

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 17, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Dan Armstrong, Stephanie Porter, Izzy Schroder (by phone). Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending, Police Chief Tracy Wyckoff and Officer Mike Hepner. Audience: Michelle Scott.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Tracy Wyckoff said the City of Goldendale will hold a town hall meeting on May 24 regarding the proposed sales tax increase for drug enforcement. He said he has heard mixed things about the proposal including the question “is there actually a drug problem”. Wyckoff said there is a drug problem in Klickitat County. He said he believes medical marijuana is being sold to the community. He said the real question is does the community want law enforcement to work on addressing the problem. Wyckoff noted that the department recently picked someone up who was under the influence of prescription narcotics.

Jan Brending noted the drug problem affects all levels of the community.

Dan Armstrong said he is excited to see how passionate the police department is about this issue. He said before the police chief briefed the city council he was not aware that there was a problem. Armstrong said that he does not believe that a 0.1% increase in sales tax will be a problem for the community. He said he feels it is important to go after the problem.

Tracy Wyckoff said it is his intent to work with other law enforcement agencies in the region as a team – creating a relationship and communication.

Stephanie Porter said she has expressed her support for the sales tax increase from the beginning. She said she would like to see the department go after grants and even more funding.

Mike Hepner said he has worked with Chief Wyckoff in Skamania County when Wyckoff was working undercover. He said there was a significant difference made.

Izzy Schroder thanked Chief Wyckoff and Officer Hepner for their input. She said she agrees with Stephanie Porter and Dan Armstrong. Schroder said there is a need for some advocacy.

Catherine Kiewit said that she hopes there can be a partnership with mental health for follow up treatment.

Betty Barnes asked the city council if they feel the county commissioners should move forward and pass the increased sales tax without a vote of the citizens or should the county commissioners send it to the residents for a vote.

Kiewit said she thinks it makes sense to make the proposal happen and that because it is a new tax or an increase in tax that it might not pass if taken to the voters. She said she thinks it is the county commissioners’ job and they will have to do what makes sense.

Stephanie Porter moved to support the 0.1% sales tax increase dedicated to drug enforcement and ask the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners to move forward in implementation of the sales tax increase. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 3

Stephanie Porter moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting on May 3, 2016 as presented. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Bid Results – Engineered Wood Fiber for Daubenspeck Park Playground

Jan Brending said the city received three bids for 300 cubic yards of engineered wood fiber for the Daubenspeck Park playground: Sitelines - \$10,992.88; Northwest Playground Equipment, Inc. - \$9,042.90; and Cascade Recreation Inc. - \$8,291.41. She recommended the city accept the bid of Cascade Recreation.

It was noted that the existing wood chips and fiber will be removed to be replaced with entirely new engineered wood fiber.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept the bid from Cascade Recreation for 300 cubic yards of engineered wood fiber in the amount of \$8,291.41. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Request for Proposal – Water Meter and Vault Replacement, Recommendation to Hire Engineering Firm

Betty Barnes said the city received three proposals for engineering services for the water vault and meter replacement project: Gray & Osborne Inc., Bell Design Company, and Firwood Design Group LLC. She said that after review and evaluation of the proposals she and Jan Brending are recommending hiring Gray & Osborne as they believe they are the best qualified to provide the services necessary for the job.

The council and staff discussed the recommendation.

Stephanie Porter moved to authorize the mayor to begin negotiations with Gray & Osborne, Inc. to establish a contract including scope of work and cost for the water meter and vault replacement project. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Request for Proposal – 200/300 E. Humboldt Street, Recommendation to Hire Engineering Firm

Betty Barnes said the city received seven proposals for engineering services for the 200/300 E. Humboldt Street project. She said that evaluating the proposals she and Jan Brending interviewed the top two firms: Gray & Osborne, Inc. and HDJ. Barnes said based on the proposals and interviews they are recommending hiring Gray & Osborne as they are the best qualified to provide the services necessary for the job.

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize the mayor to begin negotiations with Gray & Osborne, Inc. to establish a contract including scope of work and cost for the 200/300 E. Humboldt Street project. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Izzy Schroder, attending by phone, left the meeting.

2015 Annual Report

Jan Brending presented the 2015 Annual Report to the city council.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept the 2015 Annual Report. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report – April 2016

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for April 2016.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for April 2016. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Highway 141 Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Betty Barnes said the city has received communication from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) requesting that the safety improvements on Highway 141, which included upgrading the crosswalk at the intersection of Oak (Highway 141) and Humboldt and narrowing the travel lanes and widening the pedestrian pathway on 141 up to Jewett Creek in White Salmon, be delayed until 2018 due to the road being resurfaced at that time. She said WSDOT is proposing temporary striping and signage at Oak and Humboldt to address safety concerns in the meantime.

The council discussed the proposal and reluctantly agreed to the request to delay the improvements to 2018. A suggestion was made to modify the striping at the southeast corner of Oak and Humboldt to prevent a parking space from being eliminated or to at least allow for motorcycle parking in that area.

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 17, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: EFT and checks 18419-18436 (dated 05/17/2016) totaling \$12,492.84. General Fund – \$4,691.75; Street - \$849.22; Water - \$2,857.27; Sewer - \$2,433.78; Treatment Plant - \$1,650.82.

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 17, 2016. The council by unanimous vote

does approve for payment the following list: checks 18417-18418 (dated 04/30/2016) totaling \$846.98. Court Remittance Agency Fund - \$846.98.

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 17, 2016 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT and checks 18413-18416 (dated 05/16/2016) totaling \$13,569.66. General Fund – \$5,763.73; Street Fund - \$1,862.59; Water Fund - \$1,414.59; Sewer Fund - \$256.74; Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,272.01.

The council adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor