

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Stephanie Porter, Maria Perez, Sandra Guzman. Council members absent: Izzy Schroder. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending, Police Chief Tracy Wyckoff were present. Audience: Michelle Scott, Peter Cornelson, Kate McBride, Lois Bancroft, Tim Norgren, David Sauter, Denny Newell, Joel Madsen, Dave Peters, Peter Frothingham

Approval of Minutes – April 7, 2015

Changes to the minutes of the April 7, 2015 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 3rd paragraph, last sentence should read: “He said that he tried to go to city Hall (on March 24th) to pay the bill but it was not open.”

Page 1, 4th paragraph, add a “.” to the end of the first sentence.

Page 1, 9th paragraph should read: “Page 3, 5th paragraph, 1st sentence should read: ‘Tracy Wyckoff reported that Officer Lauren Baker is doing well at the police academy.’”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2015 regular council meeting as corrected. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Tracy Wyckoff reported that things have been happening more frequently with the warmer weather. He said Officer Lauren Baker continues to do well at the police academy and that Officer Ashley Hackett will be attending the equivalency academy for two weeks at the end of the month. Wyckoff said there will be a number of officers from a variety of departments to assist with the event that will be occurring on Thursday.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge – Oil Transport Presentation

Lois Bancroft, Snowden

Lois Bancroft said she has a dream of the residents of White Salmon, Bingen and Snowden uniting on the issue of oil transport. She said Roger Gadway, chair of the Snowden Community council has written a letter to The Enterprise, Senator Maria Cantwell and Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler regarding the issue of oil transport. Bancroft suggested the council take in what Peter Cornelson is going to present and then to communicate with the White Salmon mayor. Bancroft provided a copy of the Snowden Community Council letter to the Bingen City Council.

Tim Norgren, Mill-A/Stevenson

Tim Norgren said he used to live in Mill-A and recently moved to Stevenson. He said that he lives where he can see the train tracks. Norgren said the Stevenson Fire Department would be devastated if there was derailment and fire. He said liability for accidents is a big issue. Norgren provided a copy of the City of Stevenson resolution to the Bingen City Council.

Kate McBride, Hood River

Kate McBride said she is a member of the Hood River City Council. She said Hood River has passed a resolution which is included in the Bingen council’s packet. McBride said liability issues are important. McBride said she is concerned with the impacts of a crude oil train derailment on the river and concerns with a fire and the winds we have in the Gorge. She said an accident would be a disaster. McBride requested the City of Bingen add a voice to the concerns about safety of crude oil transportation.

Betty Barnes noted that Kate McBride also works for Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Peter Frothingham, Odell

Peter Frothingham said he feels that Bingen would experience the same kind of results of the derailment in Quebec. He said he feels it would be appropriate to have a moratorium on crude oil unit trains until the cars are made safer. Frothingham urged the council to adopt a resolution expressing concerns about safety issues.

Peter Cornelson, Friends of the Columbia Gorge provided information to the city council regarding transportation of crude oil by train. He showed a video made regarding the train derailment and resulting fires that took place in Quebec. Cornelson said Washougal, Mosier, The Dalles, Hood River and Stevenson along with other communities have passed resolutions. He said it is part of a movement to

show legislators their concern. Cornelson said there is federal and state legislation in the works addressing safety issues.

Betty Barnes suggested council members look at the resolutions that have been provided. She said a proposed resolution will be put on the agenda for the first meeting in May.

Catherine Kiewit noted that when Peter Cornelson approached the City of Bingen regarding coal transport individual council members did their own research on the issues which seemed to focus primarily on the environment. She said she believes oil trains pose more of a safety issue. Kiewit noted that Bingen firefighters are being trained to fight oil train fires. She said she appreciates the comments that have been provided.

Betty Barnes noted that actually firefighters from Bingen, White Salmon and Fire District 3 are being trained. She said BNSF is paying for the training.

Tim Norgren noted that a group of railroad workers are also making a strong stand on oil trains.

Peter Cornelson said a "Walk the Line" event will be held on Thursday in Bingen beginning at the park at 12:00 p.m. He invited the council members to join in the event.

CDBG General Purpose Grant Proposal – Columbia Cascade Housing

Joel Madsen, Columbia Cascade Housing presented a proposal to the city council regarding the opportunity to apply for a CDBG General Purpose Grant to develop a housing rehabilitation program in Klickitat and Skamania Counties. He said the Housing Authority has been operating a similar program in Oregon for the past 4 years.

Dave Peters, Columbia Cascade Housing said the money would be used for zero percent interest loans, repaid back to the housing authority and then relent back out. He said the funds could be used for roofs, windows, electrical, ramps, making bathrooms more accessible, etc. Peters said the loans are made to low-income owners who are occupying the residence. Peters said they are asking the City of Bingen to apply for the grant because Klickitat County has already committed to another proposal for the grant application process.

David Sauter said he has been on the Housing Board for many years. He said Klickitat County supports the project. Sauter said each entity can only submit one General Purpose Grant application and the county has committed to Wishram for a drinking water project. He said assistance through Denny Newell will be made available to the city by the county. Sauter said he feels that a rehabilitation program will help sustain the viability of existing units.

Catherine Kiewit asked how people are selected.

Dave Peters said they will create a waiting list. He said applicants are ranked by the date the application is submitted and then a point system with the goal to reach the highest priorities first. Peters said residents of Bingen will receive a priority point.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the loan funds that are repaid are kept in Skamania and Klickitat Counties.

Joel Madsen said yes. Dave Peters said they keep track of where the repayments were originally lent out.

Betty Barnes said she thought Washington Gorge Action Programs had a similar program in the past.

Joel Madsen said they have not met with Gorge Action Programs but will be soon.

Stephanie Porter asked when the loans need to be repaid.

Dave Peters said it is paid upon selling the house or upon death.

Betty Barnes asked if the loan has to be repaid if the owner moves out and is no longer living in the residence.

Dave Peters said yes. He said verification is conducted to see if the owners are still residing in the home.

Jan Brending reviewed the process for submitting a CDBG General Purpose Grant application. She said the city will need to hold a public hearing on May 19th. Brending said that because more than 10% of the Spanish speaking population speak English less than well the notices and all documents provided at the

hearing will need to be translated. She said an interpreter will also need to be provided for the hearing. Brending said Columbia Cascade Housing has agreed to provide for the translation and interpreter. She said the purpose of the hearing is to hear from the Bingen residents about the proposal and to see if there are any other proposals brought forward. Brending noted the grant application is due June 1st. She said Columbia Cascade Housing will be a sub-recipient for the grant but Bingen will have oversight and monitoring responsibilities.

Catherine Kiewit moved to schedule a public hearing on the CDBG General Purpose Grant and to move forward with the submission of an application. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Oak Street and Steuben Street Waterline Replacement Bid Results and Recommendation

Jan Brending said the city received two bids for the Oak Street and Steuben Street waterline replacement project: Crestline Construction, LLC in the amount of \$400,338.60 and 3 Kings Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$426,296.63. She said Gray & Osborne have verified the bids and verified that the low responsive bidder is qualified. Brending said Gray & Osborne recommends the city enter into a contract with Crestline Construction in the amount of \$400,338.60. Brending reviewed the status of the city's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan noting that there are enough funds to cover the entire contract of \$400,338.60 which includes the replacement of the water main from the last connection to the lower limit (Schedule C).

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize entering into a construction contract with Crestline Construction, LLC for the Oak Street and Steuben Street Waterline Replacement in the amount of \$400,338.60. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Ordinance 2015-03-643, Water Shortage Emergency Procedures

Jan Brending reviewed the changes made to the draft ordinance regarding water shortage emergency procedures. She said that the time restriction has been changed back to 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for Stage II and back to 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on Stage III. Brending said additional time is also allowed for systems that are on timers in the morning from 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in both Stage II and Stage III. She said language has also been added that indicates all policies and procedures set forth in the ordinance also apply to City of Bingen owned properties.

Brending provided information to the council regarding the increase of water usage from the fall/winter months (October through March) to the spring/summer months (April through September). She said that in the 2013-2014 year the increase was 81.67% for residential users and 103.73% for other users.

Brending also provided information from the Washington State University Cooperative Extension regarding water conservation in gardens and landscapes.

There was a consensus of the council to move ahead with a public hearing on May 5 with possible adoption of the ordinance. Staff was directed to place the ordinance on the city's web page along with the consumption information and Cooperative Extension information.

State Route 14 Excessive Truck Traffic – Proposed Letter to State Legislators

Jan Brending and Betty Barnes presented information from the City of Stevenson about State Route 14 excessive truck traffic and taxes. The information states that out-of-state trucks purchase fuel in Oregon and then travel in Washington to avoid the weight tax levied in Oregon.

Catherine Kiewit suggested the letter should address all out-of-state truck traffic and not just Oregon.

Catherine Kiewit moved to write a letter to the state legislative transportation committee chairs and to the chair of the Washington State Transportation Commission urging them to pursue converting from a fuel tax to a road usage charge. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

The council took a five minute break at 8:25 p.m. and resumed at 8:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report – March 2015

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for March 2015. She noted the 2014 Annual Report will be presented to the council at the May 19th council meeting. Brending said the Budget Committee needs to meet to review the report prior to it being sent to the full council.

Stephanie Porter moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2015. Sandra Guzman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Skatepark Groundwater Drainage – Estimated Cost for Repair

Jan Brending presented rough cost estimates for addressing the groundwater issue in the Phase I portion of the skatepark. She said Grindline recommends the project be done in the fall. Brending said she and Mayor Barnes have discussed the issue. She said they recommend that the city hold off in doing the repairs until an accurate picture can be made of where the problems are taking place. Brending said it would be unfortunate to make the repairs this fall and find that there are problems in other areas that could have been addressed at the same time.

Betty Barnes said staff will be instructed to inspect the park daily and to take pictures when any new groundwater issue appears.

There was a consensus of the council to hold off on the repairs until after the fall/winter season.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Senator Maria Cantwell Roundtable

Betty Barnes said she and David Spratt attended a roundtable hosted by Senator Maria Cantwell regarding crude oil transportation by trains and safety concerns. She said there is a federal bill in Congress addressing safety issues and resources for emergency response.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Walk the Line

Betty Barnes said the Walk the Line event is scheduled for Thursday, April 23 beginning at noon in the park. She said that she and local law enforcement met with Friends of the Columbia Gorge to discuss the issues so that it remains peaceful and as least disruptive to local businesses as possible.

WA Utility Transportation Commission Safety Diagnostic Meeting

Betty Barnes said she and Jan Brending will be meeting with representatives from the WA Utility Transportation Commission and BNSF on Friday to review safety issues at the Walnut crossing. She said the meeting is being driven by safety concerns related to the oil trains.

Community Pride Kids Cleanup

Betty Barnes said the kids' cleanup will take place on Saturday at 10 a.m. beginning in the park. She said public works will provide gloves, vests and trash bags.

Maria Perez Resignation

Maria Perez submitted her resignation from the city council effective April 30, 2015.

Betty Barnes said she will be missed.

Meeting with Washington Department of Transportation Regarding Pedestrian and Bicycle Access on Bingen Hill

Betty Barnes said she, Jan Brending, Dave Poucher from White Salmon and Debi Budnick, Klickitat County Health Department will be meeting next Wednesday with the Washington Department of Transportation to begin discussions about pedestrian and bicycle access up Bingen hill.

Catherine Kiewit indicated she will also attend the meeting.

Animal Control

Catherine Kiewit said she is feeling a frustrated with the animal control services the city has been receiving. She said she feels the number of dogs at large have increased. Kiewit suggested the city may want to consider hiring an employee for animal control when the contract with the City of Goldendale is up.

Jan Brending noted that Tom Fitzgibbons has been hired temporarily until Goldendale finds a permanent replacement. She said he will be able to adjust his schedule more that has been in the past – making visits to Bingen early in the morning, later in the evenings and even coming down on weekends. Brending said he will be adding extra visits to make up for times that were missed at the beginning of the year.

Betty Barnes reminded the council that the agreement with the City of Goldendale is only for one year. She noted that it was designed that way so Bingen could explore other possible options if necessary.

Mosaic

Catherine Kiewit said the work is moving ahead. She said she needs to determine what dates the project will take place on. Kiewit noted that David Spratt said an access lid will need to be incorporated into the design.

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 April 21, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT, 17524-17544 (dated 04/21/2015) totaling \$12017.92. General Fund – \$4999.31; Street - \$1687.92; Water - \$2540.31; Sewer - \$809.67; Treatment Plant - \$1980.71.

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 April 21, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: EFT (dated 04/16/2015) totaling \$50.00. Street - \$13.34, Water - \$13.33, Sewer - \$13.33, Treatment Plant - \$10.00.

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 April 21, 2015 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT and checks 17518-17523 (dated 04/15/2015) totaling \$13912.16. General Fund – \$5313.68; Street - \$2345.22; Water - \$1187.72; Sewer - \$365.77; Treatment Plant - \$4699.77.

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 April 21, 2015 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT (dated 04/13/2015) totaling \$2038.44. General Fund – \$732.57; Street - \$389.06; Water - \$195.74; Sewer - \$58.63; Treatment Plant - \$662.44.

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 April 21, 2015 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll check 17545 (dated 04/22/2015) totaling \$120.50. General Fund – \$48.42; Street - \$19.85; Water - \$10.93; Sewer - \$3.29; Treatment Plant - \$38.01.

The council adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Note: The council will into a closed session after adjourning to discuss union negotiations.

City Clerk

Mayor