

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 15, 2023

Meeting Via Teleconference and In-Person

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Catherine Kiewit at 7:01 p.m.

Council members present: Phil Jones, Joe O’Sullivan, Izzy Schroder and Brittany Spratt. Staff present: City Administrator Krista Loney, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting Minutes – 8/1/2023

Councilor Spratt made a motion to approve the minutes from August 1, 2023. Councilor O’Sullivan provided the second and the motion carried.

Water System Plant Update Presentation from Gray and Osborne

Abbey McDonald from Gray and Osborne presented the revised Water System Plan and the letter to Andy Cervantes at the Department of Ecology with responses. Abbey reviewed all 38 comments and the associated responses.

Mayor Kiewit pointed out that White Salmon also has sizeable DSL and that their water system plan states that the SR-141 intertie has a faulty meter that may be contributing to both White Salmon and Bingen DSL. Mayor Kiewit asked if there is a way to assess the number of people/homes/wells that are also tied into the aquifer that the City of Bingen uses.

Comment 10 states that if Bingen does not reach 1,000 connections by 2032 we can to a Small Water System Management Program, instead of a full water system plan. Mayor Kiewit asked for all data in the draft water system plan to be updated with 2033 projections and council agreed.

Comment 17 points out that the WUE goals to reduce the three-year average DSL to below 10% by 2032 and to reduce overall consumption by 10% across the 20-year planning period. Councilor O’Sullivan made a motion to adopt these goals. Councilor Spratt provided the second and the motion carried.

Comment 19 states that Bingen needs legal protection for a 100-foot radius around each well. This will need to be achieved within 2 years. Administrator Loney will speak to Nancy Wetch about this requirement.

Comment 34 states that G&O is awaiting a SEPA determination from Bingen. This will be signed by Mayor Kiewit, submitted to Ecology, and documentation will be sent to G&O this week.

Resolution 2023-012 Establishing Fire Compensation

Administrator Loney provided a memo about fire compensation and the resolution. The resolution increases compensation for the Fire Chief to \$600 per month and for the Assistant Fire Chiefs to \$200 per month. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Budget Committee. Councilor O’Sullivan made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-012. Councilor Jones provided the second. Councilor Spratt recused herself. The motion carried.

Ordinance 2023-06-739 Amending Mayor and Council Salary

Mayor Kiewit opened the public hearing at 8:40 p.m. Administrator Loney explained that the increase in compensation for the Mayor is meant to entice members of the community who might not otherwise be able to run for the position. Mayor Kiewit closed the public hearing at 8:42 p.m. Councilor Spratt made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-06-739. Councilor O’Sullivan provided the second.

Ordinance 2023-05-738 Budget Amendment

Mayor Kiewit opened the public hearing at 8:27 p.m. Administrator Loney walked Council through the line items in the budget that needed to be amended. Large-scale changes included:

- Adds KCPEDA funding of \$75,000; adds KCPEDA spending of \$75,000
- Adds Mayor raise, fire raises
- Adds playground expenses to ARPA line; removes ARPA funds from restricted ending balance
- Adds \$750 to swimming pool bucks
- Adds \$10,000 BSNF grant
- Adds TIB funds for northernmost block of Cedar overlay, Franklin overlay between Cedar and Pine, and crack seal/fog seal for Pine and Vine; adds spending accordingly.
- Adds funding for CWRE for water rights, \$10000 for water portion of rate study.
- Adds \$10000 for sewer portion of rate study
- Adds funds from White Salmon for the WWTP capital facilities plan; adds Bingen expenditure for the capital facilities plan
- Adds salary and benefits, uniforms, conference travel and tuition for two Operators in Training

The Budget Committee had already reviewed the budget amendment. Mayor Kiewit closed the public hearing at 8:40 p.m. Councilor O’Sullivan made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-05-738. Councilor Schroder provided the second and the motion carried. There was no public comment.

Bingen Bank Account Signers

At the August 1, 2023 meeting Councilor Brittany Spratt was voted in as Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilor O’Sullivan made a motion to authorize Mayor Pro Tempore Brittany Spratt as a signer on all City of Bingen bank accounts. Councilor Schroder provided the second and the motion carried.

July 2023 Treasurers Report

Administrator Loney presented the July 2023 Treasurers report and all is as it should be with the City’s books. Councilor Spratt made a motion to approve to July 2023 Treasurers Report. Councilor O’Sullivan provided the second and the motion carried.

Huckleberry Festival Lodging Tax Grant

Administrator Loney made a request on behalf of the Huckleberry Festival Committee. They requested that any funds left from the \$33,000 lodging tax grant for electrical improvements to Daubenspeck Park be reappropriated for advertising. Mayor Kiewit asked what their grant application states. The application states that *“If the cost of the electrical upgrade is less than \$33,000.00 we would like the allowance to use the remainder on some new benches, tables, or items to make the event more accommodating to visitors.”* Funds must be used for the purpose as awarded and cannot be reappropriated for advertising.

Staff Updates

Administrator Loney had the following updates for Council:

Daubenspeck Park:

- GameTime equipment has been ordered. No estimated delivery date at this time.
- Picnic tables ordered and shipped.
- Benches ordered with 3–4-week lead time.

- Weed liner ordered and shipped.
- Gravel and mulch will be ordered for delivery to align with installation.

Grants:

- RCO Local Parks Maintenance grant opened today. I attended the training and followed up with our grants manager, Jesse Sims. Fixing the skatepark does qualify! I have reached out to Grindline to revise the quote and to Aaron Kreps to see if there might be some cost savings.
- Krista will present to the CERB board on September 21 in Dayton, WA. Krista will meet tomorrow with Chris Zahas (CPAT team) about completing the economic development plan required by the CERB funding.

Oak Street Reservoir:

- Kickoff meeting today. For the first month of the project, we will be meeting weekly on Monday afternoons to touch base.
- Bingen will have asbestos testing for the insulation wrap around the pipe for the existing reservoir. Alpha Environmental are coming tomorrow, results will be back in 5 days.

Huckleberry Festival:

- I have ordered t-shirts for staff and council. I will need help staffing the Bingen table.
- I am serving on the HF planning committee and things are coming together.

Other Projects:

- Bingen's overall capital facilities plan needs to be updated. I will be working on updates and present those for council's consideration.
- McKenzie River came by with paperwork to request a subdivision for 12 single family homes. I have reviewed the paperwork and have several comments. Mandy Hertel at Skamania County Community Development is reviewing the plans. David will review the plans.
- I followed up again with Ecology about the Shoreline Master Program. It was 10th in line on April 28. No progress for months. Found out from Chelsea Wilson at Ecology that the files were "lost" during an IT update. No predicted time of completion. The plan was submitted in March.
- The carshare car is broken again and has been towed away to be fixed. I have voiced my concerns that Bingen got somebody else's lemon to Forth.
- Nancy Wetch will present the preliminary Capital Facilities Plan for the treatment plant to Krista, Frank, and Buck on Thursday from 9:30-11. After that there will be full city review and discussion. G&O will present the final version to Council.
- Ashley Emery will be here on Friday to present his preliminary results for the rate study to Water and Sewer committee.
- Stoner Bell sent preliminary design ideas for the waterline extension. Those have been distributed to the Water and Sewer committee.
- Budget planning for 2024 has begun! I attended an AWC budget conference last week. I will be convening Budget Committee in September and the tentative schedule for adopting the 2024 budget is:
 - October 17: Public Hearing #1 Revenue Sources
 - November 7: Public Hearing #2 Preliminary Budget
 - November 21: Public Hearing #3 Final Budget adoption
- I am working on finding funding for the waterline on SR-14 east of Bingen. No quotes yet from Gray and Osborne on what that might cost. There was a leak today that was fixed.
- I will be out of the office September 1 (vacation), September 19-22 (WFOA conference), and September 28-October 2 (vacation)

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Mayor Kiewit had the following updates for Council:

- There is an Association of Washington Cities Forum on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging on August 18, 2023 from 12-1 for any who are interested in participating.

- The Klickitat County elections special filing period August 2-4, 2023 is closed and nobody filed to run for the seat that Councilor Schroder currently occupies. Someone will need to be appointed. Please get the word out.

Voucher Approval

Payroll Checks (Dated 8/15/2023) and Payroll EFT (Dated 8/15/2023) totaling \$23,135.24; General Fund - \$2,536.06, Street Fund - \$5,834.40, Water Fund - \$3,320.21, Sewer Fund - \$866.99 and Treatment Plant Fund - \$10,578.24.

Councilor Spratt made a motion to approve the Payroll dated August 15, 2023. Councilor O'Sullivan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Claims Checks (Dated 8/15/2023) totaling \$41,396.21; General Fund - \$12,919.74, Street Fund - \$329.80, Water Fund - \$21,935.30, Sewer Fund - \$634.54, Treatment Plant Fund - \$3,294.16, and Sewer Capital Reserve Fund - \$2,282.67

Councilor Spratt made a motion to approve the Claims dated August 15, 2023. Councilor Schroder seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Mayor Kiewit adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.