

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 16, 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. City Clerk Treasurer Jan Brending was present. Audience: Ruth Winner, Timi Keene, Bruce Bolme.

Approval of Minutes – October 2, 2007

The following corrections were made to the October 2, 2007 city council meeting minutes:

Page 1, 1st paragraph: “Audience: Jason Spadero, Ruth Winner, Jesse Burkhardt, Jake Anderson.”

Page 2, add the following paragraph after the 2nd paragraph: “Laura Mann made suggestions regarding a letter of support.”

Betty Barnes moved to approve the minutes of the October 2 city council meeting as amended. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Community Garden Proposal – Horizons, Bruce Bolme

Bruce Bolme said he represents the Horizons program. He said he has worked with the Farmers Market and Gorge Grown. He said the Horizons program has identified the need for community gardens in Bingen and White Salmon and is looking for potential garden sites for next year. Bolme said one potential site that has been identified in Bingen is the property located east of the Gorge Heritage Museum. He said the site has some of the basic needs for a community garden. Bolme provided photographs of the area east of the museum and photographs of a successful community garden in Hood River. He said that a community garden located adjacent to the museum may have the additional benefit of increasing traffic to the museum. Bolme said he is looking for nominations for suitable sites and would like feedback from the city.

Terry Trantow asked how long are the community gardens proposed to be in place.

Bruce Bolme said ideally indefinitely but at least for one growing season. He said everything associated with the garden would be portable.

Brian Prigel said the idea of community gardens was identified in the original Bingen Community Action Plan. He said the museum site would probably require permission from both the museum board and the city of Bingen. Prigel said other possible properties in Bingen would include the open space area in the Bingen School Inn and the city property located near the park.

Laura Mann asked if there would be a cost charged for each garden plot.

Bruce Bolme said something would be charged so that it was clear that the individual is taking it seriously.

Brian Prigel said he believes there is typically an agreement for some kind of basic maintenance of the garden.

Bruce Bolme said they will be following the example of the garden located in Hood River.

Betty Barnes asked if the museum leases only the building or the entire property.

Brian Prigel said that is a good question but that he would not want to move ahead with that location without the consent of the museum.

Betty Barnes said she feels that the property near the park could be used on a temporary basis until the city has a need for it. She said it would be better to see the property used until the city needs it.

Laura Mann said she thinks the community garden idea is a good one.

Brian Prigel said he thinks the council could support the idea in concept but would need to have a specific proposal to move further ahead.

Brian Prigel asked what would be the next step in establishing the gardens.

Bruce Bolme said he would like to have a designated person from the city to work with.

Jan Brending will be the point of contact for the city.

Brian Prigel asked if Bolme would be willing to go before the museum board to discuss the property east of the museum. Bolme said yes.

Brian Prigel said he is supportive of the concept and thinks it is a good idea for Bingen.

There was council consent for the support of the concept.

Timi Keene said that one of the nice things about the museum property is that it is a central location in the city. She noted that deer fencing will be used so it is easy to move. Keene said that a variety of tools will be provided on site for people to use in gardening. She said that water conservation will also be addressed.

Public Hearing – 2007 Budget Amendments

Jan Brending provided an overview of amendments to the 2007 budget. She noted that because of the fund raising that was accomplished by Betty Barnes and the fire department in addition to the reimbursement for railroad fires, funding is now available to purchase the thermal imaging camera. Brending said the amendments to the 2007 budget provides for that purchase.

Betty Barnes asked the council to fund the camera and that if it is funded that a press release be developed naming the businesses and individuals who contributed towards the purchase.

No public comments were made on the proposed amendments.

Ordinance 07-03-538, Proposed 2007 Budget Amendments

Laura Mann moved to approve Ordinance 07-03-538, Amending the 2007 Budget. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Small Works Roster Bid – Electrical Receptacles

Jan Brending said the city received three bids for the replacement of the electrical receptacles on Steuben Street: Hire Electric - \$20,028.00, Hage Electric - \$17,183.87, and Coburn Electric - \$10,134.51.

The city council discussed the issues with the electrical receptacles. Staff was directed to contact the City of Stevenson to determine how their receptacles are working.

Betty Barnes moved to direct staff to check with Coburn Electric regarding a warranty on their work and to check with the City of Stevenson regarding the receptacles and to authorize the mayor to make a decision after information is obtained to award the contract to the lowest bidder. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Brian Prigel noted that if the City of Stevenson has had problems then he will likely be coming back to the city council with the issue.

Proposed Resolution 2007-06, 2008 Salary Schedule

Brian Prigel provided an overview of the history of establishing a salary schedule for the city employees. He said it is time to review the salary schedule as a number of employees are at the top of their ranges. Prigel said the salary schedule also provides for the establishment of a city administrator position. He said that adopting the schedule does not mean the position would be filled.

Laura Mann reviewed the materials that were provided to the city council from the budget committee.

Brian Prigel said he would like to see the city keep the employees. He said the city is faced with dealing with the cost of living for the area and the competitive nature of employment opportunities that are now available in the Gorge.

Jan Brending provided an overview of how the cost of living increase was determined. She said that last year the city began using the same CPI that White Salmon does. Brending said it is necessary to adopt the salary scheduled for 2008 at this time because it has direct impacts on developing the budget for 2008.

Terry Trantow moved to accept Resolution 2007-06, Establishing 2008 Salary Schedule. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2007-07, Amending Personnel Policy Section 4.09 Paid Holidays

Jan Brending said the proposed amendment to the personnel policy adds two paid holidays – Martin Luther King Day and Veteran’s Day. She noted that the City of White Salmon has the same amount of paid holidays as proposed and provides for 4 personal/floating holidays versus Bingen’s 3.

Brian Prigel said he would like to recommend that if the two paid holidays are added that one of the floating holidays be dropped making it 2.

Terry Trantow moved to amend the proposed resolution to provide for only two floating holidays. Tim Hearn seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 1 with the following vote: Barnes – Nay, Dickey – Aye, Hearn – Aye, Mann – Aye, Trantow – Aye.

Terry Trantow moved to adopt Resolution 2007-07 (as amended), Amending Personnel Policy Section 4.09 Paid Holidays. Tim Hearn seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 1 with the following vote: Barnes – Nay, Dickey – Aye, Hearn – Aye, Mann – Aye, Trantow – Aye.

Treasurer’s Report – September 2007

Jan Brending presented the treasurer’s report for September 2007.

Laura Mann moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report for September 2007. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Interlocal Agreement for Providing Law Enforcement Services

Betty Barnes said that at the City of White Salmon city council meeting, the White Salmon city council voted to approve the amendments with one change adding the words “attempt to” to the section requiring White Salmon to notify Bingen of any policies, ordinances, etc. that might have an affect on the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department or the interlocal agreement. She said that she believes the Bingen city council should review and vote again on the agreement as it has now been changed by White Salmon.

The issue will be placed on the November 6 agenda.

Mayor’s Update and City Council Comments

SDS Land Exchange

Brian Prigel provided an update on the proposed land exchange with SDS Lumber. He said that he met with SDS and city staff on site to review the proposed boundary line. Prigel said as original drawn it does not work for the treatment plant particularly with the access to the drying beds. He said that he has directed Tom Hons to determine how much space is needed to get a truck in and out of the area. Prigel noted that the city has been encroaching on SDS property for a number of years. He said the land exchange is proposed to help clean up the property lines. Prigel said SDS is hoping to move its retail space to the area in the future.

Maple Street Construction

Brian Prigel said he also talked to Ton Hons regarding the Maple Street construction project. Prigel said that overall he believes the Maple Street reconstruction will be much safer than it is currently. He said some new or additional gating may be needed to provide access to the plant.

Wilcox & Flegel

Brian Prigel noted that Wilcox & Flegel are moving forward with their new cardlock facility.

Utility Discount Program

Betty Barnes asked what documents are required on the city’s utility discount program to determine disability eligibility. Jan Brending said the intake procedure requires a document from a medical provider. City council members agreed to amend the intake procedures to also allow eligibility determination documents from the Social Security Administration. Brending said she will provide a draft amendment to the intake procedures at the next council meeting.

Executive Session

At 9:00 p.m., Brian Prigel said the city council will meet in executive session for 10 minutes to discuss employee performance.

At 9:10 p.m. the city council resume regular session.

Brian Prigel asked the city council to think about the personnel issue discussed. No decision was made.

Klickitat County EDA Projects

The city council was asked to think about projects that could be submitted for EDA grant funding and to bring back ideas at the next council meeting.

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 October 16, 2007. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 9323through 9356 totaling \$13,158.67 and payroll checks 9305 through 9322 and 9301 totaling \$12,141.51 for a grand total of \$25,300.18. Current - \$8,671.45; Street - \$1,949.95; Water – \$1,787.38; Sewer - \$1,066.22; Treatment Plant - \$4,157.85; Dallesport Treatment Plant – \$7,665.13; and Dallesport Billing Trust Fund - \$2.20.

The council adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor