

# **BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**DRAFT – March 2, 2021**

## **Meeting Via Teleconference - Audio Recorded**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J Barnes at 7:00 pm. Council members present: Phil Jones, Ryan O'Connor, Catherine Kiewit, Isolde Schroder, Joseph O'Sullivan. Staff present: Clerk Treasurer Cheyenne Pantoja Wright, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz, Public Works Superintendent David Spratt, Police Chief Mike Hepner. Audience Present: Ruby Irving, Lloyd DeKay

### **Essential Services Update**

Mayor Barnes said the current COVID-19 case count for Klickitat county was 740 with only 2 active cases. She said it had been 31 days since there had been a case in Bingen. She noted that Governor Inslee had changed the vaccination schedule to include childcare staff and teachers to the priority group.

### **Bingen White Salmon Police Department Update**

Chief Hepner said there had been lots of legislation recently that affected law enforcement in the state of Washington. He said the Washington state supreme court had ruled it was not illegal to possess any drug.

Chief Hepner said Officer Lewis had finished his field training and was now working on his own.

The council and Chief Hepner discussed the possible ramifications of not being able to charge people for possession of drugs anymore.

City Attorney Lanz clarified that the police department could still charge for intent to distribute or deliver drugs.

### **Klickitat County Solid Waste Department Update**

Director Ruby Irving said she had been preparing for the Community Clean Up event that was scheduled for May 2021. She said the Solid Waste Department was also working on an app and digital media to help with public education around recycling in Klickitat County.

Irving said the County litter crew was active again and had been cleaning up near Dallesport. She added that the Solid Waste Department had been working on a secure your load campaign to increase awareness.

Irving reported that she had recently led a clean up effort on an illegal dump site near BZ Corners and that the Solid Waste Department website had a reporting feature to help alert staff to litter and illegal dumping.

Irving said the recent Solid Waste Management Plan had gotten comments from the Department of Ecology and that she would be bringing a draft resolution before council proposing adoption of the finalized plan in April 2021.

Council member O’Sullivan said he knew there had been an increase in cardboard recycling due to the pandemic and he wondered if there had been any changes.

Irving said many people continued to order packages for home delivery and that the increase in cardboard had not slowed down.

Irving suggested considering alternatives to plastic packaging when making purchases and discussed changing the way residents think about shopping and consumer habits.

Council member Kiewit asked if the new Solid Waste Management Plan included provisions for moving away from plastic recycling bags since the bags themselves are not recyclable.

Irving explained that Republic Service would have to invest heavily to make that change and that using bins instead of bags would require all new trucks and equipment purchases.

Council member Jones asked if there would be electronics recycling available at the community clean up event.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said that INSITU had volunteered to operate the electronics recycling station at the event.

### **White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District (WSVPMPD) Update**

Mayor Barnes explained that the Roundabout discussion under Old Business was being postponed to the next meeting and asked council to hear a presentation from Lloyd DeKay with the WSVPMPD instead. She asked that agenda be rearranged to cover this presentation before moving on in the interest of time.

Lloyd DeKay presented a slideshow to the council about a fundraising effort for the new pool. He noted that the location was now next to Columbia High School and that the goal for the new pool was to have a lap pool, a warm pool, and a splash pad.

DeKay recapped the timeline of events leading to this fundraising effort, going back to the establishment of the WSVPMPD in 2018. He said the fundraising goal was roughly \$3,000,000 with ground being broken in July 2021 and the facility opening in May 2022.

DeKay noted that the new location for the pool facility was on a Safe Routes to School path and that the lot was 1.4 acres.

### **Proclamation 2021-001 Proclaiming March 2021 as Red Cross Month**

Mayor Barnes shared with council that she had proclaimed March 2021 as Red Cross Month in the City of Bingen.

### **Minutes of February 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting**

Corrections:

*Page 1:*

Council member Kiewit ~~requested that~~ **asked if** meeting guest attendees ~~be~~ **are** required to identify themselves.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 regularly scheduled City Council meeting as corrected. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Project Estimate #8 Wastewater Facilities Improvements – TEK Construction**

Clerk Pantoja Wright said she had not yet received this document from the engineers.

The council voiced a consensus to postpone this item to the next meeting.

### **Public Hearing Draft Ordinance 2021-01-712 Budget Amendment #1**

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing on Draft Ordinance 2021-01-712 Budget Amendment #1.

Clerk Pantoja Wright explained that this amendment covered funding for the wastewater treatment facility improvements project and that she intended to bring budget amendments to council frequently until larger projects had all been addressed and then the amendments would shift to focus on smaller “housekeeping” items.

Council member Kiewit said she liked having the amendments having a narrower focus.

Mayor Barnes closed the public hearing.

### **Ordinance 2021-01-712 Budget Amendment #1**

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-01-712 Budget Amendment #1 as presented. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Staff Reports**

#### *Public Works*

Superintendent Spratt said he had been involved in the annual clean up event planning and that things were going well. He also said the public works crew would be building additions to the wellhouse sheds in preparation for the old reservoir replacement project.

Spratt said the City of White Salmon would be shutting down their water service lines on Thursday to repair a leak in a high pressure main.

#### *City Hall*

Clerk Pantoja Wright said the upgrade to the cloud for Springbrook software (formerly BIAS) had gone well but that she and deputy clerk Rigglesman had been working with Springbrook to fix some minor issues along the way. She said the largest complaint so far was that the new system was very slow to log into and that it logged them out every 15 minutes causing lots of delays.

Pantoja Wright said the switch over to the Department of Revenue business licensing service was going smoothly and that the go-live date was scheduled for March 11, 2021.

**Mayor’s Update and Council Comments**

Mayor Barnes said that the wastewater treatment plant improvements project would run longer than expected. She also mentioned that she was working with Mayor Keethler of White Salmon and community members to pursue grant funding through the Department of Health to fund Spanish translations of vaccination information.

Council member Kiewit asked Public Works Superintendent when the lights would be taken off the trees downtown.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said the crew had been busy and that they would take them down soon.

Mayor Barnes noted the presence of a reporter from the Columbia Gorge News and thanked him for attending the meeting.

**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 March 2, 2021.

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

Payroll Checks 22155-22160 and Payroll EFT (Dated 2/26/2021) totaling \$32,569.68 General Fund - \$14,890.60, Street Fund - \$5,072.37, Water Fund - \$3,373.63, Sewer Fund - \$618.86, Treatment Plant Fund - \$8,614.22. Interim Approval issued March 2, 2021.

Motion: Kiewit  
Second: Jones

Check 22148 (Dated 2/18/2021) totaling \$637,171.85. Sewer Capital Reserve Fund - \$637,171.85. Interim Approval issued March 2, 2021.

Motion: O’Connor  
Second: O’Sullivan

Checks 22161-22183 (Dated 3/2/2021) totaling \$279,204.32. General Fund - \$44,923.77, Street Fund - \$2,430.04, Water Fund - \$1,216.50, Sewer Fund - \$241.05, Treatment Plant Fund - \$6,334.91, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund \$224,058.05.

Motion: O’Sullivan  
Second: O’Connor

The council adjourned at 8:22 pm.

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City Clerk

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Mayor