

## BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

**DRAFT – September 17, 2019**

At 6:30, the council had a walking tour of the locations that the Joy Oh Joy statue would be located at.

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, Isolde Schroder, Laura Mann. Staff present: Deputy Clerk Dena Riggelman, City Attorney Chris Lanz. Audience present: Chief Hepner, Officer Daniels, Etta Hepner, Tammara Toppel, Jeri Fisch, Dawn McSweyne, Jim Lambo, Doug Granum, Becky Miles.

### **Northshore Community Foundation**

#### *Guillermo Fisch Statue*

Mayor Barnes said that the council just got back on a walking tour of the art locations and asked the council members for their input.

Council member Kiewit said the council wasn't formally asked for a request to move the statue from the spot that the council had previously voted on.

Council member Mann said the goal is a walking tour for people to see the art and have a safe space to do that. Mann does not want to see the landscaping removed to locate the statue there.

Council member O'Connor said that maybe the new location could work and if there were complaints about it then it could be moved.

Council member O'Connor said he was concerned about the tightness of the space.

Council member Schroder said from her perspective, she doesn't know Mr Fisch and so she doesn't see him as "the face of Bingen". She said she is 100% in favor of a walking art tour but not a driving tour and wants to stick with the location that the council agreed too. Schroder also said that the new roundabout, which will be going in, will be a great place for art.

Mayor Barnes said each councilor has made their opinion and asked for the council to take a vote for moving the location of the statue.

Those in favor was Council member O'Connor and Council member Jones.

Those not in favor was Council member Kiewit, Council member Mann and Council member Schroder.

Doug Granum, the artist, said it's not about one man but it's about art. He envisions Bingen being a place with wonderful art & sculptures that will be a destination for people to come see. He said that he thinks that there is only one location for this sculpture and if the council won't put it there then maybe it will not be going in Bingen at all.

Jim Lambo, NCF, said the vote has been taken so it is up to the Chamber & the art foundation to decide if the sculpture will be placed in Bingen or not.

Council member Schroder said she feels like the council is being ambushed with the take it or leave it attitude. She said there are a lot of important projects happening in Bingen right now.

Tammara Toppel said she would like to see a draft idea on what could work in Bingen, for future reference.

Mayor Barnes said the council has been talking about this issue for numerous meetings so does not see the need to revisit this issue at next meeting. Barnes said the council has voted and sticks to the original location on the corner of Steuben and Walnut.

### **Public Comment**

*Etta Hepner, Gorge Heritage Museum*

Etta Hepner introduced herself and her role with the Gorge Heritage, she said the museum leases the building they use from The City of Bingen and their two year lease ends on April 30, 2020. She said the Museum would like to renew their lease for an additional 2 years so that the lease will then be ending on April 30, 2022. Etta said the Museum appreciates the City leasing the building to them.

Council member Kiewit said she would like Public Works Superintendent David Spratt do a walk through inspection of the building to see if there are issues.

Mayor Barnes said the agreement will be on the next agenda.

### **Bingen/WS Police**

Chief Hepner said the call load in Bingen was low, which was a good thing. He said that the Huckleberry Festival went well and hasn't heard any negative about it. He was pleased that there was no police call outs, as there have been in the past.

Council member Kiewit said thank you for managing the traffic for the Huckleberry parade.

### **Minutes of September 3, 2019 Regular Council Meeting**

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 2, paragraph 14

“Willey”

Council member Schroder made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2019 council meeting as corrected. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Single Use Plastic Bag Ban**

Becky Miles said after the last discussion, that they canvassed Bingen business and interviewed as many as they could on their thoughts on regulating a bag ban ordinance. There was mixed reviews from the different businesses. She also said that there is now 31 towns in Washington that have a bag ban ordinance.

Becky said that the whole point of having the ordinance is to get people to change their habits and use recyclable bags instead of plastic or paper bags. She also said that Harvest Market in White Salmon is 100% behind the ordinance.

Council member Kiewit asked if any business can have a ten cent bag fee without having the ordinance so if the ordinance just for the overall state direction.

Council member Schroder said she feels like the using the recycle bags is the right thing to do but the businesses have a difficult time making all the customers happy.

Council member Jones made a motion to table the discussion until the next council meeting. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The council members are asked to look over the ordinance language to see if they want anything changed or added. The council asked to have more information from Becky on what she has done so far, like which business were contacted.

### **Affordable Housing Tax Discussion**

Council member Jones made a motion to table the discussion until the next council meeting. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Mayor and Council Comments**

Mayor Barnes said the Huckleberry Festival and the Parade were wonderful this year.

Barnes said that she attended a Railroad Summit meeting today that BNSF & Union Pacific put on for elected officials and Senator King was the guest speaker.

There was a discussion on the recycling center and the consensus was that hopefully it is just a temporary shutdown.

Barnes explained there will still be the glass recycling but staff is worried about people just dumping their recycling on the ground but Klickitat County Solid Waste said that they will take care of it if it happens.

It would be nice to get more commercial businesses to purchase a monthly cardboard container.

Council member Mann asked about the empty Newman property at the corner of Cedar/Humboldt streets and asked if the city should request to have the windows boarded up for safety reasons. She also asked what is going on with the empty lot where Mugs was located.

### **Executive Session**

Mayor Barnes announced at 9:00 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 9:10 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 20988-20992 and Payroll EFT (Dated 9/16/2019) totaling \$21,260.45 General Fund - \$8,513.58, Street Fund - \$3,768.19, Water Fund - \$2,637.52, Sewer Fund - \$460.39, Treatment Plant Fund - \$5,880.77.

Checks 20993-21014 totaling \$10,366.62. General Fund - \$4,657.31, Street Fund - \$284.96, Water Fund - \$1,583.32, Sewer Fund - \$166.33, Treatment Plant Fund - \$3,674.70.

The council adjourned at 9:13 pm.

---

City Clerk

---

Mayor