

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES – February 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore Laura Mann at 7:00 pm. Council Members Present: Laura Mann, Phil Jones, Student Council Member Cesar Robles, Isolde Schroeder. Staff Members Present: City Attorney Chris Lanz Audience Present: Ken Park, Ashley Hackett, Leslie Naramore, Jim Lambo, Doug Comstock, Tammara Toppel, Autumn Williams

Public Comment

Leslie Naramore, WGAP Poverty Simulation

Ms. Naramore from Washington Gorge Action Programs gave notice to the council that it would be holding a poverty simulation for up to 80 participants within the next two weeks in White Salmon. She explained a trained facilitator would be in from across the state, and that it would serve as an assimilating experience for those looking to see life with a different perspective.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2019

Mayor Pro Tempore Laura Mann postponed the approval of the meeting minutes for February 5, 2019, citing their absence.

Bingen White Salmon Police Department Update

Officer Ashley Hackett

Officer Ashley Hackett claimed that the month of January was incredibly busy. The Department received 118 calls, a third of which took place in Bingen. She noted that nothing rather heinous had occurred, but she did add that counterfeit bills were found at a local second-hand store, potentially originating from a smoke shack in Bingen. On behalf of Police Chief Hepner, she thanked the Public Works Department on consistent and successful snow clearance throughout the last snowstorms; the council was eager to point out that Bingen did a far better job than another city across the Columbia. Councilmember Mann questioned Hackett by asking if the Department would consider putting on another community-police coffee meet, to which Hackett answered the Department was considering. Councilmember Schroder also inquired on the implementation of speed signs the Department had purchased; Officer Hackett assured the council that the signs would be up as soon as possible, but the winter weather in the previous weeks had inhibited their progress.

WGAP Youth Center Update

Leslie Naramore and Autumn Williams

Ms. Naramore began by thanking the council for supporting the youth center program, which is run on a shoestring budget. Ms. Williams added that the youth center started a five-week 4H nutrition program tailored to nutritional awareness among children. She noted that the program was not agriculturally related to 4H. The program, Williams added, taught kids to interpret nutrition labels and analyze sugar amounts in drinks with physical examples. Ms. Naramore then proceeded to add that a new volunteer had begun to teach kids during their allocated dance day; she mentioned a new volunteer from a comprehensive mental health program would be helping as well. Naramore pointed out that the youth center lowered the attendance as from seven to six in order to alleviate the community childcare shortage. As a result, the program gained 30 new members. The youth center program also lost some kids due to age, as they grew too “cool” to attend, but Naramore welcomed high school students, saying they can volunteer for hours. Councilmember Mann asked if the program was run using donations only, to which Naramore responded that it was receiving funding from donations and funding from Klickitat County and

the City of White Salmon. Naramore firmly stated that it would not accept tuition from kids, but that the program was exploring ways to tactfully approach parents who are financially able to donate. She thankfully added that the youth center is located in a rent-free building owned by the City of White Salmon, and that the City had not yet contacted the program about the rumored creation of a new community youth center. Naramore brought up the program's fundraisers as a source of income and gave other sources of donations to the program. As an ultimate point, Naramore added that WGAP is also holding a program to help with energy awareness in around the early winter months of the year.

Northshore Community Foundation Update

Doug Comstock, Jim Lambo, Tammara Toppel

Mr. Comstock prefaced his update by thanking Leslie for her work with WGAP and adding that his position in the United Way allocation committee allowed him to see the good work. Comstock then proceeded to describe the life and memories of Guillermo Fisch, a local who has since passed away. Comstock proposed that a statue be implemented in Bingen to remember Fisch, an acknowledgement of his spirit in Bingen, named "Oh Joy of Joys." He added that the project was rapidly growing, and many were getting involved, with Insitu and the Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce being the largest supporters. Comstock mentioned that his group wanted the statue to capture what Fisch meant to the community; he also noted that he would like this statue to be the first art dedication of many, essentially making Bingen known worldwide for statues, similar to Toppenish/murals, etc. Comstock reported that a local artist, Doug Granham, does bronze statues all over world and has agreed to craft the statue.

Comstock asked of the Council to donate a street corner along Highway 14, perhaps in the general area of the southeast corner of Walnut Street and Steuben Street. Comstock then explored a variety of potential locations in the reported area; Comstock asked the City for assistance with logistics of mounting the statue onto the pedestal and assistance with logistics and implementation of lighting the statue. Comstock stated that Mayor Barnes said the statue could even be placed at the center of the proposed SR-14 roundabout project.

Mr. Lambo then added that he would like to see Bingen known as a location for elegant bronze statues right on the highway. Lambo pleaded the City to showcase art and subsequently what Bingen and the essence of Guillermo are all about why not showcase art. Lambo further added that Insitu has helped immensely with the artwork, and that Boeing will match what Insitu donates. Mr. Lambo then proceeded to provide more details with regards to the statue, like the grouper, an internationally recognizable fish. Lambo stated he would like to see the artwork in Bingen for locals or tourists to admire. He also mentioned that there may be a plaque; Lambo also expressed interest in creating an endowment for statues and the creation of an ongoing art scholarship/art legacy. Lambo included that the fundraiser plan will be unveiled at the Art and Wine Fusion event in July, the deadline for the project; he was eager to see if the Fusion fundraiser could serve as a double fundraiser for both the endowment fund and the Art and Wine Fusion. Councilmember Mann responded to this information by saying that the Council would not decide that night but that it would be brought up at the next meeting. Mann also recommended that the Council look at the corners with observance for the location of the peace pole.

Park Reservation Requirements Discussion

Councilmember Schroder said she had emailed City Clerk Willey other forms related to the revision of the park policies. Schroder looked at the Vancouver park rental schedule and found it similar to the City's because of fencing requirements, alcohol rules, and attendance laws; she mentioned that the fee schedule seemed appropriate. Councilmember Schroder also sent to Willey the Hood River Municipal Code forms because their policies were also favorable. Schroder made it clear that she wanted Clerk Willey to

propose her own policy based on the two sent ones rather than have the council collectively draft its own. Councilmember Mann said she was glad she found what she like and that the tier system is the way to go; she also said there were two main concerns with the park requirements: park usage policy and then rental fees.

Councilmember then made a motion to table the initiative until the next meeting; Councilmember Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

Pool

Councilmember Mann iterated that she had received dimensions for the White Salmon pool from Lloyd DeKay. The documents, she said, provided an amount of footprint and spacing. Upon discussing the possibility of the pool being in Bingen, the council agreed that the rumored spot on the highway wouldn't be safe for children and that it isn't accessible for all kids of the area; moreover, Bingen doesn't have as many kids that would enjoy it to its full potential. Nonetheless, Mann reported that DeKay has not assured whether or not the City of White Salmon is moving forward with putting it there. Mann also added that she believed the board of commissioners wants to consider where its constituents would want the pool, but that plenty of money had already been spent on studying a set location.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Everybody's Brewing

Councilmember Mann said that Public Works member Tom had been in contact with Jess Codell of Everybody's Brewing; he had finished his application to the State for a waste management permit. Codell was also working with the City of White Salmon to see what was needed on his behalf. Mann congratulated Tom for direction of progress, first through White Salmon and then Bingen.

Dickey Farms Property

Councilmember Mann stated that the parcel in question was revised before 2012 to include mention of phased development, such that 20 percent of the land must be set aside for green space. Mann questioned who, between the City or a developer, had the jurisdiction when deciding how to enforce the policy.

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 February 19, 2019.

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

Payroll Checks 20559-20562 and Payroll EFT (Dated 2/15/2019) totaling \$16,166.46 General Fund - \$6,656.84, Street Fund - \$3,250.66, Water Fund - \$1,806.09, Sewer Fund - \$335.18, Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,117.69.

Checks 20563-20586 and EFT (Dated 2/19/2019) totaling \$28,389.50. General Fund - \$6,446.38, Street Fund - \$327.65, Street Construction and Maintenance Fund - \$3,271.94, Water Fund - \$3,264.01, Sewer Fund - \$381.07, Treatment Plant Fund - \$599.62, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund - \$14,098.83.

The council adjourned at 7:57 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor