreement for the funds to be used for construction purposes, and Chris suggested an amended motion.

Councilor Spratt amended her motion to pledge $35,000 to the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District to be put towards construction costs. Councilor Jones provided the second and the motion carried.

**Forth Host Site Agreement Review and Approval**

Administrator Loney made a request to Council to table this item to a future meeting. The host site agreement with Forth is still in negotiations. As previously discussed, Forth requested that Bingen cover electricity costs and this was not budgeted for or expected. Council advised to ask WSDOT, then Klickitat PUD, and then to return to Council if funds were still needed. WSDOT provided Forth with additional funds and they are stating that these additional funds were not enough as the installation costs in Bingen were higher than expected. Administrator Loney is working to schedule a meeting with Klickitat PUD and Forth and Bingen.

Councilor Jones made a motion to table this item. Councilor O’Connor provided the second and the motion carried.

**Resolution 2023-004 Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority Commission Formation Agreement Review**

Mayor Kiewit made a request to Council to table this resolution to a future meeting. She had a request from County Commissioner Jake Anderson to delay signing until some discussions could occur about tolling. Mayor Kiewit advised that there is a meeting of the Bi-State Working Group with the Port commissioners on March 7, 2023. Councilor Spratt inquired if there are planned repairs to the old bridge before the new bridge is ready. Mayor Kiewit stated that there is a budget of $2M to $12M for these repairs. Cost to remove the old bridge will be approximately $50M. Councilor Jones asked if there was any talk about leaving the old bridge to serve bicycles and pedestrians. Mayor Kiewit said that this is not an option and the bridge is metal, 100 years old, and would need long-term maintenance.

**Resolution 2023-005 Adopting the 2023 Salary Schedule**

Administrator Loney provided a memo to council regarding the adjustment to the 2023 salary schedule as approved at the February 7, 2023 meeting. Resolution 2023-005 removes the first 3 steps of the previous salary schedule and step 4 of the old salary schedule will become step 1 of the new salary schedule.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve resolution 2023-0005. Councilor Spratt provided the second and the motion carried.

**January 2023 Treasurers Report**

Administrator Loney provided a cover sheet summarizing the January 2023 treasurers report along with the treasurers report printout from Springbrook. All transaction are as they should be for the month.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the January 2023 treasurers report. Councilor O’Connor provided the second and the motion carried.

**Staff Reports**

Administrator Loney presented the following updates:

* Bingen has an opportunity to apply for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for design for the Bingen-White Salmon Shared Use Path along 141. There is a meeting 2/22/2023 to discuss.
* Loney has reached out to Wildwood Playgrounds for a refreshed quote, which should arrive some time this week or next.
* Bids for the tree care and electrical work small works close on February 28, 2023
* The scope of work for the water/sewer rate study is ready for review. Administrator Loney is asking Council to hold off on going to bid until the issue with the Oak Street Reservoir tank is resolved and the City is confident in being able to afford the rate study.
* The water rights issue that was presented at the February 7, 2023 council meeting has been resolved. Gray and Osborne stated that no municipality that they work with has ever completed this process themselves.
* The salary survey data for mayor and council salaries is ready to go and will be presented at one of the March meetings.
* The report from Skamania County Building arrived and the following restaurants are out of compliance and must install grease interceptors: Beneventi’s, Chips, Columbia Gorge Gluten Free Bakery, Dickey Farms Store, El Valle, Mugs, Murphy’s, Sweet Things, and The Society Hotel’s upstairs coffee bar. Follow-up letters were distributed 2/15, we are waiving the permit fee as incentive to those on the list to get them to install the traps. Deadline is 5/31/2023, unless in case of financial hardship. Many thanks to Chris Lanz for his guidance on this.
* Information collection for short-term rentals is complete and Loney is working to schedule a task force meeting. The moratorium ends April 18 so Bingen either needs to have a process in place by that time or extend the moratorium.
* Loney plans to have the annual report for the State Auditor’s Office complete by the end of February and ready for Budget Committee review in March.
* Administrator Loney meets with Frank Sinclair at the Bingen WWTP every other week to check in about how things are going. Tom Hons is officially retired and off on his next adventure, we are very grateful for his contributions. There is much work to be done at the WWTP from a Quality Assurance/Quality Control program to a safety program to replacement of a good deal of laboratory equipment.
* Community Cleanup is April 21 and 22 this year. In a meeting on February 15, 2023 it was decided that there will be a community-wide garage sale the week before community cleanup.

**Mayor’s Update**

Mayor Kiewit provided copies of the letter that she sent to Senators Cantwell and Murray regarding the impacts of American Iron and Steel on small municipalities.

Mayor Kiewit has been researching municipal Wi-Fi. The City of The Dalles has municipal Wi-Fi sponsored by Google. She was unable to find any cities in Washington that have municipal Wi-Fi. A meeting will be scheduled with Mosier WiNet and possibly RadComp to discuss municipal Wi-Fi, how it could be implemented, and what it would cost. WAGAP was mentioned as a possible source of funding.

**Council Comments**

None.

**Voucher Approval**

Payroll EFT (Dated 2/15/2023) totaling $18,003.23; General Fund - $3,616.06, Street Fund - $3,974.57, Water Fund - $2,380.57, Sewer Fund - $760.03, and Treatment Plant Fund - $7,272.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the Payroll dated February 15, 2023. Councilor O’Connor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Claims Checks 23595-23613 (Dated 2/21/2023) totaling $10,703.13; General Fund - $3,516.89, Street Fund - $930.34, Water Fund - $1,893.64, Sewer Fund - $1,580.37, Treatment Plant Fund - $2,467.03, and Water Short-Lived Assets Reserve - $314.86.

Councilor O’Connor made a motion to approve the Claims dated February 21, 2023. Councilor Jones provided the second and it passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Kiewit adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.