**BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**February 6, 2024**

**Meeting Via Teleconference and In-Person**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Catherine Kiewit at 6:00 p.m.

Council members present: Phil Jones, Brittany Spratt, Michael Stahl and Craig Trummel. Staff present: Fire Chief Carl Spratt, City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Krista Loney. Audience present: Tammara Tippel.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Meeting Minutes – 1/16/2024**

Councilor Jones made a motion to adopt the January 16, 2024 meeting minutes. Councilor Spratt provided the second and the motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes – 1/23/2024**

Councilor Trummel made a motion to adopt January 23, 2024 meeting minutes. Councilor Jones provided the second and the motion carried.

**Bingen Fire Update**

Fire Chief Carl Spratt presented the January 2024 fire report. There were 33 incidents in January 2024: 3 Bingen calls, 30 calls for mutual aid. Two of these calls were structure fires. BFD was called off a fire in Hood River and asked to staff the Hood River Fire station. They were backfilling at the HRFS for about an hour and a half. One of the structure fires was at the Lyle inlieu site and Bingen was first on the scene.

Mayor Kiewit asked if Hood River Fire ever backfills Bingen’s fire department. Chief Spratt said that when the BFD responds to a structure fire other BFD members are on standby at the fire hall.

Mayor Kiewit asked if the BFD has to pay the bridge toll to fight fire in Oregon. Chief Spratt said the fire truck typically rolls through the toll on the way over but they are usually stopped on the way back and made to pay the toll. Administrator Loney will reach out to the Port of Hood River to ask for the tolls to be waived when Bingen is fighting fire in Hood River. As a backup option, Breezeby will be purchased for the trucks.

Mayor Kiewit asked how training is going. Chief Spratt stated that the next fire academies are in the fall and winter of 2024 and there are some training opportunities coming up for wildland fire fighting. The $18,000 grant from DNR should purchase new wildland turnouts for the entire BFD.

Councilor Stahl asked how someone should go about joining the BFD. Chief Spratt stated that they should come out to fire meetings which are every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

**Police Update**

None.

**Public Hearing – Ordinance 2024-03-752 Amending BMC Title 1 – General Provisions**

Mayor Kiewit opened the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. Administrator Loney provided a memo to Council outlining the change to the code which is changing all mentions of “councilmen” to “councilors.”

Mayor Kiewit closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m. Councilor Jones made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-03-752 Amending BMC Title 1 – General Provisions. Councilor Stahl provided the second and the motion carried.

**Middle Housing Ordinance Contract Review**

Administrator Loney provided a memo stating that MAKERS Architecture sent a contract to work on the Middle Housing ordinance for the grant that Bingen received from the Department of Commerce. Administrator Loney has reviewed the contract, as has City Attorney Chris Lanz, and the contract and scope are appropriate.

Councilor Trummel made a motion to authorize Mayor Kiewit to sign the contract with MAKERS. Councilor Spratt provided the second and the motion carried.

**Bingen Fee Schedule Discussion**

Administrator Loney prepared a memo for Council regarding the need to update fees, the proposed fees, and the hourly costs for each component to support the proposed fees. Council asked Administrator Loney to review the subdivision application and needing to hire an engineer to close the corners. Council would like to continue billing SEPA permits at actual costs.

**Resolution 2024-003 Authorizing a Grant Application to the USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grant Program**

Administrator Loney presented a memo to council stating that the RBDG grant application will be for civic beautification to drive economic development and that the application requires an authorizing resolution.

Councilor Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-003 Authorizing a Grant Application to the USDA Rural Development Business Development Grant Program. Councilor Spratt provided the second and the motion carried.

**December 2023 Treasurers Report**

Administrator Loney provided the December 2023 Treasurers report to Council. The books balance to the bank statement. Loney called attention to some financial growth that resulted from updating CDs to a higher rate of return. Councilor Stahl asked about investing in U.S. Treasuries. Administrator Loney stated that she does not have experience or training in investments and will look into treasuries and seek some training.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the December 2023 Treasurers report. Councilor Stahl provided the second and the motion carried.

**Staff Updates**

Administrator Loney reviewed the project status reports for the month and had the following additional updates for Council:

* Centennial committee met 2/2/24; first event is 2/9/2024 at the White Salmon Library.
  + Next event is the Bingen Birthday Bash on 4/13/2024
  + Bingen Olympics will be in July with 100-themed things.

**Mayor’s Update and Council Comments**

Mayor Kiewit was on the radio on KIHR on 2/6/2024 about Centennial celebrations. Kiewit is also working on a formal invitation to the City of Bingen am Rhein to visit this year. Centennial committee authorized use of some lodging tax dollars to contribute to the costs of travel to bring someone from Germany. Kiewit updated Council on the status of a hearing with the Utilities and Transportation Committee for the underpass. Bingen issued a petition in 2023 due to difficulties partnering with BNSF on the underpass project. Kiewit will ask for an extension from the judge to May of 2024. BNSF wants to get a Construction and Maintenance agreement in place with WSDOT and that should be ready by May. Until the agreement is in place BNSF cannot be reimbursed for the underpass bridge costs that they are incurring.

Councilor Stahl stated that he asked about the flashing lights at the SR-141 crossing at Humboldt. Administrator Loney will connect with Superintendent of Public Works David Spratt and circle around with Councilor Stahl. Loney had connected with Ray Smith at WSDOT about RRFB/flashing lights at crosswalks.

Councilor Trummel asked if pilons could be installed at the top of Ash street where SR-141/Oak turns south onto Ash. People zoom around that corner. Trummel would like to see pilons or similar installed so that the intersection has a harder right corner instead of a gentle slope that allows for high speeds. Administrator Loney will follow up with WSDOT to see if anything can be done.

**Voucher Approval**

Claims Checks (Dated 1/26/2024) $1,307.36; General Fund - $357.59, Street Fund - $697.40, and Treatment Plant Fund - $252.37.

Councilor Spratt made a motion to approve the Claims dated January 26, 2024. Councilor Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Claims Checks (Dated 1/31/2024) totaling $11,667.08; General Fund - $1,529.88, Street Fund - $105.74, Hotel/Motel Tax Fund - $3,786; Park Construction and Maintenance Funds - $2,629.88, Water Fund - $122.33, Sewer Fund - $105.75, and Treatment Plant Fund - $3,387.50.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the Claims dated January 31, 2024. Councilor Spratt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Payroll Checks (Dated 1/31/2024) and Payroll EFT (Dated 1/31/2024) totaling $43,126.44; General Fund - $13,516.95, Street Fund - $7,475.38, Water Fund - $4,391.93, Sewer Fund - $1,352.29, and Treatment Plant Fund - $16,389.89.

Councilor Spratt made a motion to approve the Payroll dated January 31, 2024. Councilor Stahl seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Claims Checks (Dated 2/6/2024) totaling $56,947.14; General Fund - $16,962.95, Street Fund - $3,351.08, Hotel/Motel Tax Fund - $315.19; Water Fund - $18,789.16, Sewer Fund - $7,298.72, Treatment Plant Fund - $8,198.17, Water Short-Lived Assets Reserve - $191.95, and Water Capital Reserve Fund - $1,839.92.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the Claims dated February 6, 2024. Councilor Trummel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Kiewit adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.