

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Final – July 20, 2021

Meeting Via Teleconference - Audio Recorded

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J Barnes at 7:04 pm. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Phil Jones, Isolde Schroder, Ryan O'Connor, and Joseph O'Sullivan. Staff present: Deputy Clerk Dena Riggelman, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz.

Minutes of July 6, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Council member Kiewit made a motion to table the minutes from the July 6, 2021, regularly scheduled City Council meeting to August 3, 2021 . Council member O'Sullivan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Water System Plan - Gray & Osborne

Mayor Barnes said the City needs to update the Water System Plan and the council had previously gone over the agreement with Gray & Osborne but had not voted on it.

Council member O'Connor made a motion to authorize Mayor Barnes to enter into a contract with Gray & Osborne to update the Water System Plan with a contingency, if the schedule needed increased due to being past the due date, the increase can be no more than \$60,000. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2021-04-715 Establishing the Mayors Salary

Mayor Barnes said that the city council approved a pay raise from \$300 to \$600 for the Mayors salary at the meeting on February 6, 2018 but an Ordinance had never been brought to the council due to a change in the City Clerk's personnel but the salary had been being paid correctly.

Council member Schroder made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-04-715 Establishing the Mayors Salary. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ordinance 2021-05-716 Rescinding Emergency Proclamation 2020-01

Council member Jones made a motion to rescind the Emergency Proclamation 2020-01 Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

American Legion – Flag Agreement

Mayor Barnes said the local Boy Scouts Club had disbanded and the American Legion has decided to take over the program of placing flags out for special occasions. Barnes said the city had previously donated \$50 yearly to that program and would like to continue with the American Legion.

Council member Schroder made a motion to continue the donation of \$50, for flag placements, to the American Legion. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Payroll Step Increase

Mayor Barnes explained that he had to raise our wastewater plant operators wages up two steps due to having to use his license to run the treatment plant, which put him at the top of steps for his position. He also needs a one-step increase for his merit increase so the salary step for the wastewater plant operator needs to be increased from 12-25 to 12-26.

Mayor Barnes also explained that the wastewater plant supervisor must be \$1 more then the operator due to the Union contract so she had to raise him up to step 28. However, this put him at the same pay as our Public Works Supervisor who has been with the City for just shy of 13 years so she would like to increase the steps for that position also.

Council member Schroder made a motion to increase the Wastewater Plant Operator position pay steps from 12-25 to 12-26. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council member Schroder made a motion to increase the Department Supervisors and City Clerk/Treasurer position pay steps from 17-28 to 17-30. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Project Estimate #10 & #11 Wastewater Facilities Improvements – TEK Construction

Council member O’Sullivan made a motion to approve Project Estimate #10 & #11 for the Wastewater Facilities Improvements as presented. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Interlocal Agreement – Skamania County Planning Department

Mayor Barnes said that Skamania County Planning Department has offered to help Bingen with their current planning needs and the contract is good till the end of 2021.

Council member O’Sullivan made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement with Skamania County Planning Services. Council member O’Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

WSDOT Parklet Agreement

Council member Kiewit made a motion to sign the WSDOT Parklet agreement with the extension to October. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayors Update and Council Comments

White Salmon Request

Mayor Barnes said she had a meeting with Mayor Keethler about White Salmon wanting WSDOT to put in a jogging trail on main street and loop road. WSDOT said they would do that project if White Salmon and Bingen took over the maintenance of the highway that runs through Bingen and White Salmon. Barnes said she told Mayor Keethler that Bingen would not be interested in that as the maintenance on that road is massive and this project would not benefit the city of Bingen.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Council member Kiewit and Council member O'Connor met with Brian Zabel, Bingen Wastewater Plant Manager, at Bingen Treatment Plant and went over information about the issues with Everybody's and the Tribal Fish Plant.

Clerk Treasurer/City Administrator position

Mayor Barnes said the City has advertised for the job opening and there are a few submissions so far and they are looking at the first round of interviews on July 30th.

August 3rd Council Meeting

Council member O'Sullivan and Council member Schroder will both be out of town and will have to miss the next council meeting on August 3rd.

Huckleberry Festival

Council member Schroder said she met with the Huckleberry Festival Committee at the park and went over what will be happening this year at the Huckleberry Festival. Schroder said they will be having it from Friday to Sunday, the end time will be 11pm this year and will even have a parade and is looking forward to having the City of Bingen truck in the parade again. Schroder said the committee is always looking for volunteers to help out.

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 July 20, 2021.

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

Payroll EFT (Dated 7/12/2021 & 7/15/2021) totaling \$23,802.06 General Fund - \$1,302.57, Street Fund - \$2,637.72, Water Fund - \$1,783.39, Sewer Fund - \$328.55, Treatment Plant Fund - \$17,749.83.

Motion: Schroder
Second: O'Connor

Checks 22448-22465 and totaling \$250,706.50. General Fund - \$35,247.00, Street Fund - \$745.43, Water Fund - \$2,028.51, Sewer Fund - \$125.81, Treatment Plant Fund - \$132.46, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund \$212,427.29.

Motion: Kiewit
Second: Schroder

The council adjourned at 8:13 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor