

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 19, 2008

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

Public Comments

Barbara Hylton, Bingen

Barbara Hylton said that she has brought to the city's attention that one of neighbors has been burning trash. She said that the police were called by David Spratt. Hylton said she is concerned about having to breathe the fumes caused when such things as plastics are being burned. She said that she when she was a member of the city council she had suggested that a total ban on burning be adopted for the city. Hylton said she would like to suggest that again. She said that neighbors live very close to each other in Bingen and that when someone is burning they are imposing on their neighbors.

Laura Mann suggested that the issue be placed on a future council agenda for discussion. She said she would be interested in knowing what the penalty is for burning without a permit. Mann said the biggest issue of a burn ban is what to do with yard debris.

Betty Barnes noted that the city has previously discussed setting aside a couple of days during the year for yard-debris pick up.

Laura Mann said maybe the city could ask for assistance from the county since they are no longer providing a chip site for yard-debris.

There was consensus by the city council to place the topic of a burn ban on the council's agenda.

Barbara Hylton said the city laid a asphalt berm in front of her house a number of years ago which has blocked access into her property. She said the only way she can get into the property is with a 4-wheel drive. Hylton asked that the berm be removed so she can get into the property.

Brian Prigel said he and David Spratt will take a look at it. He said it is important that the city be careful so that water from the road is not channeled onto private property.

Barbara Hylton said she has a 2-foot concrete wall in front of her house and that the berm does nothing for water runoff.

Approval Minutes – August 5, 2008

Changes to the August 5 city council meeting minutes were noted as follows:

Page 1, add the following paragraph after the 7th paragraph: "The city council discussed the definition of "potentially dangerous dog."

Page 1, 11th paragraph, 1st sentence should read: "Cesar Sanchez said their family members were the ones who were attacked by the pit bull."

Page 2, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: "He said that depending on the situation the first incident of a bite can result in the dog being deemed 'potentially dangerous' with a 2nd incident resulting in the 'dangerous' designation."

Page 2, 10th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: "He said he does not believe the council can do much about banning dog breeds but feels the council can develop an ordinance that is more restrictive than the state regarding potentially dangerous dogs."

Page 3, 2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence should read: "Mann said it might help if people knew where these dogs were located by public posting or through the newspaper."

Page 4, 1st paragraph, 1st sentence should read: "Jan Brending said the interlocal agreement provides for how the operations and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant is funded."

Page 4, 7th paragraph, 1st sentence should read: "Brian Prigel said that when the city experienced the well pump failure the grass in the park was not watered for several weeks."

Page 4, 9th paragraph, 3rd sentence should read: “Prigel said the board will be made of half Boeing members and half Insitu members.”

Page 5, 6th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: “He said he is fighting to increase staff.”

Terry Trantow moved to approve the minutes of the August 19 city council meeting as amended. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

City Vision and Goals

Jan Brending said one of the recommendations at the budget conference is that a city should adopt a vision and broad goals. She said she is recommending the city adopt the vision statement and six objectives identified in the city’s Community Action Plan to be incorporated into the budget narrative. Brending said the idea is to use the vision and objectives as benchmarks for the things the city does – a reminder of what is important to the citizens of Bingen.

Laura Mann moved to incorporate the vision and six objectives identified in the Community Action Plan into the budget process and narrative. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Jan Brending provided the council with a draft list of projects that might be accomplished in 2009. She asked for input from the city council.

Betty Barnes said she would like to see the appearance and upkeep of the community as a weekly priority for the public works department. She suggested that a committee might develop a landscape maintenance schedule for the public works department. Betty Barnes and Sandi Dickey agreed to serve on the committee.

Laura Mann said she feels the interlocal agreement for wastewater management is a priority for 2009. She said she feels it is a higher priority that the interlocal agreement dealing with water.

Treasurer’s Report – June 2008

Jan Brending presented the treasurer’s report for June 2008. She said the report will now look different as she is using the new financial software. Brending said she wants to work with the software developers to add some additional information to the reports.

Laura Mann moved to accept the June 2008 treasurer’s report. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Letter to Bureau of Indian Affairs – Cascade Locks Casino

Jan Brending presented a draft letter addressed to the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the Cascade Locks casino. She said the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has not yet issued a new notice requesting comment.

Laura Mann and Betty Barnes said the letter is well written.

Brian Prigel noted the letter needs to include a paragraph about the setting of a precedent regarding moving fee property to trust property status.

It was noted that the letter has not been authorized by the city council and will appear on a future agenda for official action when the BIA issues a new request for comment.

Dog Newsletter

Jan Brending said she has provided a draft copy of the newsletter that will go out to the citizens regarding the upcoming public hearing on the city’s dog ordinance. The council agreed the newsletter contained the appropriate language.

Laura Mann suggested that Brian Prigel and/or Tad Connors make some initial comments at the public hearing regarding the city’s ordinance and state law.

Betty Barnes said that she has obtained copies of other city’s ordinances that might be appropriate for the city. She said she will give them to Jan Brending in case any council members would like copies. Barnes said David Spratt and the Director of Public Safety, Rich Cortese, have also provided her with some statistical information regarding dog bites.

Betty Barnes suggested that Jan Brending have available at the public hearing a printout of the “Find the Pit Bull” web site so that the public can see how difficult it is to identify a pit bull.

Betty Barnes said she thinks the city does need to adopt an ordinance amendment that provides for special restrictions for any dog that bites.

Tad Connors noted that the city will need to set up an appeals process.

Bruce Brending suggested that another issue to consider is whether the bite was provoked or unprovoked.

BNSF Railroad Crossing

Brian Prigel said the BSNF Railroad crossing project has been completed and that Maple Street was open on time.

400 W. Steuben Storm Water Project

Jan Brending said she is working with Bell Design to get the bid package out for the 400 W. Steuben Storm Water project. She said it is possible that Nutter who is working on the Maple Street project will bid on the storm water project.

Joint Police Committee Meeting

Jan Brending said a Joint Police Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 27 at 7 p.m. at Bingen City Hall.

Tim Hearn noted that he will not be present for the committee meeting.

Betty Barnes noted the committee will discuss dogs. She said White Salmon would like the cities to have the same dog ordinance. The council noted that it has been working on its ordinance and will likely be amending it in the near future and if White Salmon wanted to they could use Bingen’s ordinance.

Director of Public Safety

Betty Barnes said that the Director of Public Safety has begun to do some parking enforcement in Bingen. She said the city will have to see how the follow up works.

Betty asked if a vehicle is tagged where does the tag have to be placed.

Bruce Brending said it depends on the tag. He said the windshield is an appropriate place or a location where the tag will be seen.

Museum Planning Committee Meeting

Jan Brending said she would like to schedule a museum planning committee meeting as soon as possible to review the results developed by CIDA.

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 August 19, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 1015 and 1102 totaling \$1,460.81. Dallesport Billing Trust Fund – \$1,460.81.

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 August 19, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 10380 through 10395 and 10397 totaling \$10,620.69. Current - \$4,986.85; Street - \$789.15; Water – \$3,096.46; Sewer - \$473.52; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$1,274.71.

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 August 19, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: EFT and check 578 totaling \$5,989.91: Fire Fund - \$61.91; 1989 Water Line Redemption - \$5,928.00.

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 August 19, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 10379, 10396, 10398 through 10418 totaling \$64,395.53. Current - \$56,504.89; Street - \$1,059.63; Community Development – \$1,150.00; Water - \$2,316.82; Sewer - \$1,47.26; Bingen Treatment Plant – \$3,216.93

At 8:45 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor