

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

DRAFT – November 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Isolde Schroder, Laura Mann, Phil Jones, Ryan O'Connor. Staff present: Clerk-Treasurer Cheyenne Pantoja Wright, City Attorney Chris Lanz. Audience present: Jacob Bertram

Bingen/WS Police

Council member Schroder mentioned that a neighbor of hers had their car tires slashed over the weekend. She said it happened on the night of the power outage, November 2, 2019.

Minutes of October 1, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2019 council meeting as presented. Council member Schroder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes of October 15, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

Council member Schroder made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2019 council meeting as corrected. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2019-10-701 Amending BMC 13.04.120, Service Classifications and Charges Designated for Water Service

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing on proposed ordinance 2019-10-701 Amending BMC 13.04.120, Service Classifications and Charges Designated for Water Service.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said she did not feel comfortable recommending approval until after a budget committee meeting was held.

Mayor Barnes closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2019-11-702 Amending BMC 13.24.030 Monthly Sewer Rates

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing on proposed ordinance 2019-11-702 Amending BMC 13.24.030 Monthly Sewer Rates.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said she did not feel comfortable recommending approval until after a budget committee meeting was held.

Mayor Barnes closed the public hearing.

Council member Mann made a motion to table proposed ordinance 2019-10-701 Amending BMC 13.04.120, Service Classifications and Charges Designated for Water Service, proposed ordinance 2019-11-702 Amending BMC 13.24.030 Monthly Sewer Rates, and the preliminary budget hearing until the meeting of November 19, 2019. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2020 BIAS Service Agreement

Council member Jones made a motion to authorize Mayor Barnes to sign the 2020 BIAS Service agreement after clarifying the accuracy of the tax rate. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2020 WGAP Youth Center Agreement

Council member Jones said he felt the cause was certainly worthy.

Council member O'Connor said he agreed.

Council member Mann asked Clerk Pantoja Wright if she was comfortable with the council approving the proposed agreement increasing the funding amount to \$8,000.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said it was the council's decision and she felt that it was appropriate. She said she felt the general fund could support the increase.

Mayor Betty J Barnes remarked that the Youth Center's new hire should be great asset, she understood that he worked well with the children.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve the 2020 WGAP Youth Center Agreement. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor and Council Comments

Council member O'Connor asked about the status of the quiet zone.

Mayor Barnes explained that funding was available for implementation, and she believed it would be concurrent with the new WSDOT underpass or just after that improvement. She said it would definitely be a couple of years. Barnes said the Federal Railroad Administration had already evaluated the risk but the underpass would change the traffic flow requiring a new traffic study to reevaluate the crossings.

Mayor Barnes said the funding had been set aside by legislature and was available in the current budget. She said the other consideration the City will be looking at is the maintenance for the crossings.

Council member O'Connor asked if the new crossing equipment at Walnut Street came from different funding.

Mayor Barnes explained that the Governor had ordered a review of all crossings for safety considering the high oil and coal train traffic, and that the legislature funded \$430,000 of upgrades to the Walnut Street crossing.

Mayor Barnes said she would place a follow up call to the Federal Railroad Administration, because at she and Public Works Superintendent Spratt had found their crossing records to be lacking or inaccurate.

Council member Kiewit asked if the work being done on SR 14 was to terminate connections to property purchased as right of way for the underpass project.

Clerk Pantoja Wright confirmed that Kiewit was correct and said North West Naturals had pulled their gas connections, and the City had pulled the water meters.

Mayor Barnes said she would be meeting with WSDOT the next day for an update.

Council member Kiewit asked about the status of obtaining a street sweeper or street sweeping services.

Mayor Barnes said she believed there was issues with timing when looking at working with the City of White Salmon. She said she would speak with Public Works Superintendent Spratt and to the City of White Salmon.

Clerk Pantoja Wright spoke to correct the record from a recent article in the Enterprise newspaper. She explained that contrary to what was reported, no bids had been received for any City of Bingen Treatment Plant project as the City had not yet advertised or solicited any bids. She said Nancy Wetch with Gray and Osborne was referring to other projects in the State when she mentioned high bids.

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 November 5, 2019.

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

Payroll Checks 21070-21074 and Payroll EFT (Dated 10/31/2019) totaling \$29,968.98 General Fund - \$13,492.00, Street Fund - \$4,669.62, Water Fund - \$3,211.63, Sewer Fund - \$589.14, Treatment Plant Fund - \$8,006.59.

Claims EFT (Dated 9/17/2019) totaling \$5,503.12. General Fund - \$315.55, Street Fund - \$30.33, Water Fund - \$4,079.89, Sewer Fund - \$472.74, Treatment Plant Fund - \$604.61.

Claims EFT (Dated 10/31/2019) totaling \$2,596.19. General Fund - \$49.44, Water Fund - \$2,004.48, Sewer Fund - \$250.03, Treatment Plant Fund - \$292.24.

Checks 21075-21106 totaling \$30,079.24. General Fund - \$7,147.11, Street Fund - \$1,928.41, Water Fund - \$5,772.88, Sewer Fund - \$842.89, Treatment Plant Fund - \$8,526.26, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund - \$5,861.69.

The council adjourned at 8:05 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor