

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 7, 2021

Meeting Via Teleconference - Audio Recorded

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:01 pm. Council members present: Phil Jones, Ryan O'Connor, Isolde Schroder, Joseph O'Sullivan and Catherine Kiewit. Staff present: Deputy Clerk Dena Riggelman, Public Works Superintendent David Spratt, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz, Fire Chief Carl Spratt, and Alan Peters – Skamania County Planning Department. Audience Present: Michelle Mulrony – Klickitat County Solid Waste, Jacob Bertram, Kevin Driscoll, John Weil and Jamie Howsley.

Minutes of August 17, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Corrections:

Page 2, paragraph 1:

Council member Jones made a motion to accept the Radcomp bid for Security for \$2,338.12.

Page 2, paragraph 2:

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit said that the council talked about the temporary three-month agreement at the last council meeting, and it needed to be voted on.

Council member Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2021 regularly scheduled City Council meeting as corrected. Council member O'Sullivan seconded the motion and it passed with 3 ayes and 2 abstains.

Bingen Fire Department Update

Fire Chief Carl Spratt gave an update on recent calls, noting that there were 18 calls for August. Spratt also said that he is sending one firefighter to training in Hood River this month.

Klickitat County Solid Waste

Michelle Mulrony, from Klickitat County Solid Waste said they launched new search tools on their website, which can be found on the front page. There is a search tool that you can look up what you want to recycle, and it will tell you what you can do with it. She said there is a fun game called Game Wizard on the website also.

Mulrony said they have a newsletter and there is a link on their website to sign up for it.

Public Hearing-Bingen Housing Short Plat

Alan Peters introduced himself from Skamania County Planning Department and explained that Bingen has contracted out services with them. Peters said he has reviewed the short plat that was presented for the property at 806 W Steuben, and he said follows Bingen's guidelines for Short Plats and recommends Bingen approve the short plat.

Mayor Barnes asked the council if any of them had any involvement or special interest with this project. All the council members said they did not.

Council member O'Connor made a motion to approve Short Plat 2021-001, Bingen Housing at 806 W Steuben by McKenzie River Company Development as presented by staff. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Soroptimist Proclamation

Mayor Barnes said she wanted to share the proclamation, that she signed, with the council and said the Soroptimists do so much for our community.

Anderson Glass-Counter Shield

Deputy Clerk Rigglesman said that a counter shield was needed at the receipting counter for when the office finally opens back up to the public. Rigglesman said Anderson Glass is the same company that Skamania County Auditors Office used for their shields. The shield is made from tempered glass and has a speaker cut out along with a cut out for paper to pass through.

Council member Schroder made a motion to authorize the purchase of a counter shield to be purchased through Anderson Glass Company for \$1,650 plus tax, using ARPA Funds. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Utility Bills – Past Due Balances

Deputy Clerk Rigglesman said that Washington Governors moratorium for utility shut offs will be ending soon and the city has about 48 customers that have late balances. Rigglesman said that the City of White Salmon was kind enough to share their information on how they are dealing with this issue and included everything in the packet.

The council would like to table the discussion until the next meeting so that Rigglesman can contact Washington Gorge Action Programs about the Covid Relief Money for Bingen Residents and word the information from White Salmon for Bingen.

Old Business

SR 14 Roundabout Discussion

Council member Kiewit said that so far everyone loves the SDS pond boat for the roundabout, but it is still waiting on the WSDOT legal team to approve it being used. The boat fits size wise and sightlines will be ok.

Kiewit said that BNSF has not reviewed the plans yet and the project is being pushed back another year with an approximate bid date February 2023 and Fall 2024 for completion of the project.

Staff Reports

Public Works Superintendent David Spratt said there was a lot of graffiti done in the park, as well as someone driving a truck up to the skatepark.

Spratt said NW Natural Gas has completed the section that went through Bingen, and Tek Construction is wrapping up their project at the Wastewater Plant this week. He also said WSDOT will be working on painting their crosswalks in Bingen next week.

Executive Session

Mayor Barnes announced at 8:08 pm. that the City Council will go into Executive Session for 20 minutes to discuss personnel issues to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

At 8:22 p.m. the Council resumed regular session.

Recruitment

Mayor Barnes asked the council to approve up to \$8,000 for a recruiting company to look to fill the vacant position of Clerk Treasure or City Admin.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to authorize up to \$8,000 for a recruiting company to look to fill the vacant position of Clerk Treasure or City Admin. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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 7, 2021.

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

Payroll Checks 22525-22531 and Payroll EFT (Dated 8/31/2021) totaling \$29,494.64 General Fund - \$10,304.87, Street Fund - \$5,078.88, Water Fund - \$3,519.42, Sewer Fund - \$651.89, Treatment Plant Fund - \$9,939.58.

Motion: Jones

Second: Kiewit

Payroll Checks Payroll EFT (Dated 9/7/2021) totaling \$777.31 General Fund - \$777.31.

Motion: O'Sullivan

Second: O'Connor

Checks 22532-22562 totaling \$57,245.96. General Fund - \$10,425.86, Street Fund - \$4,917.78, Water Fund - \$6,389.92, Sewer Fund - \$1,212.37, Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,812.74, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan - \$29,487.29.

Motion: Schroder

Second: O'Sullivan

The council adjourned at 8:30 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor