

.BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Sandra Guzman, and Izzy Schroder. Council members absent: Stephanie Porter. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending. Audience: Michelle Scott, Joel Madsen, Oscar Enriquez.

Committee Appointments

Betty Barnes made appointments as follows:

Finance & Personnel Committee – Catherine Kiewit and Izzy Schroder
Water & Sewer Committee – Catherine Kiewit and Stephanie Porter
Street Committee – two positions vacant
Fire & Police Committee – one position vacant and Izzy Schroder
Fire Board – Izzy Schroder
Park and Recreation Committee – Sandra Guzman and Stephanie Porter

Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2015

Changes to the minutes of the May 5, 2015 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, Title – change from April 21, 2015 to May 5, 2015.

Page 5, 6th paragraph, 1st sentence should read “Catherine Kiewit said a ‘whereas’ clause would be appropriate addressing the increase of train traffic and the impacts on pedestrian and safety.”

Page 6, Add the following after the 3rd paragraph: “Catherine Kiewit suggested that any modifications to the crossing should also be compliant for a silent zone in case that becomes an option for Bingen later.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2015 regular council meeting as corrected. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – CDBG General Purpose Grant Hearing

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing regarding the CDBG General Purpose Grant.

Jan Brending stated the city is required to hold a public hearing regarding the application for a CDBG General Purpose Grant. She said the hearing allows testimony on the proposed project and allows the community to submit additional projects to be considered for submission for grant funding. Brending noted that a Spanish language interpreter, Oscar Enriquez, is present because more than 10% of the Spanish speaking population speaks English “less than well.” She said all publications have been translated into Spanish to reach out to the Spanish speaking population.

Joel Madsen Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation, provided a brief overview of the proposed home rehabilitation project being proposed for submission to the Department of Commerce through the CDBG General Purpose Grant process. He thanked the council for the sponsorship of the grant application.

There was no public present to make comment.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the submission of this grant application will have an effect on the city’s opportunities to submit future grant applications under the CDBG General Purpose Grant process.

Joel Madsen said that because the project will cover two years, the city would not be eligible for another grant until this one had closed.

Jan Brending explained that at the current time the city is not eligible for an indirect grant application because of issues related to the 2010 census and American Communities survey. She said typically the city would apply for a General Purpose Grant for infrastructure projects such as wastewater or water. Brending said there are other grant and loan sources the city can see for funding infrastructure.

Proposed Resolution 2015-007, Certifications of Compliance

Jan Brending said the proposed resolution is required as part of the CDBG grant application and authorizes the city to submit the grant application to the Department of Commerce.

Izzy Schroder moved to adopt Resolution 2015-007, Certifications of Compliance. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2015-008, Adopting Grievance Procedure

Jan Brending said the proposed resolution comes out of the requirements for submission of the CDBG grant application. She noted that it does not apply to employee or union grievances or other appeal/request processes outlined in the city's municipal code.

Catherine Kiewit moved to adopt Resolution 2015-008, Adopting Grievance Procedure. Sandra Guzman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

2014 Annual Report Presentation

Jan Brending presented the 2014 Annual Report to the city council providing background information that shows how the Treasurer's Report for 2014 and ending year bank statements tie to the various reports presented.

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize submission of the 2014 Annual Report to the state. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Oak Street Speed Limit

Betty Barnes said Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has stated they would prefer a decision regarding the speed limits on Highway 141 (Oak Street) as soon as possible. She noted that the safety improvements at Oak and Humboldt are not contingent upon the speed limit change. Barnes said that at a recent council meeting members of the community made comments about making the speed limit consistent along Highway 141. She said there were comments made in support of the idea and comments against the idea.

Council members discussed the issue. There was consensus that the council is not comfortable making a decision about the speed limit until additional information can be made available including obtaining a study from WSDOT regarding how speed limit consistency reduces speeding and provides for more safety and documentation regarding average speeds in Bingen on Highway 141 in addition to see how the improvements at Oak and Humboldt impact vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Park Ceremony

Betty Barnes said she is working on setting up a ceremony that will celebrate the completion of the skatepark signage and the installation of the drinking fountain. She said a generous donor has stepped forward to provide a band out of the Portland/Vancouver area for the event. Barnes said she is looking at the date of Saturday, June 27. She said she does not think the event should be held much later after the installation of the signage and drinking fountain. Barnes said Beneventi's and Eagles have agreed to provide food to the public attending for a charge. She said Beneventi's may also provide a beer garden.

Council members asked the mayor to contact food vendors who participated in the Gorge Out events to see if they want to participate in the ceremony in addition to Beneventi's and the Eagles.

Betty Barnes noted there is the possibility of another donor who has a print shop and will provide posters for the event.

The event will take place from approximately 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on June 27.

Community Connections Summit

Izzy Schroder said she attended the Community Connections Summit representing the City of Bingen. She said she was very impressed with the event and that there was a large turnout. Schroder said the focus was to brainstorm the vision of an after school program. She said there are currently no specific plans to be put into action that the event was to collect information and ideas.

Betty Barnes said she also attended and was very encouraged by the enthusiasm of those who attended.

Council Attendance – Future Meetings

Izzy Schroder noted that she will not be in attendance at the meeting on June 2 and July 21st.

The council discussed the meeting scheduled for June 2 as Catherine Kiewit will also not be present and a quorum will not be available.

The meeting on June 2 will be cancelled and rescheduled as a special meeting on Friday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m. It was noted that a closed session to discuss union negotiations will take place after the special meeting.

Catherine Kiewit noted she will also be gone on July 7th.

Water Conservation

Catherine Kiewit asked if the mayor has contacted SDS Lumber and Underwood Fruit regarding water conservation.

Betty Barnes said she will follow up with them. She asked Kiewit if she was wanting something in writing.

Kiewit said that would be preferable.

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 May 19, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT and checks 17591-17612 (dated 05/19/2015) totaling \$20,350.25. General Fund – \$5,753.64; Street - \$74.49; Water - \$1,273.85; Sewer - \$490.64; Treatment Plant - \$2,222.72; Water Construction & Maintenance - \$3,782.76; Sewer Construction & Maintenance - \$2,480.89; Treatment Plant Improvement - \$4,271.26.

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 May 19, 2015 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT and checks 17586-17590 (dated 05/15/2015) totaling \$11,895.18. General Fund – \$4,915.47; Street - \$1,956.02; Water - \$990.63; Sewer - \$305.06; Treatment Plant - \$3,728.00.

The council adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor