**BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**October 3, 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, Fire Chief Carl Spratt. Audience present: Lily Von Mosch, Steven Harris, Michael Stahl, Rich Polkinghorn.

**Public Comment**

Rich Polkinghorn, Superintendent of the White Salmon Valley School District, attended Council to introduce himself.

**Meeting Minutes – 9/19/2023**

Councilor Spratt found a typo in the meeting minutes under the Public Hearing – Ordinance 2023-08-741. “Amding” was changed in the meeting minutes to “Amending.” Councilor O’Connor made a motion to approve the September 19, 2023 meeting minutes as corrected. Councilor Jones provided the second and the motion carried. Councilor O’Sullivan abstained from voting due to being absent for the September 19 meeting.

**Bingen Fire Update**

Chief Spratt shared the September 2023 fire report. The BFD responded to 38 incidents in September: 4 in Bingen, 34 elsewhere. Engine 35 should be back in service next week after having the transmission replaced. Mobilization payments for the state fires have not been paid yet. Chief Spratt stated that the BFD is putting in additional effort to track the hours that the station is staffed and the monthly maintenance that is happening to fire equipment.

**Bingen Police Update**

Chief Hepner was not able to attend and did not send a report.

**White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District Presentation**

Lily Von Mosch and Steven Harris attended Council on behalf of the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District. The plan for the pool is an 8-lane, 25-yard pool with a 3600 square foot building. The latest cost estimate is $7.14 million. The WSVPMPD has $1.3 million in donations and has raised $900,000 from the levy. They will be meeting with Senator King, Representative Chris Corry, and Representative Gina Mosbrucker to seek support from the state. The pool has retained a fundraising firm. The pool will be writing four Washington State Recreation and Conservation Organization (RCO) grants.

Mayor Kiewit asked how confident the pool is in their estimates. Steven stated that the pool hired Kirby and Associates for these estimates, and they are a professional cost estimator.

Mayor Kiewit asked what the pool will do if the RCO grants and ear marks don’t come through. Their plan is to continue with legislative requests.

**Oak Street Progress Estimate #2**

Gray and Osborne sent in progress estimate 2 but nobody from Gray and Osborne attended the meeting to explain the estimate. There were some questions regarding the math being correct. Councilor O’Connor made a motion to approve progress estimate 2 on the condition that Council will receive supporting documentation that the math is correct. Councilor Jones provided the second and the motion carried.

**Resolution 2023-017 Adopting the Shoreline Master Program**

Administrator Loney provided a memo stating that the shoreline master program has been approved by Ecology and needs to be formally adopted. Councilor O’Connor made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-017 Adopting the Shoreline Master Program. Councilor O’Sullivan provided the second and the motion carried.

**Vacation Rental Discussion, Continued**

Administrator Loney provided a memo with the work that had been done so far including a limit of 10% or 32 units, removal of the 50-mile radius owner residency requirement, limit of one vacation rental per licensee, and discussion of the term of license.

Council came to consensus around 5 years for the term of the annual license. Council removed the last line of 5.16.080.C. Council adjusted 5.16.090.D to be a self-inspection. Council changed the terminology in 5.16.100.5.b and 5.16.100.B. Council changed the penalty under 5.16.110.A to “up to” $250. Council changed the terminology under 5.16.120.A and 5.16.120.D. Administrator Loney will make the changes to the draft code and send it to City Attorney Chris Lanz.

Council reviewed the draft application. The items to initial on pages 2 and 3 should have the lines for initials moved to the right. Council will review the code and the application packet at the next meeting with plans to hold the public hearing at the following meeting.

**Commercial Zoning Code Discussion**

Council reviewed the draft commercial zoning code. Councilor O’Connor made a motion to table this discussion to a future meeting. Councilor Schroder provided the second and the motion carried.

**Staff Updates**

Administrator Loney had the following updates for Council:

* CERB funding was awarded. Loney will meet with Chris Zahas at Leland consulting to scope the project.
* The Oak Street reservoir was being cut apart today.
* Paperwork to closeout the North Cascades Bank loan was mailed and the wire transfer is complete.
* Loney is working with a resident on a boundary line adjustment and short plat.
* The grease interceptor project is still being finalized.
* Budget committee met and there will be a budget amendment at the next Council meeting.

**Mayor’s Update and Council Comments**

Mayor Kiewit was part of a Joint Transportation Committee 3-day tour of bridges and transportation projects. She was able to speak about the progress of the underpass and roundabout. The new bridge needs $125 million each from Washington and Oregon. A commitment of $75 million is in place from Washington State. Bingen’s representative on the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority, Doug Gibson, is doing well but occasionally misses meetings due to other commitments.

**Voucher Approval**

Payroll Checks (Dated 9/29/2023) and Payroll EFT (Dated 9/29/2023) totaling $40,289.47; General Fund - $12,612.21, Street Fund - $6,915.77, Water Fund - $4,025.83, Sewer Fund - $1,227.06 and Treatment Plant Fund - $15,508.60.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the Payroll dated September 29, 2023. Councilor Schroder seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Claims Checks (Dated 10/3/2023) totaling $271,145.21; General Fund - $52,901.42, Street Fund - $2,682.03, Water Fund - $22,248.82, Sewer Fund - $345.85, Treatment Plant Fund - $7,875.19, Waster Short-Lived Assets Reserve - $1,360.95 and Water Capital Reserve Fund - $183,730.95

Councilor O’Connor made a motion to approve the Claims dated October 3, 2023. Councilor Spratt

seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Kiewit adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.