

## BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

**DRAFT – August 20, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Catherine Kiewit at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Phil Jones, Laura Mann, Ryan O'Connor. Staff present: Clerk-Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, Public Works Superintendent David Spratt, City Attorney Chris Lanz. Audience present: Chief Hepner, Officer Daniels, Carl Warren, Ryan Walters

### **Public Comment**

*Leslie Naramore, WGAP Executive Director*  
*Autumn Williams, Youth Center Coordinator*

Naramore introduced herself and Williams and explained the Youth Center in White Salmon service the community by providing a free place for children aged 6-17 to get a meal and spend time with positive adults. She said they were gearing up for after-school scheduling but that a typical summer day requires creativity in finding things to occupy the kids. She said the main options were computers, foosball, art supplies, and outdoor activities in the summer, and once school starts they would transition to homework. She said the local 4H program would be providing nutrition information and teaching the kids about reading labels and learning about food and ingredients.

Naramore said the White Salmon-Bingen Rotary Club were giving the building and outdoor area a facelift, cleaning up the play space outside and finishing a treehouse that originally came from Makerspace.

Williams said the Center was a good place for kids, and that parents are free to have their kids come and go as they please.

Naramore noted that Klickitat County is having child care crisis and that Bingen and White Salmon were lucky to have a Youth Center. She said she wished there was one in Lyle and Goldendale. Naramore added that the minimum age used to be 7 years old, but it was lowered to 6 and now more families are able to use the center.

Naramore said there are a total of 116 children enrolled at the Center. She said every year the budget is shoe-stringed together and the entire program started with a \$10,000 grant in 1994.

Naramore asked the council to double the Youth Center funding coming from Bingen in 2020 from \$4,000 to \$8,000.

Council member Mann asked what the yearly expenses were for the Center.

Naramore said the annual budget is over \$70,000, and the increase would provide extra help to Williams at the Youth Center.

Council member Mann asked if WGAP was also asking for White Salmon to double their contribution.

Naramore said yes, they will be asking White Salmon for \$12,000 and noted Klickitat County currently provides \$20,000. Naramore explained that the rest of the Youth Center budget comes from United Way and local donors.

Williams said most of her help comes from local youth in grades 7-12, noting that the students of Columbia High School are required to have community service hours as a graduation requirement.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit asked what the summer hours are, and asked how the summer has been without having the White Salmon Pool open.

Williams said it was hard to transport kids to the Hood River Aquatic Center whereas it had been easy before to walk large numbers of children up to the pool in White Salmon. She said it will be a huge help when the backyard play area is completed.

Council member O'Connor asked how many kids visit the Youth Center daily.

Williams said every month has a different average, but 15 or 20 children per day. She noted that attendance can be sporadic.

### **Bingen/WS Police**

Chief Hepner said Officer Daniels completed the academy and is currently in phase 2 of FTO. He noted she spent five weeks with Officer Randall, and now would be spending at least five weeks with himself before working alone. Hepner said he had hired a lateral officer who would be starting on Monday. He said Ed Gunnyon, the lateral hire, was from the area and had previously worked with the Klickitat County Sheriff's Office. Hepner said the second new hire was in her fourth week of academy and she would be done December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Chief Hepner noted that graffiti has remained a problem in Bingen, and said the vandals are only active very late at night. Hepner said the previous day there were vehicles with windows broken in White Salmon and some connected theft. He said the camera at park was back up and running.

Chief Hepner also noted that there had recently been a lot of vehicle collisions – 40 in White Salmon and 22 in Bingen. Hepner said the intersections in Bingen are a lot easier for drivers to navigate, and that it was hard to see from many intersections in White Salmon. He added that cell phone use and distracted driving had also played a factor in many of the collisions.

### **Minutes of August 6, 2019 Regular Council Meeting**

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“**not** be subject”

Council member Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2019 council meeting as corrected. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Gray & Osborne Project Update**

*Ryan Walters*

#### *WWTP and Collections System*

Walters said the upgrade and maintenance plans for the Treatment Plant were still moving forward pretty quickly, noting that he came out early to take measurements and photos to help the G&O team that was focusing on that portion of the project. He said the Department of Ecology was currently

reviewing the plan amendment. Walters said he believed everything to be on schedule for a wrap up at the end of 2019.

Regarding the Collection System plans, Walters said the WSDOT approval was obtained and that he was working together with Clerk-Treasurer Willey to review the draft BNSF permit. Walters said after a couple of comments are addressed on the BNSF permit, it should be ready to go as well.

#### *Humboldt Street*

Walter reminded the council that the last meeting he attended had featured some discussion about postponing the project due to funding timelines with USDA RD. He said everything remained the same, and that the bond counsel was still waiting to hear back from RD before they would move forward.

Walters noted pushing the project out to next spring meant not having to pay interest on an interim financing loan.

There was discussion on the type of reservoir to be installed when replacing the Old reservoir as part of the USDA funding package.

Council member Mann said she would like to see Depot Street paved and striped, with better access to the train station.

Clerk Treasurer Willey noted that much of the south side of Depot Street is BNSF right of way.

#### **Affordable Housing Tax Discussion**

Clerk-Treasurer Willey reminded the Council that the proposed idea was to join with White Salmon and Goldendale to create a larger funding source for affordable housing.

Council member Mann said she believed the ordinance and resolution should be one fell swoop. She said she would like to see something for Council to vote on in November.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit said she would like to see Bingen businesses approached to find out their thoughts.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she believed Community Upcycle will be able to help with that effort.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit said the environment is a passion of hers and that it was important to think about the effect our choices have on the world. She said her family reuses single use plastic bags, and noted that production of paper bags uses a lot of water and the carbon footprint of that activity is larger than appears. She said it is an important discussion and that it would be key to decide priorities.

Kiewit noted that there are lots of ways to be responsible and said she was not sure it was the city's job to tell people what to do and make that decision for them. She clarified that she wasn't opposed to the idea.

Council member Mann agreed that the issue is a complex one. She noted that some products break down easier and said that single use plastic was a relatively recent development in history. She said she hoped

the aim of any potential legislation was to reduce the number of new bags being used, and to make people more likely to reuse what they have.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit said that if plastic bags were banned then people would then start buying new plastic bags for small garbage cans, dog waste, and similar uses.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit asked if businesses could elect to discontinue the use of plastic bags without a mandate from the city.

City Attorney Lanz said businesses could do that.

Council member Mann said she thought most businesses were trying to be eco-conscious and to use less plastic, but she felt the bigger point was that if more and more cities across the state adopted legislation, that it would be easier for a state-wide ban to be passed.

Council member Mann said she would like to know what supply level local businesses have of single-use plastic bags, and said under any new legislation he would like to see businesses have ample time to use their existing supply.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit said timing was important as evidenced by the issues seen in Hood River when their ban was put into effect.

Council member Mann agreed that implementation would be key.

Council member O'Connor noted that currently the cost of bags is currently spread over all customers, and that the proposal is to only charge those using bags.

Council member Jones said he felt that more and more cities enacting ordinances would focus the market on paper or more reusable plastic solutions.

Council member Mann remarked that a single-use plastic bag ban was only a scratch on the surface of plastic use. She noted her personal frustration when the thing she wanted to buy only came wrapped in single-use plastic. Mann reiterated that she would like to see a time frame to allow for businesses to adapt, and said she would like to see a waiver for hardship be provided as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit said she felt that if business owners were here to speak about their opinions and the effects on their businesses it would put her more at ease. She said she was a little uncomfortable mandating what feels like an individual and personal choice. She again said she was not opposed but would love for businesses to come in to give feedback and say that this is something they care about and make their voices heard.

Council member O'Connor added that he thought the voices of Bingen residents were important as well as those of businesses.

Council member Mann noted that awareness would be the goal, especially since single-use plastic bags are not locally accepted as recyclable material any longer.

## **Staff Reports**

*WSDOT Bingen Point Access Improvement Project*

Public Works Superintendent Spratt reported on attending a project team meeting for the WSDOT Bingen Point Access Improvement Project. He explained the different options for sidewalk paths leading into and out of the roundabout on the north side of the highway. He said the three main options were to (1) use the main elevated sidewalk, (2) use a curb tight sidewalk, or (3) remove the on-street parking plan. He noted that all three scenarios make the affected driveways less steep.

Spratt noted further that the Option 3 loses parking but keeps the sidewalk next to the road.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit said she liked the third one personally. She said she would like to hear input from the specific residents whose driveway and property access would be affected.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit said she thought the roundabout would slow traffic significantly, which would help with cars backing out of driveways and pulling out of parking spaces. She said she knew WSDOT was hesitant to integrate existing infrastructure but said she would prefer to see it addressed now with this project.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit said she would like to see if residents can ask WSDOT for larger driveway access, and if parking is ample on private property and residents' concerns have been addressed, then the Option 3 is her first choice, and Option 2 is her second choice in the event that parking on private property poses an issue.

Council members O'Connor and Jones agreed with Kiewit.

Council member Mann said Option 2 was her first choice and Option 3 is her second choice.

#### *Walnut Street Railroad Crossing Project*

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said the Walnut Street crossing arms had been installed.

#### *Public Works Training*

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said he would be gone for conference next week. He said he had to meet a continuing education requirement of 30 hours every 3 years.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit asked if anyone else would be going.

Spratt said it sounded like someone from White Salmon Public Works would be going.

#### *Huckleberry Festival*

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said his department was busy working on preparations for the Huckleberry Festival. He said they had painted the lines at the skate park, and painted the restroom building.

#### *Old Reservoir*

Public Works Superintendent Spratt noted that a trespasser had backed into the ladder at the old reservoir and bent it.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit asked if it was safe to use.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said no but that they don't use it currently anyway.

Council member Mann suggested blocking the access with a chain or gate.

Public Works Superintendent said that could work, and noted that the area is currently posted with no trespassing signage but that a camera placed there had been stolen.

#### *Clerk Training*

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she would be going to Leavenworth for the annual AWC budget conference.

### **Mayor and Council Comments**

#### *Fireworks Signage*

Council member Mann asked about removing the fireworks sign chained to the tribal lands signage. Clerk Treasurer Willey said both signs were located in the public right of way but she believed any communication on the matter with Tribal government should come from Mayor Barnes.

#### *Storm Damage*

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit asked if any residents had commented on recent flooding from a storm.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said just Public Works Superintendent Spratt.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said his garage had flooded with five inches of water.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit said her driveway gravel had washed away and ended up in SR14.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said the City staff had all been concerned about Dry Creek, but it did not flood.

#### *Trees*

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit asked about a struggling cherry tree in Daubenspeck Park. She said she was looking at it and believed there are a couple things to try.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said he knew that a cut made at the wrong time of year can make the tree more vulnerable to disease.

#### *SWAC*

Council member Mann reported that she had gone to the recent SWAC meeting and that it was very worthwhile. She noted that the representative from Republic Services wasn't there and that many people stood up and spoke about wanting Republic to be held to their contract. She said the meeting gave a lot of time to a discussion on plastics. She said the main focus was updating the solid waste plan, and that the standing goal from the state was a 50% reduction of waste. She said that had changed and now they were being asked to meet a standard of waste generated per capita. Mann said instead of a reduction in waste, the new focus would be on what is generated in the first place. She said single stream (current plan) and multi stream options were being reviewed. Mann noted that employees providing pick up services don't like multi stream options, but said maybe that route would decrease the opportunity for contamination. Mann clarified that self-sorting is considered multi stream.

Mann also said the Bingen recycling site was discussed and apparently Republic Services main issue is driver availability. She said she would like to see more businesses utilize curbside service.

The council discussed the option of removing the Bingen recycling bins except for the glass bin, and asking that commercial users pay for curbside service or utilize other transfer sites.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit asked how the free swim program was working this summer without the White Salmon Pool.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said the rate of use was much slower, and that she believed transportation and time to be big factors.

Mayor Pro Tem Kiewit suggested extending the availability through winter.

Clerk Treasurer Willey agreed and said that only a small amount of the budget had been used so far.

### **Executive Session**

Mayor Barnes announced at 9:02 pm that the City Council will go into Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 9:17 p.m. the Council resumed regular session.

Mayor Barnes announced at 9:18 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 9:28 p.m. the Council resumed regular session.

Mayor Barnes announced at 9:29 pm that the City Council will go into Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 9:44 p.m. the Council resumed regular session.

Council member Mann moved to direct staff to write a letter to Dickey Farms regarding the utility bill in arrears. Councilmember 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 August 20, 2019.

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

Payroll Checks 20938-20942 and Payroll EFT (Dated 8/15/2019) totaling \$20,069.23 General Fund - \$8,274.88, Street Fund - \$3,456.98, Water Fund - \$2,370.51, Sewer Fund - \$443.88, Treatment Plant Fund - \$5,522.98.

Checks 20943-20945 totaling \$594.707. General Fund - \$3,092.40.

Checks 20946-20959 totaling \$6,393.85. General Fund - \$5,357.43, Street Fund - \$280.65, Water Fund - \$398.39, Sewer Fund - \$128.29, Treatment Plant Fund - \$229.09.

The council adjourned at 9:45 pm.

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City Clerk

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Mayor