

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

DRAFT –May 5, 2020

Meeting Via Teleconference

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore Catherine Kiewit at 7:08 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Phil Jones, Ryan O’Connor, Joseph O’Sullivan, Isolde Schroder. Staff present: Clerk-Treasurer Cheyenne Pantoja Wright, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz. Audience Present: Ryan Walters, Nancy Wetch, Jan Brending.

Minutes of April 21, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Council member Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2020 council meeting, as presented. Council member O’Sullivan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Barnes joined the meeting

Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Project: Discussion

Nancy Wetch (Gray & Osborne) explained the treatment plant had historically been funded by the cities of Bingen and White Salmon using a 75/25 split. She noted that Schedule A, Schedule A additives, and Schedule B would be of benefit to both cities, but Schedule B additives would be solely Bingen’s responsibility.

Jan Brending (City of White Salmon) said the City of White Salmon had not taken issue with the funding share but noted that the split was currently 79/21. She explained that the total funding shortfall was \$170,000, with \$52,000 being Bingen’s responsibility and \$117,000 being White Salmon’s. She also noted that the design portion of the project could be treated in the same manner. Brending stated that the City of White Salmon would want the interlocal funding agreement to include a timeline for a new interlocal agreement to address the handling of wastewater.

Council member Kiewit asked what the fund balance was in the treatment plant expansion fund.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said it was about \$200,000.

Nancy Wetch said the first payment for the loan would not be due until 2022.

There was a consensus of council to review a draft interlocal funding agreement at the next meeting, and to review the terms in the agreement every 5 years.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to fund the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project with the loan from the Department of Ecology and using the Capital Expansion fund with a 21/79 split contingent on an interlocal agreement with the City of White Salmon. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Nancy Wetch asked if the project would be awarded at this meeting.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said the project would be on the next agenda for award after the interlocal agreement was approved.

Police Department Update

Chief Hepner said only 1/5 of the calls have been in Bingen, and that Bingen has been great. He said the BWSPD had been using Personal Protective Equipment and that patrol procedures had changed in response to COVID-19.

Hepner said Officer Virgen has transferred to the Skamania County Sheriff's office and that he was sad to see him leave. He said the new officer was Josh Lewis and that he would be attending the academy as soon as it reopens.

Council member Kiewit asked about the statement from Sheriff Songer, where he stated that he would not enforce social distancing or closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Hepner said he did not know about the statement in advance, and that he would continue to uphold the laws of the state of Washington and the proclamations issued by the Governor.

City Attorney Lanz said the Sheriff's opinion was his own, and that he would prosecute those cases brought forward by the BWSPD.

Council member O'Sullivan thanked Chief Hepner for his candor and for what he does for the community.

Council member Kiewit agreed and said she was happy she lived in Bingen and not in unincorporated Klickitat County. She said she appreciated what the BWSPD officers do every day.

Mayor Barnes pointed out that the majority of Klickitat County's COVID-19 cases being in the Goldendale area was concerning.

Humboldt, Cherry, Cedar Street Project: Bid Award

Council member Kiewit made a motion to award the Humboldt, Cherry, and Cedar Street Project to Crestline Construction contingent on approval from TIB and USDA Rural Development. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Humboldt Street TIB Supplemental Consultant Agreement (Construction Engineering) Approval

Council member Jones made a motion to approve the Humboldt Street TIB Supplemental Consultant Agreement for Construction Engineering with Gray & Osborne in the amount of \$65,600. Council member O'Sullivan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Humboldt Street Water Main Construction Engineering: Scope of Work Approval

Council member Jones made a motion to approve the Humboldt Street Water Main Construction Engineering: Scope of Work from Gray & Osborne Exhibit A1 and Exhibit B1 Engineering services and estimated costs. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Reservoir Replacement Project: Scope of Work Approval

Ryan Walters (Gray & Osborne) said the timeline would be for contracts to be signed by May 2021, and then demolition and excavation once the weather gets better but noted the isolation valves could be worked on earlier.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve the Old Reservoir Replacement Project: Scope of Work from Gray & Osborne. Council member Schroder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor's Update & Council Comments

Mayor Barnes said the Huckleberry Festival would be cutting it close if all Washington State reopening phases moved forward with no issues. She mentioned that a scaled down version with less vendors may take shape, but that no commitment could be made to hold the event until later in the summer.

Council member Kiewit suggested seeing how phases 1 and 2 unfold and reassessing if setbacks occurred.

Council member O'Sullivan said it seemed to be a yellow light concerning the pandemic, and that until more time had passed all discussion would not be based on anything substantial.

Mayor Barnes suggested waiting until July to get a better feel for the situation.

Mayor Barnes addressed a request to reopen the skatepark. She explained that the city could not disinfect the surfaces or provide the manpower to monitor the number of visitors so it would remain closed until further notice.

Council member Kiewit noted that the greenspace in Daubenspeck Park remained open for the community to use appropriately.

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 May 5, 2020.

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

Payroll Checks 21492-21497 and Payroll EFT (Dated 4/30/2020) totaling \$33,074.64 General Fund - \$15,918.84, Street Fund - \$4,921.28, Water Fund - \$3,363.14, Sewer Fund - \$611.95, Treatment Plant Fund - \$8,259.43.

Motion: Kiewit

Second: Schroder

Checks 21498-21517 (Dated 5/5/20) totaling \$18,455.96. General Fund - \$4,798.90, Street Fund - \$1,818.92, Water Fund - \$5,769.37, Sewer Fund - \$294.99, Treatment Plant Fund - \$3,166.57, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund – \$2,607.21.

Motion: Kiewit

Second: Schroder

The council adjourned at 8:35 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor