

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

DRAFT – October 20, 2020

Meeting Via Teleconference

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J Barnes at 7:00 pm. Council members present: Phil Jones, Ryan O’Connor, Catherine Kiewit, Joseph O’Sullivan, Isolde Schroder. Staff present: City Clerk Cheyenne Pantoja Wright, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz.

Police Department Update

Council member Kiewit mentioned emails she had sent to the police department regarding the 5-person limit at the skatepark. She suggested the skatepark may need to be closed again if the public was not adhering to the rules listed in the signage.

Chief Hepner said he had driven by a few times and never observed more than 5 people in the skatepark at one time.

Mayor Barnes said it was made clear to council that enforcing a capacity limit at the skatepark would be very difficult and noted that staff had shared concerns about limited personnel resources and enforcement. She said she was surprised that the council would consider closing the skate park again after pushing for the skatepark to be reopened despite the concerns that had been voiced.

Council member Schroder suggested signage reading “Crowds lead to Closures”, similar to other local parks.

Clerk Pantoja Wright said she had seen groups of over 30 people gathered at the skatepark with no social distancing or masks, and that she had been approached by members of the community about the capacity limit and reopening park features.

Minutes of October 6, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

It was noted that Joseph O’Sullivan was present at that meeting.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 council meeting as corrected. Council member Schroder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 2020-007 Hood River – White Salmon Interstate Replacement Bridge MOU

Mayor Barnes explained that the MOU did not commit the City to anything other than agreeing to work together with other local agencies. Barnes clarified that she and Council member Schroder were to represent the City of Bingen as member and alternate of the Bi-State Working Group.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve the Resolution 2020-007 as presented. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposal for Payment Plan – Past Due Utility Accounts

Clerk Pantoja Wright presented her proposal for resolving past due balances accrued by utility customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. She asked if the council had any feedback or suggestions.

The council discussed the payment plan and noted that any information sent out to customers regarding the issue should be sent in both English and Spanish.

It was noted that any payment plan approved would not take effect until the restrictions on late fee assessment and utility shut offs were lifted by the State Governor.

Council member O'Connor made a motion to table the proposed payment plan. Council member Schroder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Local Government Coronavirus Relief Funds Certification #1

It was noted that the portable restroom costs were not included on form A-19.

Council member O'Connor made a motion to approve the Local Government Coronavirus Relief Funds Certification #1. Council member O'Sullivan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ISP and Antenna Placement Agreement – Mosier WiNet

There was a consensus to table the agreement until the regularly scheduled meeting of November 3, 2020.

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 October 20, 2020.

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

Payroll Checks 21836-21841, and Payroll EFT (Dated 10/15/2020) totaling \$20,777.81 General Fund - \$8,252.04, Street Fund - \$4,142.34, Water Fund - \$2698.82, Sewer Fund - \$430.57, Treatment Plant Fund - \$5,254.04.

Motion: O'Connor
Second: Kiewit

Checks 21842-21860 dated 10/20/2020 totaling \$23,427.75. General Fund - \$4,020.21, Street Fund - \$817.78, Water Fund - \$995.33, Sewer Fund - \$138.12, Treatment Plant Fund - \$2,766.68, Water Capital Reserve Fund \$14,689.63.

Motion: Jones
Second: Kiewit

The council adjourned at 8:00 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor