**BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**October 17, 2023**

**Meeting Via Teleconference and In-Person**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Catherine Kiewit at 7:00 p.m.

Council members present: Phil Jones, Ryan O’Connor, Joe O’Sullivan, Izzy Schroder and Brittany Spratt. Staff present: City Administrator Krista Loney, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz. Audience present: Michael Stahl, Carmen Knopes, Kristen MacLeod, Dan McDonald

**Public Comment**

None.

**Meeting Minutes – 10/3/2023**

Mayor Kiewit had a correction to the public comment that Rich Polkinghorn, Superintendent of the White Salmon Valley School District attended to introduce himself. Councilor O’Connor had a clarifying question about the $125M that is needed from both Washington and Oregon for the bridge. It was clarified that $125M is needed, Washington has already committed $75M of the $125M and Oregon has not committed anything at this time. Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the October 3, 2023 meeting minutes with corrections. Councilor O’Connor provided the second and the motion carried.

**Klickitat County Sheriff’s Office Presentation on Flock Cameras**

Under Sheriff Carmen Knopes and Flock employee Kristen MacLeod attended Council to speak about Flock cameras. Knopes stated that Klickitat County is 1900 square miles and there are usually three deputies patrolling at a time. She stated that crime is on the rise and there have been three kidnappings this month. Knopes is working with Flock Cameras to do a pilot program with five cameras for sixty days and that cameras will be placed at “choke points” into the County.

Kristen MacLeod presented about the history of Flock Cameras. The cameras are triggered by motion and capture a still image of each vehicle as it passes. The images are uploaded and live in a protected location for 30 days. The technology stores the “fingerprint” of the vehicle: license plate, make/model, color, and other identifiers such as roof rack, tow hitch, or bumper stickers. When an alert is placed for a specific license plate that may have been part of a crime, the network can send a text message to local law enforcement immediately upon a Flock camera “seeing” the vehicle.

Administrator Loney asked Under Sheriff Knopes if she had spoken to Bingen-White Salmon Police Chief Mike Hepner. Knopes said that she had and that Chief Hepner is generally in support but doesn’t have the budget to participate.

Councilor O’Sullivan asked what sets the 30-day timer for captured images. Flock employee Kristen MacLeod stated that the 30 days is the standard that Flock is trying to set as 30 days gives enough time for law enforcement to review images while also protecting privacy of individuals.

Administrator Loney asked MacLeod if the 30 days is a rolling timer to the minute. MacLeod stated that the 30 days is to the second.

Audience member Michael Stahl asked if it was possible in the Flock system to break down the vehicle fingerprint into just text and store the information for a longer time. MacLeod said she didn’t know if that was possible.

Councilor O’Sullivan asked how often images are taken by a Flock camera. MacLeod stated that the camera is triggered by motion and takes a still image every time a vehicle passes by. It was likened to a toll camera.

Mayor Kiewit asked if Flock cameras work in all levels of lighting without a flash. MacLeod stated that Flock cameras can function in all lighting situations.

Mayor Kiewit asked how the Flock cameras handle temporary tags in vehicles or when drivers have a distortion cover on their license plate. MacLeod stated that Flock is constantly working to improve the technology and that there are some limitations.

Mayor Kiewit asked to see an example of a nighttime photo. MacLeod did not have one with her and that she would follow up with one.

Mayor Kiewit asked if Flock is pulling data from a national database. MacLeod and Knopes stated that Amber alerts and silver alerts get pulled into the system from NCIC.

Councilor Schroder asked what the fault rate is for the technology. MacLeod stated that each Flock camera image is provided with a confidence level. When the image is clear the confidence level is high. When the image is unclear the confidence level is lower.

Councilor O’Sullivan asked what the year-over-year crime rate increase is in Klickitat County. Under Sheriff Knopes didn’t have this information with her but gave an example in Lyle. In the previous six months there have been over 400 calls in the City of Lyle. Many calls to the sheriff’s office are fentanyl and meth related.

Mayor Kiewit asked Under Sheriff Knopes if it will be advertised that these cameras are installed in the county. Knopes stated that the cameras would be put in conspicuous places.

**Ordinance 2023-11-744 2023 Budget Amendment #4**

Administrator Loney provided a memo to Council stating that the purpose of this budget amendment is to get the ending balances for the 2023 budget as close as possible to where we think they will be as these ending balances for 2023 drive the beginning balances for 2024. Council reviewed the proposed budget changes.

Councilor O’Sullivan made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-11-744. Councilor Jones provided the second and the motion carried.

**Vacation Rental Discussion, Continued**

Administrator Loney presented the revised vacation rental code and documents. The permit application fee was presented at $125 and the annual permit fee was presented at $285. The application was adjusted so that any items that had to be initialed to indicate agreement/compliance would be initialed after the statement. Code modifications were made in red ink to be noticeable. Mayor Kiewit asked for a Vacation Rental checklist to be created as part of the Vacation Rental application packet. The public hearing regarding the proposed code and application process will be noticed and held at the November 7, 2023 Council meeting.

**Commercial Zoning and Parking Discussion, Continued**

Council began discussing commercial zoning and parking. Mayor Kiewit pointed out that the City of Leavenworth would be a good resource to discuss parking in the commercial zone. Leavenworth now only allows short-term rentals in the Commercial zone. Mayor Kiewit asked Administrator Loney to add parking in the commercial zone to the economic development planning that is forthcoming with CERB funding. Council discussed having a central city lot and asking people to walk to their apartment above a commercial space. Councilor Schroder made a motion to table this discussion until more research can be done. Councilor O’Connor provided the second and the motion carried.

**September 2023 Treasurers Report**

Administrator Loney provided the September 2023 Coversheet and Treasurers Report and all is as it should be. Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the September 2023 Treasurers Report. Councilor Spratt provided the second and the motion carried.

**Staff Updates**

Administrator Loney had the following updates for Council:

* The Amtrak platform work will conclude in December, they are waiting on the handrail.
* The CARES Act funding that Bingen gave to WAGAP to help residents pay their utility bills during the pandemic is now full expended. Many thanks to WAGAP for managing that for the City.
* The water rights extension letter has been mailed into Ecology and is awaiting approval.
* Mayor Kiewit, Superintendent of Public Works David Spratt, and Administrator Loney met with Gray and Osborne this week to create a tentative plan to replace the leaking 2” waterline along East Steuben. G&O is working on a quote to replace the line in the area that will be impacted by the roundabout and underpass work. Once that quote is ready, Loney and Kiewit will meet with WSDOT about an advanced relocate agreement for the line.
* There is one final commercial kitchen in town that needs a grease interceptor for the grease interceptor project to be complete.
* Loney is out of office October 25-27.

**Mayor’s Update and Council Comments**

Mayor Kiewit attended an Association of Washington Cities Mayor Exchange in Leavenworth on October 13. At that event one hour was dedicated to the mayors sharing issues that they have with their council. Mayor Kiewit was one of two mayors who have a Council that works together respectfully. She thanked Council for their service and being wonderful.

Mayor Kiewit met with the WSDOT Environmental team on October 16 about trees and stormwater at the Port of Klickitat that will result from the roundabout and underpass installation. They will not be able to preserve many trees and the trees will have to be replaced based on the trees that are being removed. This might trigger a Critical Areas Ordinance review. Mayor Kiewit stated that there is a huge oak tree on the Port side that they will try to work around. She asked permission for the city to save or repurpose the wood from the trees that will be taken out and was told that we can.

Mayor Kiewit spoke with Forth about getting snow tires on the carshare car. Administrator Loney informed her that Stefenie Griggs from Forth mentioned in a meeting today that the tires will be purchased and Forth will work with a local mobile service provider to install the tires.

Councilor Spratt attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting on October 12 on behalf of Mayor Kiewit. Brittany had 30 packets about Bingen’s Centennial Celebration and they all were taken at the meeting. Councilor Spratt also attended a White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District presentation with the Klickitat County Commissioners on October 17. The Pool was at the County Commissioners meeting to ask for matching funds in the amount of $175,000 to match what the Cities of Bingen and White Salmon pledged. Councilor Spratt stated that the commissioners would not provide funding due to upcoming budget cuts but pledged their verbal support.

**Voucher Approval**

Claims Check (Dated 10/4/2023) totaling $322,781.72; Water Capital Reserve Fund - $322,781.72.

Councilor O’Connor made a motion to approve the Claims dated October 4, 2023. Councilor Spratt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Payroll Checks (Dated 10/13/2023) and Payroll EFT (Dated 10/13/2023) totaling $30,881.26; General Fund - $10,623.30, Street Fund - $4,949.69, Water Fund - $2,925.96, Sewer Fund - $886.54 and Treatment Plant Fund - $11,495.77.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the Payroll dated October 13, 2023. Councilor Spratt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Claims Checks (Dated 10/17/2023) totaling $168,851.12; General Fund - $36,165.24, Street Fund - $4,056.56, Water Fund - $94,841.06, Sewer Fund - $551.21, Treatment Plant Fund - $10,318.22, and Water Capital Reserve Fund - $94,841.06

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the Claims dated October 17, 2023. Councilor Spratt

seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Kiewit adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.