

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 18, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Terry Trantow, Tim Hearn, Sandi Dickey, Betty Barnes and Laura Mann. Deputy Clerk Dena Riggelman and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Bruce Brending, Ruth Winner, Judy Farrell, Etta Hepner, Roy Barnes, Hugh Whitson and Jonathan Blake.

Public Comment

Roy Barnes, Bingen

Roy Barnes requested that Bingen City council get “more pushy” about backing Broughton Mill Resort. He suggested that the council should get together with White Salmon City council to make a stand and write a letter supporting the development of Broughton Mill Resort.

Brian Prigel said that in the past Bingen had sent a letter of support. He recommended that the council read the plan amendments before making a decision. He said if the council still feels the need to make a comment of support, then they could discuss this at the next council meeting.

Approval of Minutes – September 4, 2007

Corrections to the draft meeting minutes of the September 4 city council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 2, 8th paragraph should read as follows: “Etta Hepner presented the window-frame of fire department pictures to Fire Chief David Spratt, which will be raffled to raise funds for the fire department’s thermal imaging camera.”

Page 3, 3rd paragraph should read as follows: “Sandi Dickey explained that she had concerns about how the sealed bids from the surplus sale were opened.”

Page 3, add the following to 4th paragraph: “Sandi asked who changed previous policy. Brian Prigel said that there was never a formal policy so Brian and Jan changed the practice of opening the bids.”

Page 3, 5th paragraph should read as follows: “Council and staff discussed the bid opening process. The current process of opening bids prior to council meetings will stay in place with appropriate wording noted in the documentation that the bids will be opened in public and the ad will state date, time, and place the bid will be opened.”

Betty Barnes moved to approve the minutes of the September 4 city council meeting as amended. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

City Insurance Review- Hugh Whitson, McCoy Holliston Insurance

Hugh Whitson made a presentation to the council explaining how the insurance coverage works for the City of Bingen. He also wanted the council to know that Canfield and Associates offers free workshops to the cities they cover.

Gorge Heritage Museum, Proposed Lease Amendments

Tad Connors discussed the lease on the museum.

After a discussion on the changes to the lease, Laura Mann moved to adopt the proposed amendment to Section One of the museum lease and providing that temporary uses shall not exceed 150 days in any calendar year. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

After a discussion on Section Two, the council decided to table the decision for now.

Small Works Roster Bid, Tree Removal Bid Results and Contracts Award

The city received one bid from Columbia Tree Services for a total of \$2,331.35.

The council asked staff to send a letter to property owners informing them that the trees are scheduled to be taken down.

Laura Mann moved to accept the small works bid with an additional park pine tree added to the bid. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Maple Street Reconstruction Project

Brian Prigel discussed the Maple Street project. He recommended that the council drive to the location to see the temporary painted design to get an idea of what it will look like.

Tom Reser, Development Request

Brian Prigel reviewed the request from Tom Reser on the redevelopment of his property.

Mayor’s Update and City Council Comments

Joint Policy Committee Meeting

Brian Prigel said there was a joint police committee meeting held last night.

Betty Barnes said she wanted to make a public apology. She said she takes the blame for the mix-up on the meeting location and apologized for it.

Betty Barnes said that the White Salmon budget committee has concerns on the budget and may not chose to restore all the police positions. She said the Bingen city agreement with White Salmon is for 8 positions and she recommends that a letter be sent to White Salmon stating that Bingen supports an 8 person police force and would also like to see a 9th position.

Bruce Brending discussed the police budget and being short staffed. He said that in preparing the 2008 police budget that he would be budgeting for 9 police officer positions.

Betty Barnes made a motion to send a letter to White Salmon stating Bingen strongly urges White Salmon to support at least 8 positions and would like to see 9 positions filled. Tim Hearn seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Terry Wake Letter

Laura Mann said she agrees with Terry Wake’s letter. She said the council needs to take action to try and fix the water problem.

Brian Prigel said he will talk with David Spratt to check resources like Evergreen Rural Water and try to find some solutions to fixing the hydrogen sulfide problem with the water.

Tree Well Electrical Problems

Betty Barnes showed the council the electrical solution that Coburn Electric came up with to fix the tree well electrical problem. Coburn Electric will be turning in an estimate to fix this problem.

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 September 18, 2007. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 9227 through 9259 totaling \$22167.28 and payroll checks 9209 through 9226 totaling \$12,112.95 and manual check 9208 for \$150 for a grand total of \$34,430.23. Current - \$21,743.08; Street - \$1,117.38; Community Development - \$188.00; Water – \$1,661.17; Sewer - \$944.25; Treatment Plant - \$4,330.91; Dallesport Treatment Plant – \$4,445.44.

The council adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor