

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

DRAFT – December 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J Barnes at 7:05 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Phil Jones, Ryan O’Connor, Laura Mann, Isolde Schroder. Staff present: Clerk-Treasurer Cheyenne Pantoja Wright, City Attorney Chris Lanz, Public Works Superintendent David Spratt. Audience present: Jacob Bertram.

Public Comment

The council noted that the Police Department had not been present at a council meeting for over two months.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if Chief Hepner would have a suggestion for increasing parking enforcement in Bingen.

Mayor Barnes said parking meters and more manpower would likely be the answer.

Councilmember Kiewit suggested reminding businesses to utilize the public parking lot.

Minutes of November 19, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

Council member Mann said the minutes looked great to her.

Council member Jones agreed.

Council member Mann made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2019 council meeting as corrected. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Works Staff Update

Superintendent Spratt said the downtown lights had been put up with help from the Port of Klickitat and Insitu. He noted that DJs Repair had donated the use of a man lift to the effort.

Council member Mann noted she saw three different teams putting up the lights and it was done very quickly.

Superintendent Spratt said the holiday tree had also been decorated with lights and ornaments, and this year a live tree had been selected in Daubenspeck Park instead of a cut tree being placed on the corner of SR14 and Walnut as in previous years.

Mayor Barnes said when Superintendent Spratt and Clerk Pantoja Wright approached her, she had the same idea for the tree. She said she suggested involving the schools next year for a holiday event, and Spratt and Pantoja Wright also shared that idea. Barnes said great minds think alike and she thought the live tree was a perfect addition to the annual parade and Santa in the park event.

It was noted that the lighted firetruck parade would be December 20 at 6:30, ending in Daubenspeck Park at 7:00 with the Santa in the park event.

Superintendent Spratt said the training storage containers had arrived for the Fire Department, and were placed near the Public Works Shop.

Superintendent Spratt noted that last year's annual Fall Clean-up had produced 476 bags of yard debris, compared to only 344 this year. He said the two roll off containers ended up about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.

Council member Kiewit mentioned that her garbage service had picked up bags of leaves she set out for the clean-up event. She suggested that maybe the same thing had happened around town, impacting the number of bags collected.

Council member Mann asked about water, she specifically wondered if Council members O'Connor and Kiewit had been experiencing water that smelled more than normal. She said there had been two days in the last week that were unbearable.

Both Council members O'Connor and Kiewit said they had not noticed any change in their water from the normal odor. Council member Kiewit noted the last time her water had any change was connected to when Underwood Fruit had accidentally began filling their reservoir causing the Bingen wells to be drawn on more than usual.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2019-13-704, 2020 Draft Budget

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing for Proposed Ordinance 2019-13-704, 2020 Draft Budget.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said the budget committee had reviewed the proposed budget and this was the second hearing.

Council member Kiewit asked if the numbers were hand keyed and if Pantoja Wright could have made any mistakes.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said the numbers had been hand keyed since the ordinance was a Word document, not a print out from BIAS software. She asked if Council member Kiewit had found any incorrect numbers.

Council member O'Connor and Jones said they had checked the numbers and found no issues.

Mayor Barnes closed the public hearing.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-13-704, 2020 Draft Budget

Council member Jones made a motion to adopt Proposed Ordinance 2019-13-704, 2020 Draft Budget with changes made to correct the footer and a reference to 2018 on page 2. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed Agreement for Attorney Services - Christopher R Lanz

Mayor Barnes said she had spoken with Chris Lanz and he understood that as a small city, Bingen did not have much revenue. She said he was willing to accept a 10% increase and noted that in his time as City Attorney the contract amount had not been increased at all. Barnes asked permission from the Council to approve the increase.

Council member Schroder made a motion to continue the agreement with Christopher R Lantz for attorney services, with a 10% increase as proposed. Council member Mann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed Contract for Postage Meter – Pitney Bowes

Clerk Pantoja Wright explained the current machine would be obsolete by the end of the year and a replacement was needed.

Council member Mann made a motion to authorize Mayor Barnes to sign the proposed contract for a Pitney Bowes Postage Meter as proposed. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed 2020 Interlocal Agreement for Treatment Plant ERUs –City of White Salmon

Mayor Barnes suggested the Council table the proposed agreement pending further discussion with the Water/Sewer Committee and Staff.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said she believed the City of White Salmon would not be voting on the agreement until their second meeting of December, 2019.

Council member Jones made a motion to table the proposed 2020 Interlocal Agreement for Treatment Plant ERUs with the City of White Salmon. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor and Council Comments

Mayor Barnes shared a copy of letter written to the Port of Hood River regarding the replacement of the interstate bridge. Barnes said the letter was drafted and sent by governments on the Washington side of the river, suggesting a toll increase with the revenue being set aside to be used for replacing the bridge.

Barnes noted that the Port of Hood River made an effort to support the replacement by setting toll revenue aside for O&M and replacement, and this letter proposed a way to address the situation more quickly. She noted that the Federal and State governments liked to see a “buy in” to support the effort on a local level, but noted the letter did not represent a decision.

Barnes said the letter was hand-delivered and intended as a discussion point to keep the dialogue moving forward. She said if anything progressed to a decision it would be brought before Council.

Council member Kiewit said she was under the impression that the previously implemented toll increase was to cover replacement not O&M costs.

Council member Mann said she was part of the bridge authority committee along with Mayor Barnes, and that this letter was helping to set up for the future bridge.

Mayor Barnes noted that the board was currently in the EIS process.

MDNS SEPA 2019-001

Mayor Barnes explained that the MDNS was issued as a response to a proposal for development of the property owned by Dickey Farms. Barnes said the City had received three comments on a draft version sent out previously, and that staff had incorporated the comments into the issued determination.

Barnes said the determination would be entering a comment period for 18 days. She said she was happy to answer any questions on the SEPA determination but would not be discussing the potential land use aspect beyond the environmental impact since future land use decision hearings would come before the council.

Clerk Pantoja Wright noted that if the proposal changed at all from what was submitted, a new SEPA checklist would be required.

Council comments

Council member Kiewit reminded the council she would not be able to attend the next meeting.

Council member Mann said she would like to see the Klickitat PUD present to council, specifically to address the PUD-owned streetlights that were still out. She noted that she saw pedestrians unable to cross SR14 due to the intersection being poorly lit.

Mayor Barnes asked specifically which intersection was poorly lit.

Council member Mann said the intersection of Maple Street and SR14, maple and 14. She referenced previous Council discussions about the intersection in question being dark at all four corners.

Clerk Pantoja Wright noted that Superintendent Spratt told her of a PUD-owned light at Daubenspeck Park that was also not working.

Superintendent Spratt said he had contacted the PUD and asked for it to be fixed to no avail.

Mayor Barnes mentioned that there would be a going-away party at Feast Market in White Salmon for Mayor Poucher of White Salmon. She said the party would be Saturday at 5:30 pm.

Mayor Barnes mentioned there would be a free spaghetti dinner December 8th at 5:00 pm in Husum at the Fire District 3 station. She said the dinner was a community event to thank the volunteer first responders.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said she and Superintendent Spratt would be attending a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) meeting in Goldendale next Thursday. She noted she and Spratt had been working diligently to compile the requested information for the HMP.

Mayor Barnes noted she and Superintendent Spratt would be meeting with WSDOT to discuss the roundabout project.

Council member Mann requested the council enter an executive session to discuss potential litigation.

Executive Session

Mayor Barnes announced at 8:05 pm that the City Council will go into Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 8:20 p.m. the Council resumed regular session.

Voucher Approval

Vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 as of this date November 19, 2019.

The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list:

Payroll Checks 21131-21143 and Payroll EFT (Dated 11/29/2019) totaling \$30,858.26 General Fund - \$14,417.55, Street Fund - \$4,708.98, Water Fund - \$3,252.13, Sewer Fund - \$599.58, Treatment Plant Fund - \$7,880.02.

Checks 21144 -21167 totaling \$81,058.87. General Fund - \$47,704.02, Street Fund - \$1,729.69, Water Fund - \$13,286.30, Sewer Fund - \$184.34, Treatment Plant Fund - \$3,800.07, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund \$14,354.45.

The council adjourned at 8:20 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor