

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 16, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Betty Barnes, Laura Mann, Sandi Dickey, Isolde Schroder, Catherine Kiewit, Maria Perez. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Amber Marra, Bob Durham, Robb Kimmes, Guillermo and Jeri Fisch.

## **Robb Kimmes, Skyline Hospital**

Robb Kimmes said he wants to provide the council an update on the proposed emergency management services (EMS) levy. He said the Klickitat County commissioners have created an EMS district and voted to place a tax levy of \$0.30 per 1,000 of assessed valuation on the August ballot. Kimmes said the current Skyline levy is \$0.34 per 1,000 which expires at the end of 2013. He said the proposed levy would maintain services at the level that exists today. Kimmes said Skyline Hospital subsidizes the ambulance service with \$125,000 per year and Klickitat Valley Hospital with no levy provides \$400,000 a year for ambulance services. He said the Goldendale area would go from a \$0 levy to \$0.30 per 1,000. Kimmes said if the levy does not pass Skyline would maintain the White Salmon ambulance but would drop the Dallesport ambulance. He said the levy must pass with at least 40% of the voter turn out in the last general election and with a 60% approval of those voting. Kimmes said the county board will appoint a board of directors for the EMS district. He said Skyline Hospital is satisfied with the current EMS service provider.

## **Bingen-White Salmon Police Department**

Tracy Wyckoff said the department has been very busy. He said he has hired a new lateral level police officer, Mike Heppner who will be starting July 26. Wyckoff said Heppner passed all the background checks including the psychological and polygraph tests. He said Heppner is familiar with the area and will be able to hit the road running.

Laura Mann said she appreciates the presence of the police department in Bingen.

Wyckoff said there were not a lot of fireworks issues. He said it is about being visible and being a deterrent.

Betty Barnes said she has noticed that Washington State Patrol (WSP) is doing a lot of work in the area.

Wyckoff said WSP is doing an emphasis in the area with the motorcycle patrol. He said there have been some personnel transitions going on within WSP in the Gorge area.

## **Public Comment**

### ***Amber Marra, The Enterprise***

Amber Marra introduced herself as the new reporter with The Enterprise. She said she is from West Virginia and has lived in the area since November.

### ***Bob Durham, White Salmon***

Bob Durham said he is attending the meeting to listen. He said he has worked for SDS Lumber for 47 years and has now retired.

### ***Guillermo Fisch, Bingen***

Guillermo Fisch said he would like to see a 4-way stop put in at the intersection of Alder and Humboldt. He said there are a lot of young people walking in that area and he is nervous about the amount traffic and the speed of vehicles.

## **Approval of Minutes – July 2, 2013**

Corrections to the meeting minutes of the July 2, 2013 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 11<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence should read as follows: “She said it would be nice to have the mayor and council sign cards of appreciation for the larger contributors in addition to the general thank you letters that have gone out.”

Page 2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence should read as follows: “Kiewit said water rights and water usage were discussed but no decisions were made.”

Page 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph should read as follows: “Catherine Kiewit asked if the recharging of the Reservoir Well is happening during the weekend and if that is part of the cause of a higher hydrogen sulfide odor and taste during the weekends.”

Page 2, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph should read as follows: “Izzy Schroder asked if the council could receive an update on city priorities.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the meeting minutes of the July 2, 2013 regular council meeting as corrected. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Sewer Service Requirements and Potential Exceptions Process**

Jan Brending provided an overview of staff’s memorandum and recommendations.

Laura Mann thanked Brending for a very thorough memorandum.

Betty Barnes asked the council if they want to pursue an exceptions process.

Tad Connors noted that the Clark County language in the memorandum is similar to variance language.

Council and staff discussed the idea of establishing an exceptions process for sewer service connections.

Jeri and Guillermo Fisch said they would like to see an exceptions process established. They said they feel their situation would meet the appropriate requirements if the process was created.

There was a consensus of the council to create an exceptions process for sewer service connections using 1, 2 and 4 of the Clark County language with wording 4 to be more clear and requiring that an easement and maintenance agreement for the service line be recorded and requiring proper documentation from an engineer to be included in the application.

There was a consensus of the council to review a draft of the proposed process at the first meeting in August.

### **Skatepark Phase 2 Estimate Update – Review and Discussion**

Jan Brending presented the revised cost estimate for Phase 2 of the skatepark and a cost estimate for lighting and electrical outlets. She said the reviewed estimate for just the skatepark is \$154,470 with taxes. Brending said the electrical work is estimated at \$52,590. She said the city has not received an estimate for the irrigation. Brending said when the city met with the design team and engineers it was discussed that the irrigation could possibly be installed by city staff.

Betty Barnes noted that the design of the skatepark includes dealing with the existing drainage issues and drainage for Phase 2. She said construction is anticipated to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jan Brending noted that the skatepark will have to be closed during construction.

Jan Brending will present funding information for the skatepark at the first meeting in August.

### **Treasurer’s Report – June 2013**

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer’s Report for June 2013.

Sandi Dickey moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report for June 2013. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Mayor’s Update**

#### ***Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)***

Betty Barnes said she and Jan Brending met with representatives from the Department of Health and the Public Works Trust Fund Board. She said the city is being recommended for approval for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan in the amount of \$554,000 with a 1% interest rate.

Council members suggested that while construction was taking place on Highway 14 that a rumble strip on the south side of the highway could be installed.

Jan Brending said she will check with the Department of Transportation. She said she knows that this was requested in the past but was not allowed. Brending said that maybe circumstances have changed that would allow it to be installed.

**Beetle Kill**

Betty Barnes said the council has been provided some new information on the beetle kill issue that is becoming more prevalent in the Gorge. She said the Department of Natural Resources may be able to help due to fire hazard.

**Insitu Ground Breaking**

Betty Barnes said she attend the ground breaking for Insitu’s new facility at the Port. She said it was exciting to see that happen.

**Staff and Committee Reports**

**Water Distribution System Leakage (DSL)**

Jan Brending said the council has the latest DSL report. She for the month of June the DSL was below 20%.

**Vouchers**

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 July 16, 2013. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT (dated July 15, 2013), EFT (dated July 3, 2013), EFT (dated July 16, 2013), 16033 (dated July 10, 2013), 16035 (dated July 11, 2013), 16039 – 16057 (dated 07/16/2013), totaling \$34278.38: Current – \$3353.21; Street – \$173.86; Water - \$5897.75; Sewer - \$392.98; Treatment Plant - \$2430.25; 1995 Bond Redemption - \$16824.46; Water Construction & Maintenance - \$1053.85; Sewer Construction & Maintenance - \$1218.39; Treatment Plant Improvement – \$2933.63.

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 July 16, 2013. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 16031 - 16032 (dated 06/30/2013), totaling \$1308.59: Current – \$1305.59.

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 July 16, 2013. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks EFT, 16007-16009 (dated 7/15/2013), totaling \$14084.09. Current – \$5797.18; Street - \$2274.94; Water - \$1729.75; Sewer - \$314.15; Treatment Plant - \$3968.07.

**Executive Session**

At 9:20 p.m. Betty Barnes announced the city council will go into executive session to discussion potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.100(1)(i) for 10 minutes.

The city council resumed regular session at 9:25 p.m.

The council adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor