

## **BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**DRAFT – January 21, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J Barnes at 7:05 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Phil Jones, Ryan O'Connor, Isolde Schroder (via phone). Staff present: Clerk-Treasurer Cheyenne Pantoja Wright, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz, Police Chief Mike Hepner. Audience present: Jacob Bertram, Blair Carroll, Steve Carroll, Doug Barnard, Janet O'Sullivan, Joseph O'Sullivan.

### **Oath of office – Isolde Schroder**

Mayor Barnes informed the council that Isolde Schroder was sworn in at City Hall last week due to the fact that she would be not physically present at this meeting.

### **Bingen/White Salmon Police**

Chief Hepner said calls in Bingen for the month of December made up more of the total call volume than usual. Hepner noted that domestic calls had increased around the Holiday season. He noted several motor vehicle thefts in the last couple of months and said with help from everyone on the department, two arrests were made and three of the cases solved.

Hepner noted that collisions in both cities had been frequent in 2019, although more so in White Salmon due to line of sight issues and congestion. He attributed most other collisions to inattentive driving.

Council member Kiewit asked about any collisions that might be helpful to demonstrate a need for safety upgrades when applying for a City Safety Grant.

The council directed Clerk Pantoja Wright to request accident reports from the Bingen White Salmon Police Department.

Chief Hepner mentioned the recent rash of vandalism. He said vandalism is hard to prove but usually stops when officers make contact with persons out late at night. He clarified that the camera system at Daubenspeck Park was not useful in this case since the vandalism occurred on the other side of town.

### **Minutes of January 7, 2019 Regular Council Meeting**

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2019 council meeting. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Hearing – Proposed Conditional Use Permit 2020-001 Carroll**

Mayor Betty J Barnes opened the public hearing for Conditional Use Permit 2020-001. She asked the council if they had spoken with anyone about the application, or if they stood to gain anything financially from the permit being approved or denied.

The council answered no.

Clerk Pantoja Wright explained the basis of the conditional use being requested and noted a verbal comment received from Bingen resident Carl Warren. She said Warren wanted the ground floor of any building on the lot in question to remain commercial, and asked that the council review any conditional use permits on a "case by case" basis.

Proponent Blair Carroll said she felt the potential for the lot was very exciting. She noted her business Mugs Cafe had been a Bingen establishment for ten years, and said the longevity said a lot about her belief in the City of Bingen and the community. Carroll said her passion is to stay in Bingen and see the town continue to grow. She said she loves going to work where she knows her customers and her customers know her. Carroll said when Mugs Cafe was taken from her, she proved her loyalty to the community by reopening so quickly.

Proponent Steve Carroll said he planned to utilize space that was previously a patio to allow for a larger floor plan for the proposed building.

Council member Kiewit asked if they planned to leave space in the back for parking. She asked about the existing residential building left standing after the fire that burned the original building. She said the staff report listed removal of the residential building as a solution to meeting the requirement of 50% maximum building space being used for residential purposes.

Carroll said he saw the parcel as two separate lots and didn't understand why the residential building would have to be addressed at all.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to continue the hearing to the meeting of February 4, 2020. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **Public Hearing Proposed Conditional Use Permit 2020-002 Barnard**

Mayor Betty J Barnes opened the public hearing for Conditional Use Permit 2020-002. She asked the council if they had spoken with anyone about the application, or if they stood to gain anything financially from the permit being approved or denied.

The council answered no.

Clerk Pantoja Wright read a letter from Bingen land owner Dennis Rondorf.

Mayor Barnes clarified that the property owner needed to sign the application as well, as she was the true proponent of the conditional use application.

Doug Barnard stated that he did not foresee parking being an issue as most of his chiropractic appointments last for one or two hours. He noted that the block of Jefferson Street in question was very quiet.

Council member Jones made a motion to continue the hearing to the meeting of February 4, 2020. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **Resolution 2020-001**

Mayor Barnes asked the council to recall Resolution 2019-005 passed in October of 2019. She said Resolution 2019-005 was in response to the State passing Substitute House Bill 1406, and stated the City of Bingen's intent to set aside the appropriate sales tax aside for affordable housing. Barnes reminded the council that the intent at the time was to have Klickitat County collect the funds for Bingen, White Salmon, and Goldendale, to be used in a manner benefitting all three cities and county residents in the future, with input from all parties.

Barnes explained that after further development, it was decided that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the County and all three cities would be the best way to go about achieving that goal, so the proposed resolution repealed resolution 2019-005 to allow an MOU to be signed.

Council member Jones made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-001 Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**MOU between Klickitat County and the Cities of Bingen, White Salmon, and Goldendale regarding SHB 1406, Affordable Housing.**

Council member Jones made a motion to approve the proposed MOU between Klickitat County and the Cities of Bingen, White Salmon, and Goldendale regarding SHB 1406, Affordable Housing. Council member O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**2020 committee appointments**

The Mayor and Council discussed current committee appointments and agreed on the following appointments:

Mayor Pro Tempore:	Kiewit
Budget Committee:	Kiewit, Jones
Water & Sewer Committee:	Schroder, O'Connor
Streets & Parks Committee:	Schroder, Jones
Fire Board:	Jones

Mayor Barnes noted that former council member Laura Mann served on the SWAC (Solid Waste) committee, and that she hoped to have Mann bring a new appointee up to speed.

**Old Business**

*2020 goals & Priorities*

Mayor Barnes mentioned new banners for downtown being something she was interested in. She asked that the Public Works Department and the Clerk's office gather cost and design information to share with council and the Streets & Parks committee.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said she and Public Works Superintendent Spratt had discussed new banners recently, and they both supported the idea. She said she would talk with Spratt and gather some information.

Council member Schroder said she supported the idea of new banners.

Council member Kiewit have we heard back from WS  
Mayor Barnes no, will call this week

*Council vacancy*

Mayor Barnes said advertisements had gone out for the vacant council position, and that the Clerk's office had designed an application for potential candidates to use in order to streamline the process. She said interested citizens were being advised to attend a council meeting.

Janet and Joseph O’Sullivan were present in the audience and expressed an interest in the vacant council seat. They explained they had lived in various other cities and always have had an interest in being more involved in their community, specifically in local government.

Council member Kiewit said she liked the accessibility of the current council, and invited the O’Sullivans to attend council meetings whether they ended up serving or not.

*Proposed Amendment to the 2020 ERU agreement with White Salmon*

Mayor Barnes said she had not received a response from the City of White Salmon yet.

*Status of PUD/WSDOT lights*

Clerk Pantoja Wright said that she had not updated the map with PW Superintendent Spratt yet, but that she hoped to have that ready for the next council meeting.

**Mayor Update and Council Comments**

Mayor Barnes said Council member Kiewit would not be present at the meeting of February 4, 2020. She confirmed with Council members Schroder, O’Connor, and Jones would be attending to make a quorum.

**Executive Session**

Mayor Barnes announced at 8:15 p.m. 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 8:25 p.m. the Council resumed regular session.

**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 January 21, 2020.

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

Payroll Checks 21247-21261 and Payroll EFT (Dated 1/15/2020) totaling \$21,753.82 General Fund - \$8,575.75, Street Fund - \$3,753.33, Water Fund - \$3,211.62, Sewer Fund - \$589.12, Treatment Plant Fund - \$7,880.02.

Checks 21262 -21270 (Dated 12/31/2019) totaling \$9,554.04. General Fund - \$1,381.60, Street Fund - \$169.02, Water Fund - \$432.33, Sewer Fund - \$189.03, Treatment Plant Fund - \$175.77, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund \$7,206.29.

Checks 21271 -21286 (Dated 1/21/2020) totaling \$88,182.83. General Fund - \$83,716.15, Street Fund - \$858.93, Water Fund - \$1,879.89, Sewer Fund - \$58.92, Treatment Plant Fund - \$1,668.94.

The council adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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City Clerk

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Mayor