**BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**July 18, 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, Joe O’Sullivan, and Brittany Spratt. Staff present: City Administrator Krista Loney, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz.

Audience Present: Reed Stager

**Public Comment**

None.

**Bingen Police Update**

Chief Hepner attended the meetings and shared with Council that his attendance at meetings has dropped down due to being short-staffed and needing to make patrol rounds. Chief stated that the mental health initiative is going strong. Erin Quinn from Klickitat County Public Health created a workflow for local law enforcement to use to move through the process of supporting the community. The biggest hurdle is transportation. Special transportation is based on client needs such as medication and supervisory people for the patient.

The Bingen-White Salmon Police will be short-staffed for several weeks as one person is on maternity leave, one person is on paternity leave, Officer Daniels resigned July 17, 2023 and Officer Sauter will be in the equivalency academy until August 18, 2023.

**Meeting Minutes – 7/5/2023**

Administrator Loney identified a change in the Bingen Fire Update section to correct the number of responses to 194. Mayor Kiewit corrected the line beginning “Mayor Kiewit stated that the BFD was one of the…” to “Mayor Kiewit sated that the BFD wasn’t *identified as* one of the…” Mayor Kiewit added onto the last paragraph under Bingen Fire Update by adding “Mayor Kiewit asked if Bingen can add a Donate button to the fire department website.” Mayor Kiewit clarified the final sentence in the first paragraph under the Water Use Efficiency Report by adding David Spratt’s title of Public Works Superintendent. Mayor Kiewit added clarifying language under the third paragraph of the Vacation Rental code by adding “Council came to consensus that a home with multiple *individual* rooms *for rent* will be considered one vacation rental.”

Councilor Jones shared a correction to the Shared-Use EV continuation grant by adding that funding from WSDOT *was awarded*.

Councilor Jones made a motion to accept the July 5, 2023 meeting minutes with corrections. Councilor O’Connor provided the second and the motion carried.

**Resolution 2023-010 Adopting a Title VI Policy**

Administrator Loney provided a memo, Letter of Intent, and the USDOT Title VI Nondiscrimination Assurances. In order to accept the federal funds from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant, Bingen must adopt a Title VI policy. Councilor O’Sullivan made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-010 Adopting a Title VI Policy. Councilor O’Connor provided the second and the motion carried.

**Public Hearing – Ordinance 2023-04-737 Adding 17.30 Accessory Dwelling Units**

Mayor Kiewit opened the public hearing regarding adding Accessory Dwelling Units to the Bingen Municipal Code at 7:39 p.m. Council reviewed the draft code. No public comments were received. Mayor Kiewit closed the public hearing at 8:01 p.m. Council came to consensus that they would like input from Councilor Schroder. Councilor O’Connor made a motion to continue the public hearing to the August 1, 2023. Councilor O’Sullivan provided the second and the motion carried.

**Vacation Rental Code Continuing Discussion**

Council continued to walk through the draft Bingen Municipal Code for Vacation Rentals. The following changes were identified:

1. “Owner” will be changed to “Licensee”
2. The paragraph submitted by Reed Stager limiting the number of vacation rentals will be added to 5.16.040.
3. Section 5.16.050.1 will be changed from “Owner” to “Licensee”
4. Section 5.16.050.2 will remove the requirement of the owner to live in the local area
5. Section 5.16.050.4 will change to Self Inspection

Discussion will continue at the August 1, 2023 council meeting.

**Daubenspeck Park Updates/Resolution 2023-011 Waiving the State Competitive Bidding Requirement for the Purchase of Park Equipment**

Administrator Loney provided a memo outlining the planned changes for Daubenspeck Park, the total budget, the rendering, and the color options. Council discussed multiple color options and agreed that Mayor Kiewit and Councilor Spratt would work together to select a color scheme. The Grounds staff from InSitu volunteered to help with the park renovation.

Administrator Loney also provided Resolution 2023-011 and explained the sole source process for this GameTime playground equipment. Resolution 2023-011 allows the sole source purchase and authorizes the park purchases to move forward. Councilor Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-011. Councilor Spratt provided the second and the motion carried.

**Smoke Testing Report**

Evergreen Rural Water completed smoke testing in Bingen and found four places of infiltration which have been fixed or are in the process of being fixed. Mayor Kiewit requested that Administrator Loney work with the City Administrator in White Salmon to ensure that they also complete the testing.

**June 2023 Treasurers Report**

Administrator Loney presented the June 2023 Treasurers Report and all is as it should be. Councilor O’Connor made a motion to accept the June 2023 Treasurers Report as presented. Councilor O’Sullivan seconded the motion and it carried.

**Staff Updates**

Administrator Loney had the following updates for Council:

* The TAP grant kickoff meeting is July 24 with Rob Klug from WSDOT.
* The CERB application is with Janea Stark at CERB for review. Bingen met the minimum qualifications and Administrator Loney will be making a presentation on September 21 in Dayton.
* Loney met with Chris Langhoff from TIB again and he advised that Bingen apply for funds to chipseal Pine and Vine, overlay the northernmost block of Cedar, and overlay Franklin between Cedar and Vine.

**Mayor’s Update and Council Comments**

Mayor Kiewit had the following updates for Council:

* The UTC petition is moving through the system and there has been a lot of recent activity. Mayor Kiewit spoke with Dan MacDonald at BNSF. BNSF wants to install the bridge themselves, which means no shoefly and cost savings. She was told by Senator King that there will be no closure of the Maple or Walnut crossings. There are meetings between BNSF and WSDOT on 8/1 and 8/2, no elected officials invited, that Administrator Loney will attend to take notes. Kiewit is reaching out to the Administrative Judge on the case to request that the pre-hearing date be pushed 1-2 weeks after August 1.
* There is a vacancy for Councilor Schroder’s seat and a special filing period of August 2-4 if Council knows anyone.

Councilor O’Sullivan had the following updates for Council:

* He has been offered a new job in Carson City, NV and can no longer serve as Mayor Pro Tempore.

**Voucher Approval**

Payroll Checks (Dated 7/14/2023) and Payroll EFT (Dated 7/14/2023) totaling $29,288.07; General Fund - $9,933.05, Street Fund - $5,922.99, Water Fund - $3,375.10, Sewer Fund - $900.45 and Treatment Plant Fund - $9,156.48

Councilor O’Connor made a motion to approve the Payroll dated July 14, 2023. Councilor Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Claims Checks (Dated 7/18/2023) totaling $167,273.52; General Fund - $38,936.54, Street Fund - $10,543.11, Street Construction and Maintenance Fund - $80,991.16, Water Fund - $16,872.84, Sewer Fund - $5,972.43, and Treatment Plant Fund - $13,957.44.

Councilor O’Sullivan made a motion to approve the Claims dated July 18, 2023. Councilor Jones

seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Kiewit adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.