

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Terry Trantow, Betty Barnes, Tim Hearn, Sandi Dickey and Laura Mann. Clerk Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Ruth Winner, Bruce Brending, Jesse Burkhardt, Sharron Allen, Bonnie Henderson, Jim Donnelly.

Public Comment

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Bruce Brending reported that the police department has its new 2007 Impala vehicle. He said it is available after the council meeting if council members would like view it. Brending reported there was a recent burglary at McCoy Video. He said the department made an arrest this afternoon with another arrest pending. Brending said approximately 80% of the merchandise was recovered.

Betty Barnes asked Bruce Brending if he attended the recent civil service commission meeting.

Bruce Brending said no. He said he does not know if they have appointed a chief examiner. Bruce Brending provided an overview of what constitute a burglary or a theft. He said those burglaries or thefts identified in the recent stat reports have not been solved.

Tim Hearn asked Bruce Brending if he knew in what establishment an individual had been served when they were arrested for DUI.

Bruce Brending said no. He said that most of the arrests were on Highway 14 and that the individuals were not necessarily served in local establishments.

Betty Barnes asked when the officer in the academy was going to graduate.

Bruce Brending said the department does not have anyone in the academy at the present time. He said the individual who passed all the tests in the last testing process did not clear a background check and was therefore not hired.

Port of Klickitat

Jim Donnelly said the port has brought in Clark Bryant to look at its water system. He said the port hopes to move back onto its irrigation system in the near future. Donnelly said he is not sure what the reduction meter is metering but he said Bingen's public works crew did inspect the meter.

Old Business

Water Issue

Brian Prigel said the city has done some research into hydrogen sulfide issues with wells. He provided an overview of the city's water system past history and past efforts to address the hydrogen sulfide issue. Prigel said he does not recall the level of concern in the past when Bingen was using only its water due to a "boil water order" in White Salmon. He noted that Bingen is only using water from its wells and is no longer purchasing water from White Salmon except for the water that is provided directly to approximately 12 homes. Prigel said that one of the things that can help is continued aeration. He said the water currently dumps into the top of the reservoir which helps aerate it. Prigel said the city can take a look at the issue. He said that he is aware that the aesthetic issues does not reflect well on the community and is not a good thing.

Sharron Allen and Bonnie Henderson, representing Big River Diner, said they are concerned that the article in The Enterprise was damaging to their business. They said they notice the problem off and on. Sharron Allen said the restaurant has upgraded its filter.

Bonnie Henderson said the article in the newspaper drew a lot of attention and it wasn't positive. Henderson said it is disheartening to build a business and have something like this tear it down. She said the restaurant is a family-style business and is here year round.

Jesse Burkhardt said the article was not intended to be damaging.

Brian Prigel said he has not read the article but will.

Council members discussed the issue. Council members and staff said that their comments at the previous meeting were not intended to be harmful to Big River Diner. They were intended for discussion purposes to try and understand what kind of problem there is and how to address it.

Jan Brending noted that additional testing has been done at Big River Diner and on the city's water. She said the results are not back yet. Brending suggested that a fact sheet be developed for customers regarding the hydrogen sulfide issue. She said the information could be mailed to each customer and posted on the city's web page.

Brian Prigel said there are valid concerns regarding the issue. He said the city needs to consider its options including trying to fix the problem or buying more of White Salmon water.

Jan Brending said the city needs to hire an engineer to address replacing the city's chlorination system and that the engineer could also address the hydrogen sulfide issue. She said she will meet with the mayor and public works superintendent to draft up a scope of work for the hiring of an engineer.

Brian Prigel said the short-term solutions are to issue a press release, provide information to the public through a mailer and to review how the aeration in the reservoir is functioning and whether or not it can be easily enhanced.

Laura Mann said she would like it on the record that she feels it is important for Bingen to be self-sufficient in providing water. She said it is not just a cost issue when it comes to not buying White Salmon water.

Betty Barnes said she agrees.

Laura Mann noted that it may be expensive to become self-sufficient. She said Bingen would likely have to drill another well and hopefully get some good water.

Tim Hearn asked if Bingen can sell its rights to White Salmon water back to White Salmon.

Brian Prigel said that is a discussion for another day.

Approval of Minutes – July 3, 2007

It was noted that in the "Presentation of Treatment Plant Award" all the words "plan" should be changed to "plant."

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes with the corrections. Tim Hearn seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Six-Year Transportation Program

Brian Prigel announced the public hearing for the city's proposed six-year transportation program. He said adoption of the program is a state requirement. Prigel said the priorities among the projects can be changed at any time and usually are when funding becomes available.

Jan Brending said the proposed program was developed in consultant with David Spratt using the state's pavement ratings.

Betty Barnes moved to approve Resolution 2007-005, adopting the six-year transportation program. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Submittal of CDBG Planning-Only Grant

Brian Prigel announced a public hearing regarding the submittal of a CDBG grant application.

Jan Brending provided an overview of the CDBG grant program including the opportunity to submit a CDBG Planning-Only Grant. She provided printed information regarding the availability of grants and how the funding can be used. Brending said the city proposes to submit an application for a CDBG Planning-Only Grant for \$24,000 to complete a Water System Plan.

No public comment was made.

Betty Barnes moved to pass Resolution 2007-004, Authorizing Submittal of a CDBG Planning-Only Grant. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Member Comments

Klickitat County Conservancy Board

Brian Prigel reported that he and Jan Brending attended the Klickitat County Conservancy Board meeting on July 10. He said the board has formally accepted the city's four applications to add White Salmon's wells to Bingen's water rights as additional points of withdrawal.

Jan Brending said a site visit to Bingen and White Salmon's wells was held today in which she and David Spratt attended along with White Salmon city council members and White Salmon staff.

She said public notice will be issued by the board and that hopefully in September they will approve the applications and then forward them to the state Department of Ecology.

Business Alarm

Brian Prigel said there is a local business with an alarm that seems to be going off every night. He asked Bruce Brending if anything can be done about it.

Bruce Brending said he is aware of the problem and has encouraged the business owner to have the alarm company come out and check out the system. He said it has hopefully been taken care of.

Water

Tim Hearn said that even though Bingen is entitled to 25% of the water produced by White Salmon it is currently not using any and that White Salmon is using 100% of the water produced.

Brian Prigel said Bingen is still entitled to 25% of the water.

Tim Hearn said he feels that Bingen is not using the water and is not getting reimbursed.

Betty Barnes said the city does not own the water but is entitled to purchase the water.

Brian Prigel said that is correct. He said that adding White Salmon's wells to Bingen's water rights puts Bingen in a stronger position for the purchase of water. Prigel said the cost to purchase the water covers the cost to get the water from the wells to the city.

Tim Hearn said he would still like to see Bingen negotiate the cost of water. He said he still does not like being tied to White Salmon water.

Brian Prigel said he agrees. He said it is better for Bingen to be self-reliant and self-sufficient.

Betty Barnes said she agrees as long as Bingen can deliver safe and reliable water.

Surplus Trailers

Betty Barnes asked when the trailers will be put out to surplus bid.

Jan Brending said she is working on developing the bid information and they should be out to bid in the next few weeks.

Sidewalk Maintenance

Laura Mann said she feels there needs to be some sidewalk maintenance related to overhanging trees particularly in the Elm and Steuben area.

Betty Barnes said she would like to see attention paid to the weeds in the sidewalks and particular attention paid to the weeds at 400 W. Steuben.

Tribal Property – Humboldt and Pine

Laura Mann submitted a letter from herself and John Mann requesting the city send a letter to the regulating authority regarding the tribal property at Humboldt and Pine. She said the property needs to be cleaned up so that it is not a nuisance.

Jan Brending said she can send a letter to the tribal health authority and to the Yakama Tribe.

Vegetation Growth – Franklin Street between Alder and Walnut

Terry Trantow said the vegetation on the north side of Franklin Street between Alder and Walnut is again a problem. He said it is not possible to see traffic that is west bound on Franklin due to the vegetation in the right-of-way.

Meeting in Daubenspeck Park

The city council discussed holding a meeting in Daubenspeck Park in August. It was decided to have a tour of the park at the beginning of the second meeting in August.

Vouchers

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 July 17, 2007. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 9033 through 9053 totaling \$6,138.08 and payroll checks 9015 through 9032 totaling \$12,530.89 for a grand total of \$18,669.87. Current - \$6,834.49; Street - \$1,165.91; Water – \$1,331.60; Sewer - \$804.77; Treatment Plant - \$3,713.07; Dallesport Treatment Plant – \$4,820.03.

The council adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor