

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 2, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Tim Hearn, Sandi Dickey, Betty Barnes and Laura Mann. Council members absent: Terry Trantow. City Clerk Treasurer Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Jesse Burkhardt.

Oath of Office

Sandi Dickey, Betty Barnes, and Tim Hearn were sworn in as council members by Mayor Brian Prigel.

Public Comment

Laura Mann, Bingen

Laura Mann asked how Christmas tree disposal is handled in Bingen. Christmas trees must be taken to the one of the local transfer stations.

Approval of Minutes – December 18, 2007

Corrections to the minutes of the December 18 city council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 7th paragraph, 5th sentence should read: “She said adjustments need to be made to proposed ordinance 07-06-541: page 2 – Street Fund, Appropriations is changed to \$69,159 and Ending Cash Balance is changed to \$48,138; page 3 – Water Fund, Appropriations is changed to \$100,466 and Ending Cash Balance is changed to \$68,364; page 4 – Sewer Fund, Appropriations is changed to \$40,347 and Ending Cash Balance is changed to \$143,056; page 4 – Treatment Plant Fund, Appropriations is changed to \$166,105 and Ending Cash Balance is changed to \$107,915.”

Page 4, add the following paragraph after the 9th paragraph: “Betty Barnes noted that whether the employee was paid or not they were still performing duties.”

Page 5, add the following paragraph after the 3rd paragraph: “Jan Brending noted that Sandy Dean has filed a request to have the carpet cleaned which has been turned over to the cities insurance.”

Sandi Dickey moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2007 city council meeting as amended. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Goals and Priorities

Brian Prigel provided an overview of the memorandum dated December 28, 2007 titled “Goals and Priorities – Review of 2007 and Proposed 2008. He said this is a discussion item.

Laura Mann thanked Jan Brending for her work on the goals and priorities.

Jan Brending said she would like the council to address one item, planning for the museum, that is listed as a goal for 2008. She said that she had recommended in 2007 that the city hire an architect to develop preliminary comprehensive plans that could be phased. Brending said the plans would include preliminary drawings and cost estimates that could then be used to apply for grants. She said that the museum board had appointed a committee who was to develop goals for how it wanted to expand or use the museum facility in the future including possibly locating the Suksdorf house on the property east of the museum facility. Brending said the city has not received these goals which would then allow the city to develop a scope of work to hire an architect. She said she feels it is important to develop a comprehensive plan so that remodeling work such as adding ADA access, new doors, etc. is done in such a way that it does not prevent future remodeling or have to be redone sometime in the future. Brending said the plan will provide guidance to both the museum and the city.

The city council discussed who was on the committees pointing specifically to concerns with 3 members of the city council at a joint meeting with representatives from the museum board. Tad Connors said he was less concerned with the quorum issue but had other concerns he would discuss later with Terry Trantow.

The city council asked that a letter be written to the museum board reestablishing what was recommended in the past and to specifically spell out what is needed from the museum to move the project forward.

Laura Mann said she thinks addressing the sewer and water agreements is a priority. She suggested that the city of Bingen can work on what it thinks is needed in the agreements particularly the sewer agreement.

Betty Barnes said she believes that addressing the water odor is a priority. Brian Prigel said he also believes that addressing the sewer I&I issues is a priority.

Jan Brending said she is trying to set up a meeting with Mike Wellman, Tom Hons, and possibly David Spratt, and Tommy Smith to discuss how to move forward in addressing the I&I issue.

The cleaning of the Dry Creek culvert was considered a medium priority.

Tim Hearn asked where the skate park is considered.

Jan Brending noted that it is addressed under the “Community Center and Parking Planning” goal and priority. She said the planning should take place in early 2008 after the county makes its decision on the EDA grant proposal.

The city council discussed sidewalk and right-of-way maintenance. Jan Brending said she does not believe the city has ordinances that address either issue. She said she will check the ordinances to see what has been adopted and provide copies to the city council.

Betty Barnes suggested that the city should be setting the stage as to what it would like to see done regarding sidewalk maintenance and right-of-way maintenance.

Brian Prigel said he believes the city council should review any pertinent ordinances, get businesses to step up and get the city crew to address locations adjacent to the city property.

The city council discussed maintenance of landscaping beds. It was suggested that a small marker could be placed in beds recognizing those businesses who agree to maintain them. Betty Barnes suggested that Sandi Dickey could help consult with those businesses who want to maintain the beds.

Brian Prigel said he would like to make a better effort to get property owners at the east end of town to maintain the right-of-way. It was suggested letter be sent to residential property owners.

Jan Brending said that she has talked to Windermere Realty about constructing key-stone walls at the east end of town as their community project this spring/summer. She said that the city could purchase the key-stone and have city crew prepare the area while Windermere would provide the labor to install the walls.

Jan Brending said she could address the maintenance of the right-of-way issue in an upcoming newsletter. It was suggested that a newsletter be sent out in the near future addressing right-of-way maintenance in addition to animal control and a review of the dog ordinance requirements.

Betty Barnes requested that all newsletters come before the council for review before going out to see if there are items that could be added.

Laura Mann asked if there are changes needed to the dog ordinance. Tad Connors said the city stills needs to address dangerous dogs. He said the biggest issue has been the “hearings officer”.

Mayor’s Update and Council Comments

Bingen Treatment Plant

Betty Barnes said that she was recently walking at night towards the port and noticed that only one light at the treatment plant works. She said there is a second light that blinks off and on but that all other lights are off.

Brian Prigel said that he will discuss the issue with staff and make sure the lights are replaced.

Port Director

Laura Mann asked if Brian Prigel has met with the new port director.

Brian Prigel said he needs to set up a meeting.

Police Report – Vandalism

Tim Hearn asked if Jan Brending knew where the “vandalism” listed on the police statistics took place.

Jan Brending said probably at the park.

Animal Control Agreement

Tad Connors said the animal control agreement has been forwarded to Goldendale's attorney in Yakima. He said the completion of the agreement should go smoothly.

Public Defense Contract

Tad Connors said the establishment of a contract with Annala, Carey, Baker, Thompson & Vankoten, P.C. is moving forward.

Jail Contract

Tad Connors provided an overview of last year's jail contract and current negotiations of a contract for 2008. He said that there have been problems in addressing who is responsible for medical expenses that might occur when an individual is in jail on a felony arrest. Connors said that when an individual is arrested in Bingen on a felony charge the case goes to the county prosecutor but the medical expenses could come to the city. He said the city has no option to release the individual if medical attention is required because the case is under the county's jurisdiction. Connors said that legislation was passed that makes the medical expenses the county's responsibility unless there is a contract that does otherwise. He said Klickitat County wants to keep the responsibility for medical expenses at the city level. Connors said that the two entities are currently at an impasse. He said he will be talking to Skamania County about jail services for misdemeanor charges. Connors said felony arrests would still go to Klickitat County. He said he will keep the council apprised of the issue as it moves forward. Connors noted that the city's contract for 2007 could be interpreted that the county is responsible for the medical expenses or that the city is responsible for medical expense. He said that it is his position that the county is responsible. Connors said that Goldendale has a two-year contract with the county but that some of their prisoners are going to Yakima.

Tim Hearn said he has talked to Bruce Brending about this issue who said he would make efforts to release an individual who may incur medical expenses while in jail.

White Salmon City Attorney

Laura Mann asked if Tad Connors has had any dealings with the new White Salmon city attorney.

Tad Connors said he has known Ken Woodridge for a long-time and worked with him for a period of time in Stevenson. Connors said he has represented several of the public entities Woodridge has a contract with because there was a conflict.

Newly-Elected Officials Workshop

Jan Brending said the AWC "Newly-Elected Officials Workshop" is scheduled for January 11 in Yakima. She asked if there are council members that would like to attend.

Betty Barnes said she would like to but doesn't think she will be able to. Sandi Dickey said she will let Brending know if she is going.

AWC Conference

Brian Prigel said the AWC Conference held in June is highly informative. He said representatives from about 2/3 of the state's cities attend. Prigel said it is good to meet with your peers occasionally and hear that they are addressing the same kinds of issues.

White Salmon City Clerk Treasurer

Jan Brending said the city has hired a new city clerk treasurer, Lori Kreps. She said she is expected to start sometime between January 14 and February 1.

Vouchers – Dated December 30, 2007

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 January 2, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 9582 through 9601 totaling \$13,594.66 and payroll checks 9569 through 9580 totaling \$11,626.35 for a grand total of \$25,221.01. Current - \$8,755.21; Street - \$3,210.19; Water - \$2,717.50; Sewer - \$963.47; Treatment Plant - \$5,660.28; Dallesport Treatment Plant - \$3,914.36.

Vouchers – Dated January 2, 2008

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 January 2, 2008. The council by unanimous vote

does approve for payment the following list: checks 9602 through 9608 totaling \$10,485.96 for a grand total of \$10,485.96. Current - \$4,727.32; Street - \$708.02; Water – \$1,201.18; Sewer - \$549.80; Treatment Plant - \$1,807.92; Dallesport Treatment Plant – \$1,491.72.

The council adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor