**BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**October 4, 2022**

**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, Ryan O’Connor, Joe O’Sullivan, Izzy Schroder, and Brittany Spratt.

Staff present: City Administrator Krista Loney, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz., Fire Chief Carl Spratt, Police Chief Mike Hepner

Audience Present: Abbey McDonald, Nancy Wetch, Jacob Bertram

**Water System Management Plan Presentation – Abbey McDonald and Nancy Wetch, Gray and Osborne**

Nancy Wetch and Abbey McDonald from Gray and Osborne attended council to present the current draft of the Water System Management Plan. Highlights from the presentation include:

* G&O calculated that average Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs) in Bingen in 2022 are 947; average daily demand for water is 0.17 million gallons. Peak hour demand is 532 gallons per minute.
* The system capacity is 1464+ ERUs
* G&O planned on 1% growth for the next 20 years
	+ Mayor Kiewit will speak with G&O separately about this 1% figure.
* There are assets in the existing system that will need to get replaced semi-urgently, including the Dry Creek Well Pump and Motor and the Reservoir Pump and Motor.
* Water Use Efficiency has gotten progressively worse and the 3 year average is 33.22 loss.
	+ Administrator Loney and Mayor Kiewit are going to speak with G&O separately as there is a question regarding the accuracy of this data.
* There are some capital improvement projects that will need to get done including a taste and odor study, hydrogeological study to see if it would be cost-effective to drill another well.
* The average cost to purchase water for the next 20 years is $4,694,000. 20 year costs to drill and operate a maintain a well for 20 years is estimated at $3,978,000

**Public Comment**

Miriam Knowles reached out to City Hall to inquire if Bingen has or plans to have aesthetic or design standards for new buildings in Bingen. Mayor Kiewit advised that Miriam Knowles should attend the Community Planning event on October 28, 2022.

**Bingen Fire Update**

Chief Spratt provided a monthly report stating that the BFD responded to 29 calls in September: 6 inside city limits, 23 mutual aid to other districts. Chief Spratt asked for guidance on the “no man’s land” between the boundary of Fire District 4 and Lyle as BFD has been called out there several times. Administrator Loney will look into what can be done, including extending the boundaries of a fire district without extending other city services. Chief Spratt stated that several garages have been contacted to fix the transmission housing on Engine 35 and he is waiting on a quote. Chief Spratt announced that three BFD members are going through Fire Fighter 2 training.

Mayor Kiewit asked Chief Spratt to adjust future reports to present the same period the month before and the year before to provide a comparison of incident responses. Councilor Schroder asked about the fire siren and if it is still used. Chief Spratt stated that it is currently broken so has been turned off. It needs to be repaired. Chief Spratt stated that the Department of Natural Resources is surplusing some trucks so he will be applying for one. The DNR surplused truck that BFD received in April 2022 has already been on 120 calls.

**Bingen-White Salmon Police Update**

Chief Hepner reported that the Huckleberry Festival was excellent this year and there were no more calls than normal during the event. He is currently working with Klickitat County on the new behavioral health program and that the County has until November 6 to get it in place. Chief Hepner stated that his officers issued tags over the weekend to many unlicensed cars, boats, and trailers parked along Humboldt Street.

Mayor Kiewit asked Chief Hepner what type of complaint calls they are receiving. Chief Hepner stated that the most common parking-related call is for neglected vehicles. Councilor Schroder asked if the cameras in the skatepark are running and if the video is better than the old video. Chief Hepner said yes, and everyone has access to the skatepark camera footage through their police vehicles. Mayor Kiewit asked about having an officer in Bingen at least monthly for parking infractions, and Chief stated that he hopes this will be possible soon, especially if they are able to add an officer.

**Meeting Minutes – 9/20/22**

Councilor Schroder pointed out one correction to the minutes.

1. Page 3 in the middle there is a second heading Council Comments that contains comments from the 9/4/22 meeting. This should be struck from the minutes.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the September 20, 2022 meeting minutes with the corrections presented. Councilor O’Connor provided the second and the motion carried. Councilor O’Sullivan abstained as he was absent.

**Meeting Minutes – 9/28/22**

Councilor Schroder made a motion to approve the September 28, 2022 meetings minutes. Councilor O’Sullivan provided the second and the motion carried.

**Regulating Short-Term Rentals**

Administrator Loney provided council with a memo about land use and housing in Bingen, as well as a copy of the short-term rental moratorium that White Salmon passed in 2021, a page from the White Salmon website clarifying the rules of the moratorium, and a page from the White Salmon website outlining the current procedure. Administrator Loney brought up the issue as it relates to the upcoming Community Planning event on October 28, as well as because of the number of calls she receives at City Hall about the rules in Bingen for short-term rentals and inquiries about accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Council came to consensus on issuing a moratorium on new short-term rentals until the comprehensive plan is complete and the city has a better grasp on how many there are, what percentage of Bingen housing they make up, and long-term impacts. Mayor Kiewit asked Administrator Loney to prepare an ordinance similar to White Salmon’s for discussion at the next council meeting.

**Added Agenda Item – Bingen Banner Selection**

The City of Bingen has a grant to replace the banners along Steuben. Kristi Heck was hired to do the design work. Council has previously reviewed the 5 color scheme options and the many slogan options. Council selected Small City Big Life as the slogan and got consensus around the color scheme, which is a blending of two designs. Administrator Loney will work with Kristi Heck to get the two designs merged into one and will send the results to Council.

**Staff Reports**

Administrator Loney presented the following updates:

* David Burkie at WSDOT responded regarding the crosswalk at 141 and Jefferson; that project can’t move forward at this time.
* Thanks for attending the bond ordinance meeting last week. The interim financing loan closes 10/5/22 then we can sign the contracts. The preconstruction meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of 10/24/22.
* Loney heard from WSDOT regarding the Quiet Zone funds. These are being preserved until such time as the project can move forward.
* The Shoreline Master Program public comment period opens 10/17 and closes 11/15. The advertisement will be in the paper on 10/12, its on the website now, and mailers are going out this week.
* Budget Committee is meeting 10/26 at 9:30 a.m. The planned budget calendar for the 2023 budget is:
	+ 11/1/2022 Preliminary public hearing
	+ 11/15/2022 Public hearing on revenue
	+ 12/6/2022 Adoption
* The water agreement meeting with White Salmon was held 9/23 and they proposed an increase of 12%, 7%, 7% across the next 3 years. We are currently in negotiations.
* The draft agreement for the Bingen-White Salmon police was received on 9/29. This does have increased costs which adds an officer.
* Bingen’s edits to the Everybody’s Brewing agreement were sent to Jan Brending in White Salmon on 9/28 for her work on 9/29. Loney did not receive a response to her status inquiry today.

**Mayor’s Update**

Mayor Kiewit presented the following updates:

* She continues to work on the new website and hopes to have it done before the CPAT event on 10/28.
* She continues to work on CPAT attendees.

**Council Comments**

Councilor Schroder informed the council that she will be sitting on a panel at Wildwood Academy for a change-makers event. Others from council are very welcome to participate.

**Voucher Approval**

Payroll Checks 23308-23310 (Dated 9/30/2022) and Payroll EFT (Dated 9/3015/2022) totaling $23,491.03; General Fund - $9,360.33, Street Fund - $3517.80, Water Fund - $2,431.65, Sewer Fund - $459.16, and Treatment Plant Fund - $7,702.09

Councilor O’Sullivan made a motion to approve the Payroll Claims dated September 30, 2022. Councilor Schroder seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Claims checks 23311-13328 (Dated 10/4/2022) totaling $41,283.27, General Fund - $5,628.45, Street Fund - $2,561.34, Water Fund - $26,509.74, Sewer Fund - $504.26, Treatment Plant Fund - $4,928.14, and Water Capital Reserve Fund - $1,151.34.

Councilor O’Connor made a motion to approve the Claims dated October 4, 2022. Councilor Jones provided the second, and it passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Kiewit closed the meeting at 8:32 p.m.