**BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**June 6, 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, and Brittany Spratt. Staff present: City Administrator Krista Loney, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz.

Audience Present: Miriam Knowles, Randy Knowles, Janet O’Sullivan, Jim Smith, Michael Stahl

**Public Comment**

Janet O’Sullivan shared concerns about the meeting about the Hood River – White Salmon Bridge that was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. She stated that she asked the same question to three different representatives at the meeting and received three different answers. She felt that the event was organized in a way that separated the community as individuals and that the community perspective was lost.

Randy Knowles echoed Janet O’Sullivan’s comments. Miriam Knowles thanked Council for the work that they do.

**Meeting Minutes – 5/16/2023**

Mayor Kiewit identified a change to the minutes – she did not adjourn the meeting as she was not in attendance. Mayor Pro Tempore O’Sullivan adjourned the meeting. Councilor Jones made a motion to accept the May 16, 2023 meeting minutes with the identified changes. Councilor O’Sullivan provided the second and the motion carried.

**Bingen Fire Department Update**

Fire Chief Carl Spratt shared the May 2023 call response data. Bingen has responded to 151 calls so far this year. The transmission repair on Brush 37 should be done by the end of this week. Chief Spratt met the WSRB to evaluate the insurance rating for the Bingen Fire Department. Items for the BFD to work on include recordkeeping specific to training, documenting monthly rig checks, and logging any time spent at the fire station.

Mayor Kiewit inquired how the fire department tracks time spent in the station. Chief Spratt answered that the logs are hand-written and the safety checks re done but sometimes the crew forgets to log the data. Mayor Kiewit suggested that Bingen pursue a grant for data collection and asked how Hood River tracks their in-station time. Chief Spratt will ask how Fire District 3 tracks their time.

**Bingen Police Update**

Chief Hepner was unable to attend the meeting.

**Klickitat County PUD Presentation**

Jim Smith, Klickitat PUD General Manager, and Randy Knowles, Klickitat PUD Commissioner, attended City Council to provide an update on goings-on at Klickitat PUD. Key points from their presentation include:

* KPUD purchases 80% of their power from the Bonneville Power Administration for $35 per block; the remaining 20% is purchased on the market for between $70 and $90 per block.
* The increase in electric vehicles is creating a large draw on the power grid; adding 1000 EVs is equivalent to adding 1000 to 2000 new homes to the power grid.
* KPUD is working on an advanced metering project with new meters installed by spring of 2024; this project will provide hourly data on utilization.
* The rate structure is going to change to rates that include a base fee, a utilization fee, and a demand fee.

**Nomination to serve on Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority**

Mayor Kiewit informed Council that the City of Bingen needs to submit a nomination for the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority Board. Mayor Kiewit submitted Doug Gibson, CEO of Underwood Fruit, as a candidate. Councilor Joe O’Sullivan nominated Michael Stahl stating that Michael is level-headed and has a strong knowledge of the area and of folks who will be impacted by higher bridge tolls.

Councilor O’Sullivan made a motion to nominate both Doug Gibson and Michael Stahl to as potential board members for the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority Board. Councilor Jones provided the second and the motion carried.

**Public Hearing for Resolution 2023-007 Adopting a 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program**

Mayor Kiewit opened the public hearing at 8:12 p.m. Council reviewed the draft Transportation Improvement Program that was put forth by the Streets and Parks Committee. There was no public comment. Mayor Kiewit closed the public hearing at 8:15 p.m. Councilor Jones made a motion to adopt the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program. Councilor O’Sullivan provided the second and the motion carried.

**Public Hearing for Resolution 2023-008 Authorizing a Grant Application for CERB Funding**

Mayor Kiewit opened the public hearing at 8:16 p.m. Administrator Loney explained that the Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority (KCPEDA) board asked Bingen to apply for Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) funding as part of the KCPEDA award. The CERB application requires an authorizing resolution. There was no public comment. Mayor Kiewit closed the public hearing at 8:18 p.m. Councilor O’Connor made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-008. Councilor Jones provided the second, and the motion carried.

**Award Water Main Extension Contract**

Bingen sent out a Request for Proposals for engineering firms to handle the discovery, preliminary design and engineering of the proposed water line. Bingen received proposals from Bell Design Company and Gray and Osborne. Mayor Kiewit and Administrator Loney reviewed the proposals, as did the Water and Sewer Committee. Councilor O’Sullivan recused himself from the discussion as he has a relationship in a professional context with Bell Design Company. Councilor O’Connor presented the overview from Water and Sewer committee. The qualifications are similar, the approach is similar, and the costs are similar. Given that Bell Design is physically at the work location and the source funds are for economic development, Councilor Jones made a motion to award the contract to Bell Design Company. Councilor O’Connor provided the second and the motion carried. Councilor O’Sullivan abstained from voting.

**Staff Updates**

Administrator Loney had the following updates for Council:

* Smoke testing is happening in Bingen on June 8.
* The signage for the Bingen Fire Department will be installed next week.
* The Grease interceptor project is still incomplete.
* A young couple purchased and will be operating Sweet Things.

**Mayor’s Update and Council Comments**

Mayor Kiewit had the following updates for Council:

* The SR-14 intertie has been acting up with the valve not opening and not alarming. The issue has been identified as part of the transition to VOIP phones. RadComp was brought in to fix the issues. Bingen is currently doing some testing.
* The next Centennial group meeting is June 16. She has written a tribal land acknowledgement and is traveling to Toppenish on June 7 to meet with the Yakama Nation Tribal Council.
* She presented at the Rotary meeting on June 6 and they were most interested in the underpass, EV charging, and housing.
* First review of applications for the Treatment Plant operator in training position is this Friday.

Councilor O’Connor had the following updates for Council:

* He met with Frank Sinclair at the Treatment Plant. Frank is focused on writing Standard Operating Procedures and cleanup.
* The Treatment Plant would like another visit with the Water and Sewer Committee and would like an increased council presence.

Councilor O’Sullivan had the following updates for Council:

* The Memorial Day event at the White Salmon cemetery was lovely and somber.
* He backs up the comments made by Janet O’Sullivan regarding the bridge toll event. Nobody felt heard. He states that there can be no healing about what has happened [Port of Hood River tolling] without the Port of Hood River Board Commissioners sitting in front of the Bingen/White Salmon community and letting people voice their anger.

**Voucher Approval**

Payroll Checks (Dated 5/31/2023) and Payroll EFT (Dated 5/31/2023) totaling $36,014.08; General Fund - $12,274.92, Street Fund - $6,778.12, Water Fund - $3,921.03, Sewer Fund - $1,188.21, and Treatment Plant Fund - $11,851.80.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the Payroll dated May 31, 2023. Councilor O’Connor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Claims Checks (Dated 6/6/2023) and Claims EFT (Dated 6/6/2023) totaling $73,491.51; General Fund - $41,987, Street Fund - $2,522.06, Water Fund - $17,230.46, Sewer Fund - $4,077.52, Treatment Plant Fund - $4,303.45, Water Short-Lived Assets Reserve - $2,679.71, and Water Capital Reserve Fund - $691.31.

Councilor Jones made a motion to approve the Claims dated June 6, 2023. Councilor O’Sullivan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Kiewit adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.