

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Dan Armstrong and Stephanie Porter. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, Deputy Clerk Kristen Hohensee, Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Chief Tracy Wyckoff. Audience: Maria Foley and Michelle Scott.

Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2015

Changes to the minutes of the October 6, 2015 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 2, 8th paragraph should read: “He said Ashley Hackett has been doing a great job.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the meeting minutes of the October 6, 2015 regularly scheduled meeting as corrected. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Council Member Vacancy

Betty Barnes said there is still a vacancy and there have been no applications submitted.

Funding Request for 2016 Gorge Tourism Studio

Maria Foley from the Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce presented the council with the Gorge Tourism Studio program. She handed out a survey postcard, a schedule of training that is open to the public and an overview letter about the Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association. Foley explained the purpose of the program is to increase tourism to the area and economic development. She said the program is run by Travel Oregon. Foley said the key components are agriculture, culinary services, wineries, brew pubs and connecting trails through each town.

Dan Armstrong asked who the target audience is.

Foley said outsiders in general starting with Portland and surrounding areas. She went on to give some examples of preliminary ideas such as supplying water and bikes at trailheads. Foley also said that Washington buy-in is required for the grant.

Armstrong asked who will put the list of ideas together.

Foley said that there will be meetings to brainstorm ideas. She said the program currently involves 22 different organizations.

Catherine Kiewit said she thinks it is a great opportunity and has worked with Travel Oregon in the past. She had funding questions for Maria such as: How much does Washington need to contribute? What other organizations are being asked to donate? What will this money be used for exactly?

Foley said that \$15,000 is Washington’s portion. She said it is to develop a 15 year plan and the initial portion is the vision planning.

Kiewit asked if Travel Oregon was in the position of consultant.

Foley said yes, they have the outreach to make it happen.

Foley said the Steering Committee is passionate about various topics. She said she believes they will also be conscious of any negative impact tourism might have on our area. Foley said Washington State does not have its own tourism board. She said community buy-in is required in order to make the program successful.

Kiewit questioned the funding that was given in the past to Klickitat County. She said if the money was not spent it was supposed to go into advertising to promote the area.

Foley said that was a separate project and was not sure how the funds were distributed.

Kiewit asked if someone could follow up on where the funds are.

Betty Barnes went over the specifics of the proposed 2016 budget and suggested the amount of \$1500 as something that could be possible if the council agreed.

Kiewit said she thinks it is worth it just to get people in the same room to discuss options. She also asked if Parks and Recreation Districts were invited to the table.

Foley said yes.

Barnes said she agrees with Kiewit and likes the training aspect of the program.

Catherine Kiewit moved to provide \$1500.00 in funding for the Gorge Tourism Studio project. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Barnes asked Chris Lanz to create an interlocal agreement with the Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association for the project.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Tracy Wyckoff said the last couple of weeks have been nice and quiet. He said Lisa George is working full time and doing a very good job. Wyckoff said she is restructuring the office to make things more sensible and visible. He said she has over 16 years of experience so he is pleased. He said the new officers are doing well and there have been no complaints.

Catherine Kiewit asked if there have been any mental illness arrests.

Wyckoff said no. He said as far as he knows one individual is staying in Hood River. Wyckoff said there is an individual who is camped out in the woods. He said the officers had to approach him and ask him to move off private property. Wyckoff said he is worried that once the weather changes, there may be more activity.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2015-11-651, Amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.16.020, Stop and Yield Intersections Designated

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing regarding amending Bingen Municipal Code (BMC) 10.16.020, Stop and Yield Intersections Designated.

Barnes said that currently there is no stop sign at the intersection of Depot Street and Walnut Street. She said there is a stop sign at the intersection of Depot Street and Maple Street but it is not in the city's code.

Tracy Wyckoff said that if a ticket was issued for a stop sign that was not in code, the ticket would get thrown out of court. He said he thinks it is a good idea for both of these to be implemented.

Catherine Kiewit said that there is already a striped line in place.

Betty Barnes said that Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) had a similar request for safety issues.

Chris Lanz pointed out that in the memo portion of Jan Brending's handout, the 2nd paragraph is repetitive should have said Depot and Walnut.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Proposed Ordinance 2015-11-651, Amending Bingen Municipal Code Chapter 10.16.020, Stop and Yield Intersections Designated

Catherine Kiewit moved to adopt Ordinance 2015-11-651, Amending Bingen Municipal Code Chapter 10.16.020 Stop and Yield Intersections. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2015-12-652, Amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.14.030, Commercial Area Parking

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing regarding proposed amendments to Bingen Municipal Code 10.14.030, Commercial Area Parking.

Betty Barnes explained that Washington Gorge Action Programs has asked that the east side of Ash Street be designated as 2-hour parking. She said the parking on the east side does not have any designation since Insitu was using it for employee parking and did not have customer service traffic.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Proposed Ordinance 2015-12-652, Amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.14.030, Commercial Area Parking

Catherine Kiewit moved to adopt Ordinance 2015-12-652, Amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.14.030, Commercial Area Parking. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Daubenspeck Donor Signage

Catherine Kiewit said that she and Jan Brending taped up example plaques to check for accurate measurements. She said Brending is going to send details to Sign Media for an actual quote. Kiewit said a quote might be available by the next meeting. She said sheet metal would only have a day or 2 turn around and cast aluminum has a 10 business day turn around.

Betty Barnes asked about logos.

Kiewit recommended that logos not be used since some had very intricate designs and ultimately it would be more expensive. She said the idea is to keep it simple and more professional rather than use complicated aesthetics.

Barnes mentioned that the lifespan would need to be a factor as well.

Kiewit asked council members to take a look at the list Brending sent them of the donors. She said it should be reviewed for typos along with name changes, etc.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Sue Bartholomew

Betty Barnes informed the council that Sue Bartholomew passed away recently. She said a service will be held on November 14th. Barnes said Sue Bartholomew was a champion of the community.

Highway 14 Chip Seal Project

Betty Barnes reported that the highway work is done. She said she will be in touch with WSDOT regarding the schedule for the spring. Barnes said it took 2 nights instead of 1 to finish painting due to the fire department flushing the hydrants and the ground being wet. She said they will be working on better communication in the future.

Mt Adams Parks and Recreation Planning

Catherine Kiewit said she received an invitation to the Mt. Adams Parks and Recreation Planning Summit. She said it will be an evening brainstorming session.

Betty Barnes mentioned that she will be there as well.

Trails

Betty Barnes brought up the possibility of developing a walking trail in Bingen. She said one location could be around the perimeter of the park since it is a difficult space to water. Barnes said it is a project that could be easily attained that Mt. Adams Parks and Recreation could help develop. Barnes mentioned that the Port will be meeting about their greenspace plan in Goldendale soon and she will send those dates to the council.

Kiewit brought up a bluff trail idea that would be a gradual trail to a possible view point lookout.

Stephanie Porter said she likes the trail around the park idea since it allows for kids to be in full view of the parents.

Betty Barnes said it would also be a small project for the Mt. Adams Parks & Recreation District.

Fire District #3 Spaghetti Feed

Betty Barnes said she is planning on attending the spaghetti feed this Saturday in Husum. She noted the Rotary Club will be donating an AED defibrillator to the police department.

Ballots

Betty said that voter ballots have been mailed. She said everyone should vote.

Engine Brakes

Catherine Kiewit mentioned the engine brakes discussion. She said she wants to look into putting up a sign.

Betty Barnes said that she would not recommend a sign on Highway 141 because the city could be held liable if there was an accident. She said she thinks it would be safe on Highway 14 as long as the wording is the same as the State's wording.

Chris Lanz will draft language for a sign.

Barnes said the city should contact our risk management insurance about installing the sign. She said she thinks it will be fine once we figure out the proper language and look into possible insurance implications.

Train Horn Noise

Dan Armstrong asked if there is any way the train horn noise can be reduced.

Betty Barnes said that since the city adopted its resolution on oil trains, she has noticed an increase on how long they blow the horns.

Catherine Kiewit said she feels there are more trains.

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 October 20, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: EFT and checks 17939-17955 (dated 10/20/2015) totaling \$16,998.19. General Fund – \$10,584.49; Street - \$62.97; Water - \$1,717.48; Sewer - \$775.51; Treatment Plant - \$1,935.24; Treatment Plant Improvement Fund - \$1,922.50.

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 October 20, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 17889-17890, 17933 (dated 09/30/15) totaling \$1,707.68. Court Remittance Agency Fund – \$1,707.68.

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 October 20, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT and checks 17934-17938 (dated 10/15/2015) totaling \$12,328.57. General Fund – \$5,222.56; Street Fund - \$2,037.97; Water Fund - \$1,032.21; Sewer Fund - \$317.88; Treatment Plant Fund - \$3,717.95.

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 October 20, 2015. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: Payroll EFT (dated 10/20/2015) totaling \$2,238.53. General Fund – \$816.50; Street Fund - \$420.56; Water Fund - \$202.98; Sewer Fund - \$60.51; Treatment Plant Fund - \$737.98.

The council adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor