

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 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. City Clerk Treasurer Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Marilyn Winter, Jim Donnelly, Marc Thornsbury, Bruce Brending, Rick Johnson, Jesse Burkhardt.

Oath of Office

Sandi Dickey was sworn in as council member by Mayor Brian Prigel.

Public Comment

Port of Klickitat

Jim Connolly introduced Marc Thornsbury as the new Executive Director for the Port of Klickitat.

Approval of Minutes – December 4, 2007

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

Page 6, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence should read as follows: “He said that Rogers wants \$75,000 for the house itself and is asking \$185,000 for the building and land.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes as amended. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed 2007 Budget Amendments

Jan Brending reviewed the proposed 2007 budget amendments. She noted that there are several corrections that she is recommending based on a bill received for the city’s share of the survey costs related to the land exchange between SDS and the City. She recommended the costs be split between the plant, water, sewer and street departments. Brending said the professional services line item in the street fund would go up to \$340 with ending cash going down to \$48,138; professional services line item in the water fund would go up to \$4,240 with ending cash going down to \$68,364; professional services line item in the sewer fund going up to \$1,240 with ending cash going down to \$143,056; and professional services in the Bingen plant fund going up to \$11,219 and ending cash balance going down to \$107,915. 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.

Laura Mann asked if the 2008 budget will be amended in the beginning of the year to reflect actual beginning cash balances.

Jan Brending said yes.

Proposed Ordinance 07-06-541, Amending the 2007 Budget

Laura Mann moved to approve the amended proposed Ordinance 07-06-641, Amending the 2007 Budget. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposal for Animal Control

Bruce Brending introduced Rick Johnson as police chief for the City of Goldendale. He said the City of Goldendale currently provides animal control for the county in a limited way. Brending said that in discussions with Johnson they have come up with a tentative solution for animal control in Bingen.

Rick Johnson said he has been meeting with Bruce Brending and Rick McComas monthly to address different issues and to share ideas. He said that he believes the proposal for animal control is a good plan. Johnson said that depending on the county’s response in 2008 the costs could be readdressed and a different structure for payment developed. Johnson said the proposal provides for an animal control officer to be in Bingen one day a week on a rotating basis. He said that at this time the officer will not be doing any work in White Salmon. Johnson said the officer will also be available for call outs through the county dispatch center. Johnson said the animal control officer will be focusing on compliance through education and enforcement. He said the ultimate goal is to return the dog to the owner.

Rick Johnson said the animal control officer will not pick up road kill. He said in Goldendale that is usually handled by the street department.

Rick Johnson said monthly reports will be provided to the city and could provide quarterly reports in person to the city council. He said that getting the animal control officer up to speed will take a little bit of time. Johnson said the vehicle will not say "Goldendale" but will say "Animal Control" with a Washington state badge symbol. He said the officer will be in uniform.

Marilyn Winter asked if people have 3 or more citations is the dog taken away. The response was that dogs are not automatically euthenized if 3 or more citations are issued.

Tad Connors said the issue of dangerous dogs will still need to be addressed.

Rick Johnson said that he hopes Bingen's dangerous dog ordinance is similar to Goldendale's.

Tad Connors asked who is the hearings officer related to dangerous dogs in Goldendale. Rick Johnson said it goes straight to the judge.

City council members discussed paragraphs 6 and 7 of the proposed interlocal agreement drafted by Tad Connors related to notification of owners and releasing of the dog.

Jan Brending said it would be preferable to have the City of Goldendale collect the impound fees. She said license fees should be paid to the City of Bingen who at the time of issuing a dog license verifies necessary vaccinations. Brending said it will be necessary to work out procedures so that dogs are not released until all of the necessary paperwork is taken care of including payment of any fines, obtaining a dog license, and paying impound fees. It was agreed that education of dog owners will be necessary so that individuals do not travel all the way to Goldendale to find out they haven't completed all the necessary paperwork to get a dog released.

Marilyn Winter asked if the fines issued by the court go to the city of White Salmon.

Tad Connors said no they come to Bingen.

Tim Hearn asked how a citizen can report an issue with a dog.

Rick Johnson said it should be reported the regular way through the county dispatch office or police office. He said that in some cases the duty officer could cage the animal on a temporary basis until the animal control officer can pick the dog up.

Tim Hearn asked if the animal control officer will handle cats.

Bruce Brending said no.

Tim Hearn asked if the animal control officer will handle wildlife caught in live traps.

Rick Johnson said no.

Rick Johnson said that when the county ramps up its animal control then it is likely Bingen would see the animal control officer more than once a week.

Laura Mann asked if just one officer is assigned as the animal control officer.

Rick Johnson said yes that is all the individual will do.

Betty Barnes asked Marilyn Winter as a citizen of Bingen if she feels the city is moving in the right direction with animal control.

Marilyn Winter said yes.

Brian Prigel said contact needs to be made with the Goldendale mayor and attorney to go over the proposed agreement.

There was consensus to move ahead with the concept and proposal.

Brian Prigel thanked Rick Johnson for attending the city council meeting.

Treasurer's Report – November 2007

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2007.

Tim Hearn moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2007. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Confirmation of Appointment of City Administrator

Brian Prigel said he would like to have the city council confirm appointment of Jan Brending as city administrator. He said that the city has set things up so that in the future if another mayor is elected or Jan Brending leaves the city, the position of city administrator does not have to be filled. Prigel said the city council previously adopted an ordinance that requires confirmation of all management positions.

Marilyn Winter asked who is supposed to be doing what Jan Brending does.

Brian Prigel said that in the past the city has hired consultants to do some of the work. He said that the only really new responsibility is oversight of employees. Prigel noted that it is not direct supervision of employees.

Tad Connors said the city would be paying higher attorney costs because she does a lot of writing and researching ordinances.

Marilyn Winter said she has a problem with the proposal. She said the city hired a 2nd person because Brending couldn't do the job. Winter said Brending doesn't even live in Bingen and shouldn't have authority over Bingen employees.

Betty Barnes said the city council felt it was important to have some oversight duties in the job description because there is a need for it – there have been times when things don't get done.

Marilyn Winter asked why Brian Prigel doesn't do the oversight.

Betty Barnes said he is not at the city every day. She said Brending sees what when and where it is happening. Barnes noted the oversight is not addressing the day to day activities of the employees.

Marilyn Winter asked why the council doesn't direct the employees.

Brian Prigel said city council members do not have authority over personnel. He said it would be very difficult for employees to have 5 supervisors.

Marilyn Winter said Brending has to have a help and she doesn't understand why when the city used a volunteer for years.

Brending noted that Joan Long was a paid employee for many years and worked ½ time until she left the city.

Betty Barnes noted that whether the employee was paid or not they were still performing duties.

Jim Connolly said that he is speaking outside of his position as a Port of Klickitat employee. He said that the regulatory complexity of local government has increased. Connolly said he is impressed with Brending's breadth of knowledge and has enjoyed working with her professionally.

Tim Hearn said the city can't just pick anyone off the street to be the clerk. He said education is far too valuable to lose.

Laura Mann moved to confirm the appointment of Jan Brending to city administrator. Tim Hearn seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Date of First Council Meeting in January 2008

Jan Brending said the city needs to identify a date for the first meeting in January since the 1st Tuesday falls on January 1. She recommended the city hold a special meeting on January 2 due to the holiday. Brending said she will publish notice in the newspaper.

The city council agreed to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, January 2 with the agenda to address goal setting.

Betty Barnes said she would like to see what projects are in the works.

Tim Hearn said he would like to see what goals were met.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Depot Street Project

Jan Brending said the Depot Street project is complete. She said a change order was approved but the project still came in under bid. Brending said that when the city receives a bill she will invoice the City of White Salmon for its share.

Bio Solids Wall Upgrade

Jan Brending said the bio solids wall is complete and everyone has signed off on the project.

Sewer Overflow

Brian Prigel said that there was a sewer overflow in the main line that comes down from White Salmon behind McDonalds. He said the overflow affected the parking lot of Sandy Dean's property. Prigel said Bingen and White Salmon need to address in future agreements how the main lines are maintained.

Jan Brending noted that Sandy Dean has filed a request to have the carpet cleaned which has been turned over to the cities insurance.

Inflow and Infiltration (I&I)

Brian Prigel said that he had previously asked the plant manager to put a plan together to begin looking at where I&I is taking place in both cities. He said some work was done during the recent rains but not enough to his satisfaction. Prigel said coordination is needed with White Salmon to pull manhole covers in the early morning hours during or immediately after a heavy rain.

SDS Land Exchange

Brian Prigel said a survey for the proposed land exchange with SDS has been completed.

Jan Brending said the public works superintendent and plant manager have not reviewed the survey.

Brian Prigel said the city can take action on the proposal at the next council meeting.

Crosswalk at Steuben and Alder

Laura Mann said she is concerned that there are problems with the crosswalk at Steuben and Alder by the post office.

Betty Barnes said she thinks the imprint is deep and causes dirt to build up in the crevices making it look like the product is worn away.

Jan Brending said she will take a look at it.

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 December 18, 2007. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 9481 and 9539 through 9568 totaling \$33,989.95 and payroll checks 9521 through 9538 totaling \$12,192.35 for a grand total of \$46,182.30. Current - \$7,546.18; Street - \$1,735.50; Community Development - \$10,850.77; Street Construction & Maintenance - \$8,309.78; Water - \$2,702.53; Sewer - \$1,202.96; Treatment Plant - \$3,442.39; Dallesport Treatment Plant - \$4,569.69; 1973/1995 Water/Sewer Bond Redemption - \$3,900; Treatment Plant Replacement - \$1,922.50.

The council adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor