

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

DRAFT – October 1, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J Barnes at 7:03 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Phil Jones, Ryan O’Connor, Laura Mann. Staff present: Clerk Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, City Attorney Chris Lanz, Public Works Superintendent David Spratt. Audience present: Joyce Fitzsimmons, Janet Ward, Pam Springer, Chris Johnson, Michelina Roth, Donna Rockwell, Nate Roth, Gabe Roth, Candi Didier, Anne Stringer, Becky Miles, Brad Bookmyer, Jacob Bertram.

Minutes of September 17, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

Page 1, Paragraph 1

At 6:30, the council had a walking tour of the locations that the Joy Ofh Joys statue ~~ew~~ould be located ~~at~~.

Page 1, Paragraph 9

“~~Council member asked~~ Mayor Barnes asked if she was asking the ~~council~~council to change their previous vote. Council member Mann stated she did not want to change her vote.”

Page 2, Paragraph 2

“Jim Lambo, North Shore Community Foundation,”

Page 2, Paragraph 6

“Etta Hepner introduced herself and her role with the Gorge Heritage Museum,”

Page 2, Paragraph 9

“Huckleberry Festival went well and he hasn’t heard any negative comments about it.”

Page 3, Paragraph 3

“Council member Kiewit asked if any business can have a ten cent bag fee without having the ordinance ~~or so~~ if the ordinance was just for providing guidance to the overall state direction.”

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2019 council meeting as corrected. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2nd Public Hearing - Proposed Ordinance 2019-09-670 Adopting BMC Chapter 8.22, Checkout Bag Regulation

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing on proposed ordinance 2019-09-700.

Clerk Treasurer Willey read into the record the letters and comments received:

9/30/2019.

Fwd: Ordinance up for discussion vote this week - cityha l@bingenwashington.org - City of Bingen Mail

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sasha Bentley** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, Sep 30, 2019, 9:49 AM
Subject: Ordinance up for discussion/vote this wee
o: <[REDACTED]>

Hello city councilors,

I wrote to you on September 9 and wanted to send some more thoughts.

First, I plan to attend the city council meeting but I'm not sure I'll speak. I hope you take written word just the same.

I wanted to add that I appreciate your community development and engagement efforts and bring to your attention that these efforts for this ordinance are driven by the community. A group of community members got together, thought about the best way to clean up their towns, and the best way to make real change happen. They used science and fact. They went to the business owners and other people that will be affected by this change to gain approval. The last step is you. You have a chance to reward your constituents and the future of our towns with a smart vote or not. I hope I see the former from you.

Thanks for your service.

Sasha

9/30/2019

Fwd: Support of one use plastic bag ban - cityhall@bingenwashington.org - City of Bingen Mail

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Candi Didier** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, Sep 30, 2019, 9:48 AM
Subject: Support of one use plastic bag ban
o: [REDACTED]

Good morning. Thank you for all you do for Bingen. I am writing today to support the ban on single use bags. I got a heavier bag this weekend at Antiques and Oddities and think the option of a reusable bag is a great one - I plan to use it as a trash bag in my car. Thank you for your consideration.

Sent from my iPhone

ood afternoon

y name is Catherine Holm a d I am the legal counse legislative director for the Washington Food Industry Association. The Washington Food Industry Association represents independently wned grocery stores and convenience stores, and others in the food ndustry such as distributors breweries and coffee suppliers. I am reaching out to you today because Bingen is deciding hether to implement a plast bag ban ordinance

FIA encourages you to pass the plastic bag ban in yo r jurisdiction I've attached two documents for your review. The first do ument is a letter of support from Washington Food Industry Association The second doc ment is our policy paper wh ch addresses two important points for our members. 1) there is a need for the pass-through charge (10 cents); and 2) the need for an alternative to paper bags. The third document shows the difference in prcing between paper and plasti bags given to WFIA by one of our members, Bunzl Distribution – a major distributor of paper and plastic bags throughout Washington State I be eve Becky Miles, a wonderful advocate for a p astl bag ban, has already given the last two documents to you.

We encourage you to pass the pla t bag ban as long as there is a 10 cent pass-through charge and an alternative to pape bags such as the 2.25 m reusable plastic bag Please let me know you have any quest ons

Thank y

Catherine Holm
Legal Counsel & Legislative Director
Washington Food Ind stry Association

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Oct 1, 2019, 10:44 AM Izzy Schroder <ischroder@bingenwashington.org> wrote:

Dear Mayor Barnes -

Although I will be absent from tonight's meeting and vote on the proposed ordinance 2019-09-670, I would like to express my support for the ordinance.

I feel that is our duty as individuals and as a collective community to support environmentally-focused efforts and reform - regardless if we residents or business owners. I am in favor of a plastic bag ban in our city.

Thank you to the Community Upcycle group for making this a priority in our neighborhood.

Regards,
Izzy Schroder

Brad Bookmeyer spoke in favor of the ordinance and asked those in the audience in support of it passing to raise their hands. Twelve people raised their hands.

Candi Didier spoke in favor of the ordinance and said she thought heavier bags were great and very useful.

Becky Miles spoke in favor of the ordinance and said thought she is not a Bingen resident she does shop in Bingen and supports the town in that way.

Council member Kiewit said she had examined the ordinance and she was in support of passing something like it. Kiewit said she had some minor revisions and questions. She asked if it was true that Klickitat County residents could no longer recycle plastic single-use grocery bags any longer.

Becky Miles explained that plastic single use bags were no longer being accepted for recycling in Klickitat County, mainly due to the damage they cause to the sorting and processing equipment in the recycling industry. She noted that she found a page on the Klickitat County Solid Waste website that still incorrectly listed the bags as recyclable, but said she brought it to Recycling Coordinator Averie Morgan's attention and was told that the page would be removed as soon as possible.

Mayo Barnes closed the public hearing.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-09-670 Adopting BMC Chapter 8.22, Checkout Bag Regulation

The ordinance number was corrected to 2019-12-700.

Council member Jones made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-09-700 with changes made. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Museum Contract Renewal

Council member Mann moved to authorize Mayor Barnes to sign a two-year extension of the museum lease agreement. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing - Proposed Ordinance 2019-10-671 Amending BMC 13.04.120, Service Classifications and Charges Designated for Water Service

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing on proposed ordinance 2019-09-701.

Clerk Treasurer Willey explained that she recommended a 10% increase in water rates based on the preliminary budget information compiled.

Council member Mann asked if the rate schedule was fair and equitable for residential and commercial consumers.

Clerk Treasurer Willey explained how the tiered system for residential users balanced with the commercial single rate system for water usage charges.

The council asked for a rate comparison from other local cities to be provided before a decision was made.

Mayor Barnes closed the public hearing.

The ordinance number was corrected to 2019-12-701.

Public Hearing - Proposed Ordinance 2019-11-672 Amending BMC 13.24.030, Monthly Sewer Billing

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing on proposed ordinance 2019-09-702.

Clerk Treasurer Willey explained that she recommended a 5% increase in sewer rates based on the preliminary budget information compiled.

The council asked for a rate comparison from other local cities to be provided before a decision was made.

Mayor Barnes closed the public hearing.

The ordinance number was corrected to 2019-12-702.

Public Hearing - Proposed Ordinance 2019-12-673 Adopting Proposed 2019 Advalorem Property Tax

The ordinance number was corrected to 2019-12-703.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-09-703 as corrected. Council member Mann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed Budget Increase to WWTP Ecology Funding Application WQC-2020-Bingen-00072

Council member Kiewit made a motion to table the proposed budget increase until Nancy Wetch with Gray and Osborne was able to appear at a council meeting to explain the request. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 2019-005 Affordable Housing Tax

Mayor Barnes explained that the proposed resolution mirrored that passed by the Klickitat County Commissioners.

The resolution document number was corrected to 2019-005.

Council member Mann asked why an ordinance was not being presented at the same time as the resolution.

Mayor Barnes explained that the council first needed to establish their intent to meet the deadline set by the State, and that there would be more time to pass an ordinance after a resolution was passed successfully.

Council member Mann made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-005 as corrected. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staff Update

Fall Clean Up

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said that the Fall Clean Up event would be November 20-25, 2019.

Street Sweeper

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said the street sweeper rental option in Hood River was just a truck with a broom, not made for streets with curbs or streets in residential areas.

Mayor Barnes suggested making a list of larger items needed for budget purposes and recommended looking through the State surplus items.

The Council asked Spratt why White Salmon's Street Sweeper was not a good option.

Spratt explained that White Salmon's street sweeper was costly to use and that there had been issues with timeliness and availability in the past.

Mayor and Council Comments

Mayor Barnes reported that she had attended the recent *It Takes a Village* event and said it was a nice event and she hoped that it would continue to build and grow in the future.

Barnes said she had also attended *Digging In*, an event connected to the Our Klickitat group. She said the event was held at the Society Hotel in Bingen and featured small group discussions with area youth.

Barnes said the format of the *Digging In* event was very useful as the adults spent the evening listening to the youth and got to hear what they felt they needed from the community. She said the main topics of discussion were suicide, drug use, peer pressure, and parenting. Barnes said the event was very eye-opening and interesting. She noted that mental health was a very big issue and that she and the other adults had been thinking about what could be done to help.

Mayor Barnes said she met with Ruby Irving from Klickitat County Solid Waste to discuss the agreement between the County and the City of Bingen since the agreement had not been updated since 1990. She said the agreement would be in front of the council at the next meeting.

Council member Kiewit said after the last council meeting she had reached out to her peers that work with the Art of Community group in Hood River to talk about their program. She said their organization had been formed because the City of Hood River had been bequeathed art work and was reluctant to facilitate a public art project. She said the group was a nonprofit, run by volunteers. Kiewit said she had reached out to the North Shore Community Foundation and introduced the two groups so they could coordinate since the Art of Community program was well established and could possibly serve as a model of operations.

Mayor Barnes said it would be interesting to find out how much the Hood River City Council is involved with art placement and said she would like to learn about how the Art of Community model worked.

Council member Mann asked Public Works Superintendent Spratt how the recycle site had fared with the closure of the cardboard collection bins.

Spratt said the last week had been horrible and that several truckloads of litter had been left scattered around the property by County Residents that did not read the signage and illegally dumped their recycling and also garbage all over the ground.

Executive Session

Mayor Barnes announced at 9:30 pm that the City Council will go into Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 9:40 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 September 17, 2019.

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

Payroll Checks 21016-21022 and Payroll EFT (Dated 9/30/2019) totaling \$29,679.87 General Fund - \$13,554.71, Street Fund - \$4,644.09, Water Fund - \$3,202.67, Sewer Fund - \$588.24, Treatment Plant Fund - \$7,690.16.

Checks 21015 totaling \$216.92. General Fund - \$216.92

Checks 21023-21042 totaling \$35,265.46. General Fund - \$12,152.70, Street Fund - \$2,010.22, Water Fund - \$2,229.37, Sewer Fund - \$535.76, Treatment Plant Fund - \$6,010.68, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund - \$12,326.73.

The council adjourned at 9:40 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor