

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 21, 2021

## Meeting Via Teleconference - Audio Recorded

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:02 pm. Council members present: Phil Jones, Joseph O’Sullivan, Ryan O’Connor, Catherine Kiewit, Isolde Schroder and Catherine Kiewit. Staff present: Deputy Clerk Dena Riggleman, City Attorney Christopher R Lanz. Audience Present: Leslie Naramore- WAGAP and Lee Marchisio – Foster Garvey PC.

### Minutes of September 07, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

#### Corrections:

*Page 2, paragraph 5:*

Council member Schroder made a motion to authorize the purchase of a counter shield to be purchased through Anderson Glass Company for \$1,650 plus tax, **using ARPA funds**. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2021 regularly scheduled City Council meeting as corrected. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### USDA Interim Financing

*Lee Marchisio, Foster Garvey PC*

Lee Marchisio introduced himself and explained the need for interim financing for the Reservoir Construction project. Marchisio said Foster Garvey serves as bond council to the city and this process started about two years ago.

Marchisio said USDA Financing provides low interest and long-term financing for cities but they want the cities to pay the construction costs with interim financing until project is completed.

Marchisio said that North Cascades Bank provides interim financing that satisfies the USDA Financing requirements.

Marchisio said the council will be authorizing the borrowing of the draw down credit from North Cascades Bank to pay for current project costs and then when the project is finished, USDA will refinance the project with a 40-year, tax exempt bond.

Council member Kiewit made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-006-717. Council member Schroder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **WA Gorge Action Programs – Leslie Naramore**

Leslie Naramore, from WAGAP, gave an update on the utility Covid Relief funds that is dedicated to Bingen utility residents. Naramore said that the original amount was \$20,000 and so far, 21 households have been helped for a total of \$6,562.57 leaving \$13,437.43 for future help.

Naramore said there were numerous programs to be help residents in a financial burden.

## **Utility Past Due Balances**

Dena Riggleman said that the moratorium on not charging late fees or doing shut offs will be ending soon so Bingen should be thinking about what to do with the current customers that have past due balances. Riggleman said the City of White Salmon was kind enough to share their utility customer payment program information and she presenting to the Council the information reworked to Bingen's criteria.

The council would like to see the information reworded to include it saying only for residential customers and go over it at the next council meeting on October 5, 2021.

## **Old Business**

### *Prothman*

Mayor Barnes said she is bringing the contract to the council from Prothman, the company that will be advertising for the Clerk Treasurer/City Admin job that is still opened. Barnes is asking the council for approval to sign the contract with Prothman which was a unanimous approval.

## **Mayors Update and Council Comments**

Mayor Barnes said she has been going to the Bi-State Bridge meetings and updated the council on them.

## **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 September 21, 2021.

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

Payroll Checks 22564-22567 and Payroll EFT (Dated 9/15/2021) totaling \$22,096.34 General Fund - \$7,935.26, Street Fund - \$4,097.97, Water Fund - \$2,861.01, Sewer Fund - \$546.13, Treatment Plant Fund - \$7,655.97.

Motion: Jones

Second: O'Sullivan

Checks 22568-22587 and EFT (Dated 9/21/2021) totaling \$142,956.23. General Fund - \$31,765.58, Street Fund - \$854.311, Water Fund - \$50,602.50, Sewer Fund - \$52,233.27, Treatment Plant Fund - \$5,217.90, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund \$2,28267.

Motion: Kiewit

Second: O'Connor

**Executive Session**

Mayor Barnes announced at 7:42 pm. that the City Council will go into Executive Session for 20 minutes to discuss personnel issues to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

At 8:02 p.m. the Council resumed regular session.

The council adjourned at 8:09 pm.

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Deputy Clerk

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Mayor