

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:02 p.m. Council members present: Sandra Guzman, Izzy Schroder and Stephanie Porter. Council members absent: Catherine Kiewit. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, Deputy Clerk Kristen Hohensee, Bingen-White Salmon Police Officer Michael Hepner. Audience: Michelle Scott, Maria Foley, Dan Armstrong.

Public Comment

Catherine Kiewit

Mayor Betty J. Barnes read a text from Catherine Kiewit updating everyone on her son Ezra's health after his surgery. Barnes said he is in PICU at OHSU recovering and he should be home in 1 or 2 nights.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Michael Hepner reported that the summer has been good so far. He said they are currently looking into the theft of a fire arm.

Stephanie Porter thanked the police department for escorting a certain person around town.

Betty Barnes said thank you in general to the department.

Hepner said Ashley Hackett has been on her own for a month now and got into a good fight last night but won.

Betty Barnes asked him to have officer keep an eye on downtown Steuben Street as one of the establishments was attempting to put up a dance floor on the sidewalk. She said an official letter has been sent to the owner. Hepner reported that Lauren Baker will be on her own in September.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2015

Izzy Schroder moved to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2015 council meeting as presented. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Council Vacancy

Izzy Schroder said she was excited to see Dan Armstrong's interest in the position.

Stephanie Porter asked some questions about his church in Riverside.

Betty Barnes noted that it was quite a commitment and an important responsibility. She said she would be happy to have him on board.

Dan Armstrong made a statement saying that unless he has a problem with his employees, he does not see the commitment as a problem. He said he wants to provide a benefit to the community.

Izzy Schroder mentioned that the council is forgiving and flexible and has been in the past with her own travel schedule.

Betty Barnes mentioned that there is training online and Jan Branding will go over options when she returns. She said open filing for the position starts tomorrow.

Armstrong said he plans on filing.

Izzy Schroder moved to appoint Dan Armstrong to Council Position #1. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Betty Barnes said Armstrong will be sworn in at next council meeting with pictures.

Bingen Overpass - Insitu

Betty Barnes said the city received a letter from Insitu regarding the Bingen Point overpass.

Letters of Appreciation

The Public Works Department, Treatment Plant, and Jan Branding all received letters of appreciation. Betty Barnes said the Bingen Wastewater Treatment Plant was 1 of 127 in full compliance in 2014. She

said Jan Brending earned her 9th year of Financial Officers award. Barnes said David Spratt received a thank you from the Department of Health. She said all three should be commended.

Critical Areas Ordinance – Yakama Nation

Barnes said she received a letter from the Yakama Nation regarding the critical areas ordinance and they had no comments.

Highway 14 Chip Seal Project

Betty Barnes reported the chip seal through Bingen is starting later than originally planned. She said it will occur in late August with a completion date after Labor Day.

White Salmon Water Main Break

Betty Barnes reviewed the events of the past weekend in relation to the White Salmon water main rupture. She noted there were several communication problems.

Izzy Schroder asked if Barnes has had a conversation with Public Works staff regarding communications.

Barnes said yes. She noted a White Salmon employee was injured during the repair but is going to be ok. Barnes said water status is back to normal.

Izzy Schroder asked why the water main broke.

Barnes said it is under investigation.

Playground

Betty Barnes said she recently received comments about the playground and its proximity to the skate park. She said it was suggested that a small fence or partition between the two would be great for safety reasons. She asked the council to think about the idea and it can be revisited at a later date.

Stephanie Porter mentioned that all parks in Vancouver are fenced.

Dan Armstrong suggested possibly installing a wall with benches on both sides. Barnes said the cost of any option may be an issue.

Izzy Schroder mentioned that the playground has degrading equipment and ground cover.

Mosaic

Stephanie Porter asked if the mosaic is sealed.

Betty Barnes said she has been waiting to hear from Catherine Kiewit as to what type of sealant to use.

Google Map Changes

Betty Barnes thanked the Chamber of Commerce and Lloyd Dekay for suggesting map changes in relation to the City of Bingen and Cook.

Huckleberry Festival

Izzy Schroder asked how many more weeks were left before the Huckleberry Festival. She said she has a wagon that could be used by the Mayor if she planned to be in the parade.

Barnes said Huckleberry Festival is September 11-13.

Housing

Betty Barnes said she attended a meeting regarding workforce and affordable housing. She said senior housing was a big topic. Barnes said there is a need for workforce housing but there are no answers yet. She said some new legislation may provide some opportunities but it is unclear at this time. Barnes said she will provide the materials that were handed out to the council.

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 4, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT and checks 17763-17786 (dated 08/04/2015) totaling \$55,098.98. General Fund – \$31,099.27; Street - \$2,322.97; Community Development Fund - \$950.00; Water - \$11596.93; Sewer - \$126.80; Treatment Plant - \$3709.53; Water Construction and Maintenance Fund - \$5,293.48;.

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 4, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT and checks 17757-17762 (dated 07/31/2015) totaling \$19,985.07. General Fund – \$8,850.68; Street Fund - \$3,224.90; Water Fund - \$1,581.84; Sewer Fund - \$485.07; Treatment Plant Fund - \$5,842.58.

Executive Session

Betty Barnes announced at 7:36 p.m. that the City Council will enter into Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

The council resumed regular session at 7:39 p.m.

Stephanie Porter moved to approve amending the conditions to include moving the meter 6 inches out from the building. Sandra Guzman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

City Council directed Chris Lanz to follow up with Mr. Dickey’s attorney regarding the amended conditions.

The council adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor