

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

DRAFT – August 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Barnes J. Barnes at 7:02 p.m. Council members present: Phil Jones, Laura Mann, Ryan O'Connor, Isolde Schroder. Staff present: Clerk-Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, City Attorney Chris Lanz. Audience present: Chief Hepner, Jan Brending, Ann Stringer, Becky Miles

Public Comment

Ann Stringer with Community Upcycle explained the group was interested in reducing waste in the community and that they had presented to the White Salmon City Council about a single-use plastic bag ban. She noted that the article in the paper had attributed the effort to the wrong person so she was hoping to clear that up.

Stringer said the group had heard there was interest in the ban in Bingen, so she wanted to give a presentation and an overview of the proposal.

Stringer passed out a proposal for an ordinance banning single use plastic bags in Bingen, and gave a Power point presentation that included information on the lifespan of single use plastic bags. She pointed out that they are not recyclable in white salmon and can in fact contaminate other recyclables.

Stringer said the idea was just a ban on thin carry out bags, and that they would be replaced with 40% recycled content paper bags or plastic bags thicker than 2.25 mm. She said there would be a 10 cent charge on carry out bags and noted that the retailer would keep the 10 cents.

Stringer stressed that the charge was not a tax, and instead was an incentive to buy only the bags you need. She said sales with EBT would be exempt.

Stringer said the group had placed bag exchange bins at Harvest Market and were seeing success. She noted that small businesses in White Salmon were widely behind the ban, and that harvest market endorsed the initiative.

The group said they would conduct a survey of interest and support among Bingen businesses.

Becky miles with Community Upcycle said she had been in touch with Washington independent grocery stores and also Zero Waste executive director, both of which are helping to coordinate the effort to ban single use plastic bags around the state. She said the more cities that ban the bags, the easier it will be to achieve a statewide ban.

Mayor Barnes asked if most cities were charging 10 or 5 cents per bag.

Miles said there was definitely a range of charges, but most in Washington were 8-10 cents.

Mayor Barnes said lots of local businesses will recycle plastic bags in-house for reuse. She asked if there would be any issue with plastic bag reuse under the ban.

Becky said that was the desired effect and noted the group's project to set up bag exchange bins.

Council member Mann asked if the 10 cents could be used by the business for anything they want.

Miles said realistically the revenue would go to bags since they will be losing money on providing paper or thick plastic alternatives.

Community Upcycle said most Bingen businesses had been supportive of the idea, and noted the only one with an objection was the bike shop and his holdout was due to the oily, greasy parts of his trade requiring plastic bags.

Community Upcycle pointed out that a parts bag would not be considered a carry out bag and thus would be subject to the ban.

Council member Schroder asked if it would affect the restaurants.

Community Upcycle said yes, for carry out bags.

Council member Schroder said she was curious to hear about push back other than the bike shop.

Community Upcycle said the most common issue was space because retailers would need to store paper bags.

Miles said there was another concern about weighty items from Ace Hardware in White Salmon, but said the thicker plastic bags should take care of that.

Council member Mann pointed out that the focus had been on recycling but said things should be shifted to a focus on reduction.

Mayor Barnes asked the council if they felt a public hearing should be held on the issue for a proposed ordinance.

There was a consensus that the Bingen businesses should be contacted and more discussion had before a hearing, but that there was support for the idea.

Bingen/WS Police

Chief Hepner said calls in Bingen had been pretty low but noted vandals were still an issue.

Chief Hepner said Officer Daniels had graduated and was now on FTO. He said she would be done in late October of 2019. Hepner said the newest hire went into the academy last week will be done in early December of 2019. He said he was very excited about the increase in staffing for the department.

Council member Mann asked about the body cameras purchased by the Police Department and wondered why they were not in use.

Chief Hepner explained that the County prosecutor's office was not yet set up to manage the evidence the cameras would provide, as the BWSPD was the only agency that had purchased them so far. Hepner also noted that as soon as the cameras are worn, he would most likely have to have another clerk on staff to handle public records requests and footage redactions as required by law.

Jan Brending said the City of White Salmon needed to look at public records policies and would need to work with the city attorney to update what was in place before body cameras were used.

Council member Schroder asked if there was any obvious difference in traffic infractions with the new speed signage.

Chief Hepner said collision rates are way down in Bingen compared to White Salmon, but noted that the low staffing made it hard to see a big change in infractions. Hepner said the speed signs were working very well.

Affordable Housing Tax Discussion

Jan Brending explained the affordable housing sales tax credit was not a new tax, but instead was taking a portion of the state share of sales tax and reallocating it. She said there was an opportunity if implemented by all three cities in Klickitat County, to over a 20 year period garner funds to use toward affordable housing in the area.

Brending noted that CCHC, WGAP, the City of Goldendale, the City of White Salmon, and Klickitat County had all shown interest.

Brending noted the implementation was on a tight time frame and cities would have to adopt a resolution of intent by January 27, 2020 and adopt an ordinance by July 27 of 2020. Brending noted that it was going to be on the County agenda next Tuesday.

Brending said she believed it was important for the cities to have a voice if the County was going to implement.

Council member Mann said she liked idea of making sure the cities have some say in how the funds are spent.

Brending said she would send a report to Clerk Treasurer Willey regarding the County Commissioners meeting.

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“Council member Jones said he liked the idea of working on the construction of the Humboldt Street project this summer was glad NW Natural and the PUD were doing their work now rather than waiting til during the Humboldt Street Project.”

Council member Schroder made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2019 council meeting as corrected. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Leak Adjustment Newman 314 E Humboldt Street – Appeal

Council member Mann made a motion to adhere to the adjustment that was granted. Council member Schroder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2019-08-699 amending the 2019 budget

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing on proposed ordinance 2019-08-699.

City Clerk Treasurer Willey read the proposed ordinance and

Closed public hearing

Proposed Ordinance 2019-08-699 amending the 2019 budget

Council member Mann made a motion to adopt ordinance 2019-08-699 amending the 2019 budget. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Mayor Barnes announced at 9:00 pm that the City Council will go into Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 9:15 p.m. the Council resumed regular session.

Council member Mann moved to direct staff to write a letter to Dickey Farms regarding the past due amount on the utility account. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Update & Council Comments

Mayor Barnes said she spoke with The Society Hotel about their maintenance of the public right of way, and she was told that TSH is developing maintenance plan for whole parcel to include the right of way.

Council member Jones said the Art and Wine Fusion Festival was well organized and noted how beautiful the Oh Joy of Joys statue was.

Mayor Barnes thanked Council member Jones for representing the city at the event.

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 August 6, 2019.

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

Payroll Checks 20899-20905 and Payroll EFT (Dated 7/31/2019) totaling \$32,880.32 General Fund - \$14,788.84, Street Fund - \$5,200.88, Water Fund - \$3,543.84, Sewer Fund - \$649.65, Treatment Plant Fund - \$8,697.11.

Checks 20897-20898 totaling \$594.707. General Fund - \$594.70.

Checks 20872 totaling \$231,829.87. Street Const. & Maint - \$231,829.87.

Checks 20907-20937 totaling \$70,889.03. General Fund - \$41,593.33, Street Fund - \$3,491.85, Water Fund - \$13,779.55, Sewer Fund - \$590.19, Treatment Plant Fund - \$5,754.32, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund-\$5,679.79.

The council adjourned at 9:40 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor