

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES – May 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 pm. Council Members Present: Laura Mann, Phil Jones, Laura Mann, Isolde Schroeder. Staff Members Present: City Attorney Chris Lanz Audience Present: Ken Park, Jim & Deb Lambo, Police Chief Mike Hepner.

Bingen White Salmon Police Department Update

Police Chief Mike Hepner

Chief Hepner said the month of April had 39 calls, a third of which were in Bingen. He noted that two calls were house fires and that the fire department did great and worked very hard fighting both.

Council member Mann asked about the hazmat call listed.

Hepner said that call was actually at the Port of Klickitat's Bingen marina, for items compacted in a garbage truck.

Council member Mann asked about the high number of domestic violence calls. She asked if there were things the community could be doing to get the word out that we care about our families.

Hepner said that programs for peaceful living does a great job and that calls are sometimes are dispatched as domestic violence calls initially but end up as something else, which can run up the number.

Minutes 4/2/19

Council member Mann moved to table the minutes of 4/2/19. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes 4/16/19

Council member Mann moved to table the minutes of 4/16/19. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-04-695 Adopting BMC 3.07 Excise tax on Lodging

There was consensus to table the proposed ordinance pending requested changes.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-05-696 Amending BMC 10.14 Stopping, Standing, and Parking

Mayor Barnes explained the proposed changes to the parking spaces on W Steuben Street and mentioned that the changes were reviewed on site by herself, Chief Hepner, and Public Works Superintendent Spratt. She noted that the changes preserve the amount of existing parking spaces and allow for alley way access, as well as adding motorcycle parking.

Council member Kiewit said she thought the changes would provide a loading zone in front of the alley way.

Barnes said there was a 15 minute parking space blocking the alley, and said that with a loading zone it still allowed for temporary parking which made alley access difficult.

Council member Mann said she felt the alley entrance should be designated no parking.

Kiewit said she thought the alley entrance should be a loading zone with no parking and a motorcycle parking space to the west.

Council member Mann moved to adopt Proposed Ordinance 2019-05-696 Amending BMC 10.14 Stopping, Standing, and Parking as presented.

Council member Schroder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RFP for Land Use Planning Services

Council members agreed that they liked the RFP.

Council member Kiewit said she felt the language could be livelier.

Council member Mann said she felt the language was accurate and described the work needed to be done.

Council member Jones said it was the number one item on his agenda and he was glad to see it go out.

Old Business

Oh Joy of Joys

Mayor Barnes asked council if anyone had a comment on the letter written to the Northshore Foundation.

Council member Mann said she felt the letter was comprehensive and explained the council's previous discussion. She said she thought it addressed the concerns held by council. Mann said she was in favor of signing off on the letter.

Council member Schroder said she had reviewed the letter and thought it was succinct and made sense.

Council member Jones said he was on the fence. He said the letter certainly addressed all the concerns he had heard, but that he didn't necessarily feel the same concerns.

Council member O'Connor said it addressed his concerns, and that the bottom line of the letter was not against the sculpture. He noted that to him it felt like there had not been a lot of input specific to the city and residents of Bingen, which he felt was concerning. He said it was important that a piece of art that placed so prominently would reflect what the majority of the Bingen residents would like to see on that corner.

Mayor Barnes asked how to gather information on the thoughts of Bingen residents when the topic had been on the Council agenda for at least three meetings and nobody had come to comment on the installation.

Council member Kiewit said she thought the purpose of the letter was to explain that not everyone is unanimous on placement and there needs to be further discussion on where the artist, foundation, and community are flexible.

Council member Mann said regarding the public's input, that the council members do hear from the citizens, which is where the council members base their opinions. Mann said she felt the letter expressed what residents had said to her. Mann asked what the next step would be.

Council member Kiewit said she would like to see a connection made between the Northshore Foundation and the Hood River Arts Council. She said the statue itself is done and the bronze had been poured. She said according to the artist, the sculpture is mobile in terms of disassembly and reassembly.

Kip Miller introduced himself as the Community Relations Contact for Insitu and as a board member for the Mt Adams Chamber of Commerce as well as a board member for the Northshore Foundation.

Mayor Barnes clarified that this statue was not the only installation the Foundation sees being installed in Bingen.

Miller said the idea was to create an art walk. He said when visiting cities, tourists notice beautiful art and having it installed in a town leaves something for travelers and visitors to remember. He said he thought it would be great for Bingen.

Mayor Barnes asked if the Northshore Foundation would be open to meeting with the Hood River Arts Council.

Miller said yes, absolutely, and clarified that the meeting would be to obtain a recommendation from the Arts Council on moving forward with the statue installation.

Council member Kiewit said yes, to collaborate on process for the program.

Council member Mann asked if the statue would be unveiled at the Art and Wine Fusion Festival.

Miller said yes, that was the intent

Council member Schroder asked if the Foundation needed confirmation on placement to move forward.

Council member Mann said by the flagpole in the raised area on the sidewalk was her first choice.

Council member Schroder said she liked that spot as well as the corner where the Christmas tree had been placed. She said the bulb out was her last choice.

Council member Jones said he liked less cramped locations for visibility and accessibility.

Council member Kiewit said the artist was going to want the best visibility and that he had indicated to her that he wanted it to be viewed when driven by, but would also like to consider the pedestrian impacts.

Council member Jones asked about the space in the public parking lot.

Council member Kiewit pointed out that that placement had less visual interruptions.

Council member Schroder said she would like to keep the art ‘walk’ in mind.

Council member O’Connor said he was interested in the option of the public parking lot.

Mayor Barnes said the Public Works Department needed easy access to that corner for maintenance of the grate on Dry Creek.

Miller asked that the dialogue be kept open and said he would contact the Arts Council. He apologized for putting the cart before the horse and said that the way the project came together had made the situation develop very rapidly.

Council member Mann apologized for the delayed response from council.

Council member Mann asked about the west end of the public parking lot.

Council member Kiewit said that the west end might have visual competition from the skate park and other signage.

Mayor Barnes said to also think about drivers and the potential for accidents in the parking lot.

Miller said he wanted it to be a fun project to be proud of. He said the input from council was valuable and appreciated.

There was a consensus to address the placement at the next meeting.

Custom Interface – Water Leak Adjustment

The council instructed Clerk-Treasurer Willey to bring a credit for the sewer overages, contingent on irrigation line installation before council for approval.

Proposed White Salmon Dry Creek Development

City Attorney Chris Lanz said he had sent the council’s comments to the City of White Salmon regarding the SEPA review.

Intern

Mayor Barnes asked that Public Works and the Clerk’s office write up job descriptions for possible future temporary employees.

The Society Hotel Encroachment of Public Right-of-Way

The council asked that City Attorney Chris Lanz create an agreement with The Society Hotel stating that the trees, the fence, and the sprinkler system installed in the City’s right-of-way are

The Society Hotel's responsibility for liability, regular maintenance, and immediate removal at the City's request. The council wanted it to be stated in the agreement that the City was in no way is a granting public property to The Society Hotel.

Council member Kiewit said she thought it was the responsibility of The Society Hotel to come present their proposal to council for right-of-way improvements.

Council member Schroder said she understood, and said she felt that for this to be forgiven she felt The Society Hotel owed the City and residents an explanation.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Mayor Barnes said she did interview with City Vision Magazine entitled *Two Cities, One Community*.

Council member Schroder said her daughter had participated in a project called "Everybody rides", where the Public Transportation Alliance filmed short videos at Rheingarten Park in White Salmon.

Council member Kiewit mentioned the White salmon Pool's 2019 closure. She said the City of White Salmon was discussing buying passes for their residents, and suggested that Bingen look into it as well.

Council member Kiewit also mentioned that the school bus driver had been unable to reach the bus stop due to construction from Northwest Natural Gas.

Staff Updates

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said that a total of 82 bags, 9 large piles, and 4.5 truck loads of debris were picked up as part of the Community Pride event.

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 7, 2019.

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

Payroll Checks 20704-20705 and Payroll EFT (Dated 4/30/2019) totaling \$9,611.14 General Fund - \$1,489.17, Street Fund - \$2,387.86, Water Fund - \$1,618.84, Sewer Fund - \$299.19, Treatment Plant Fund - \$3,816.08.

EFT (Dated 4/30/2019) totaling \$2,120.46. General Fund - \$16.16, Street Fund - \$12.94, Water Fund - \$1,632.11, Sewer Fund - \$218.72, Treatment Plant Fund - \$240.53.

Checks 20706-20744 totaling \$64,009.58. General Fund - \$36,379.97, Street Fund - \$4,089.11, Water Fund - \$12,254.60, Sewer Fund - \$1,118.64, Treatment Plant Fund - \$5,135.66, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund - \$5,031.60.

The council adjourned at 9:40 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor