

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 4, 2008

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

Public Comment

Sandi Dickey, Bingen

Sandi Dickey said the Lions Club would like to provide a service to the community in taking Christmas Trees and chipping them for a donation. She said SDS will be removing the chips. Dickey said the Lions Club would like to use the city property where the Community Pride cleanup event is held each year.

Betty Barnes moved to allow the Lions Club to hold a 2-day Christmas tree recycling event the 2nd week in January as a service to the community. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – October 21, 2008

Corrections to the October 21, 2008 meeting minutes were noted as follows:

Page 1, 1st paragraph, add “Amanda Remington” to list of audience.

Betty Barnes moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2008 city council meeting as amended. Sandi Dicky seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Presentation of Preliminary 2009 Budget and Public Hearing Proposed 2009 Revenue Sources and Advalorem Property Tax

Jan Brending presented the preliminary 2008 budget. She said there are several funds that are using beginning cash to balance the budget particularly the Current Expense and Street funds. Brending said 2009 will be a “watch” year. She said she is watching sales tax returns and is a little concerned about potential layoffs at the larger employers. Brending said the \$40,000 for the skate park is budgeted in Community Development. She said other capital improvements have not been budgeted such as meter replacement and will be considered later in 2009.

Laura Mann said Jan Brending discussed with the budget committee the issue of salaries and the use of beginning cash to balance the budget. She said Brending discussed the possibility of reducing her and/or the Deputy Clerk’s hours to help with the budget. Mann said the committee felt it was important to continue current staffing as it is and to take a good look at the budget again in June.

Jan Brending said she will be watching the budget closely in 2009 and could be making recommendations earlier than June.

Brian Prigel said next year will be tight and that it is a recovery year.

Jan Brending noted the city is required to pass both an ordinance and a resolution regarding any increase in property taxes. She said the documents provide for a 1% increase in total property taxes.

Proposed Ordinance 08-08-549, Determining the Amount to be Raised by Advalorem Taxes for the Year 2009

Betty Barnes moved to pass Ordinance 08-08-549, Determining the Amount to be Raised by Advalorem Taxes for the Year 2009. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2008-07, Regarding Property Taxes

Laura Mann moved to pass Resolution 2008-07, regarding property taxes. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2008-08, 2009 Salary Schedule

Betty Barnes moved to pass Resolution 2008-08, 2009 salary schedule. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2008-09, Accepting Columbia Gorge Future Forum Final Report dated October 2008

Laura Mann moved to pass Resolution 2008-09 accepting the Columbia Gorge Future Forum Final Report dated October 2008. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Amendments to Interlocal Agreement, Law Enforcement Services

City council members discussed the proposed amendments to the interlocal agreement for law enforcement services. Laura Mann asked if the terminology in Section 6.1 “full paid” is correct. Tad Connors said yes. It was noted that the “a” in the last sentence of Section 4 should be deleted. Jan Brending noted the first page should say “As Amended November 2008.”

Betty Barnes moved to adopt the proposed amendments to the interlocal agreement for law enforcement services as amended. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Amendments to Dog Ordinance – Continued Discussion

Betty Barnes said she would like to consider some language in the ordinance regarding dog cruelty.

Betty Barnes moved to table discussion about the dog ordinance until the next council meeting. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor’s Update and Council Comments

Maple Street Reconstruction Project

Jan Brending said the large WSDOT lights and landscaping should be installed this week. She said the decorative lighting will not be installed until December.

West Steuben Stormwater Project

Jan Brending said the only thing left on the project is the installation of the grates. She said the project went very smoothly and quickly.

Holiday Lights

Jan Brending presented the city council with information on the purchase of holidays lights for the tress along Steuben. She provided pricing for regular mini lights and LED mini lights. Brending said the LED mini lights cost twice as much but hopefully they will save in energy costs and will not have to be replaced as often. She said the funding will need to come from the Community Development fund.

Laura Mann moved to purchase 84 sets of LED mini lights at the cost of \$1,671.60 plus shipping and taxes with the funding to come from the Community Development fund. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

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 November 4, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 10635 through 10660 totaling \$11,482.26. Current – \$5,166.90; Street - \$923.33; Water - \$1,217.58; Sewer - \$169.60; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$4,004.85.

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 November 4, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 10618 through 10620 and 10632 through 10634 totaling \$406,176.51. Current – \$2,695.58; Street Construction and Maintenance - \$346,642.23, 1989 Water Line Redemption - \$56,838.70.

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 November 4, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 10621 through 10631 totaling \$17,188.35. Current - \$7,707.94; Street - \$1,382.59; Water – \$2,603.14; Sewer - \$829.59; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$4,665.09.

At 7:30 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor