

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 20, 2009

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

Council Vacancy – Interview of Candidates and Appointment

Brian Prigel said the city has received two applications for the council vacancy – Catherine Kiewit and Clinton Bryan.

Catherine Kiewit introduced herself. She said she has thought about running for council since she moved back to the area. Kiewit said she is involved with the Hood River Arts Council. She said she cares about the community and does not come with any agenda.

Clinton Bryan introduced himself. He said he is a long-time resident and feels that it is time to become involved.

Sandi Dickey asked each candidate what they would like to see happen in Bingen.

Clinton Bryan said he would like to see Bingen grown in a business and family friendly manner. He said he does not have a major agenda.

Catherine Kiewit said she would like to see the city become more cohesive and the neighbors get to know each other better.

Sandi Dickey asked Kiewit why she wanted to come back to the area.

Catherine Kiewit said it took moving away from the area to see that living here is a privilege.

Betty Barnes asked Bryan if he is a volunteer firefighter.

Clinton Bryans said he is and he hopes to continue working on the fire department.

Betty Barnes asked if someone was not chosen to fill the vacant position would they be interested in serving in other positions such as civil service commission or committees.

Catherine Kiewit said she would be interested as it would be great chance to start getting involved.

Brian Prigel asked if the candidates had any experience in government.

Clinton Bryan said no.

Catherine Kiewit said she has worked with the City of Hood River on its public art program and is currently working with them on their ordinance for public art.

Brian Prigel said most people learn as they take on the job.

Catherine Kiewit asked if there is a handbook for new council members.

Jan Brending said there are a variety of materials that will be provided.

Brian Prigel said the Association of Washington Cities holds conferences for new council members and mayors every other year and they hold an annual conference in the summer. He said newly elected officials are encouraged but are not required to attend. Prigel said he is glad to see there are two individuals interested in the position. He said he believes there will more opportunities in the future.

The council voted for Clinton Bryan to fill the vacant council position with the following vote: Barnes – Clinton Bryan, Dickey – Clinton Bryan, Mann – Catherine Kiewit, Trantow – Clinton Bryan.

Betty Barnes noted that the City of Bingen will have a vacancy on the civil service commission as Barbara Hylton has announced she is resigning because she is moving to Stevenson. Barnes said Hylton's last meeting will in February.

Approval of Minutes – January 6, 2009

Changes to the January 6, 2009 city council meeting minutes were noted as follows:

Page 2, 10th paragraph should read “Betty Barnes said she would like to see the conditional use permit application by Custom Interface for their facility on Steuben added to the list.”

Page 3, 1st paragraph, 4th sentence should read “She said Armstrong has offered to teach the during the summer and that he advised Barnes that public works should contact Richard Hepner at SDS for assistance with snow removal.”

Page 3, add the following after the 2nd paragraph: “Brian Prigel said if the council desires a snow removal ordinance then they should look into it. There was consensus of the council to look into developing a snow removal ordinance.”

Page 3, 9th paragraph, 1st sentence should read “Jan Brending said the lighting and electric still need to be completed in addition to several punchlist items.”

Page 3, 10th paragraph, 1st sentence should read “Jan Brending said there was a problem with Dry Creek on December 28 and January 1.”

Terry Trantow moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2009 city council meeting as corrected. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Humboldt Street Lease – Community Garden

Jan Brending said the proposed lease for the community garden at 405 and 407 W. Humboldt is the same lease as last year.

Tad Connors said he has some minor corrections to the lease.

Betty Barnes said she feels the lease should be for 12 months instead of 9 since the property is still actually being used by the community garden.

Laura Mann also agreed that it might be better if the lease was for 12 months.

Lloyd Olson said it will be an added burden on the organization to pay additional fees.

Laura Mann said the lease could be for 12 months at \$8 month for a total of \$96 which is a \$6 increase for the entire year.

Laura Mann moved to amend the lease for a 12 month period at \$8 per month and include the minor corrections by Tad Connors. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Laura Mann moved to approve the lease with Gorge Action Programs for a community garden at 405/407 W. Humboldt as amended. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Dog Ordinance – Continued Discussion

Jan Brending said she has provided some information on a number of options for the proposed dog ordinance including: language limiting the number of dogs and/or cats, reporting animal bites, different levels of dangerous dogs, mistreatment of animals, and banning all dangerous dogs.

Brian Prigel asked the council if it feels the city should limit the number of animals that can be kept on a particular property.

Laura Mann said she is the one that originally brought up the issue. She said a lot of animals on a property can be a nuisance. Mann said that she would limit the number of animals to 4 instead of 3.

Catherine Kiewit said she does not think it is fair to restrict the number of animals. She suggested that if the number of animals becomes a nuisance or health hazard then it could be dealt with at that time.

Terry Trantow asked how many residents have more than four animals.

Jan Brending said there are a number but probably less than 10 residents.

Sandi Dickey noted she has 3 cats and one dog.

Betty Barnes said that if there are other ways to handle the issue that it might be better to leave it out of the dog ordinance.

There was consensus that the dog ordinance will not address the maximum number of dogs and/or cats.

The council and staff discussed identifying different levels of potentially dangerous dogs.

Bruce Brending said that the simpler and cleaner an ordinance is then the easier it is to enforce.

Tad Connors said that if the ordinance is left more general in relation to the potentially dangerous dogs then there is more flexibility related to fines and rehabilitation opportunities.

There was consensus of the council not to provide for different levels of “potentially dangerous dogs.”

Jan Brending asked if the council wants to ban dangerous dogs.

Bruce Brending said it is his position that if a dog has been labeled as a dangerous dog it has no business within the community. He said he feels the liability to the city is huge. Bruce Brending said he feels it is appropriate to give the owner of a dangerous dog time to get rid of the dog.

Sandi Dickey said she agrees.

Betty Barnes said she is swayed by Bruce Brending’s comments. She said she would like current dangerous dogs grandfathered.

Sandi Dickey moved to ban dogs that are declared dangerous. Betty Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 1 with the following vote: Barnes – Aye, Dickey – Aye, Mann - Nay, Trantow – Aye.

The council and staff discussed the section of the ordinance regarding reporting dog bites.

Betty Barnes moved to delete the reporting of dog bites section from the draft ordinance. Laura Manna seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor’s Update and Council Comments

Public Works Trust Board Technical Assistance

Jan Brending reported that the city will be receiving free technical assistance from the Public Works Trust Board related to the Depot Street sewer line project. She noted that one of the things she had requested assistance for was in developing a new sewer agreement with White Salmon.

Maple Street

Jan Brending reported that the decorative lights have been installed. She said there is a large light at the corner of Maple and Lakeview Blvd. that needs to be moved because it is in conflict with an overhead power line. She said Nutter is developing a cost estimate for moving the light. Brending noted that the PUD portion of the work has not been completed and she is not sure when it will be done. She said she is concerned that it might not be until spring sometime based on a letter received by the city from the PUD.

Conditional Use Permit Application

Jan Brending said the conditional use permit application by Custom Interface for their Steuben Street facility will be heard on February 3.

SDS Lumber Wind Turbine Project

Jan Brending said she has been contacted by SDS Lumber regarding the proposed wind turbine project on Underwood Mountain. She said the company is in the process of completing a SEPA checklist which includes addressing transportation issues. Brending said a number of larger trucks moving crane and turbine parts will be going through Bingen. She said she has asked SDS to keep the lines of communication open as the project could have some significant impacts on transportation in Bingen.

City Property on East Steuben

Jan Brending said she has received an inquiry from an individual regarding the city’s property on East Steuben. She said the individual would like to know whether or not the city is interested in selling the property. Brending said the individual would like to establish a light industrial use which at the present time would require a conditional use permit. She said the facility is currently used to store Huckleberry Festival materials and city junk. Brending said she does not recommend selling the property as it is very difficult to acquire land.

Brian Prigel said he does not support selling the property. He said an old city well is located on the property and the property also provides access to property the city owns directly east of Maple Street.

Betty Barnes moved to not surplus or lease the property on East Steuben because it contains an old city well and the city has future use for the property. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Klickitat County EDA

Brian Prigel said he and Laura Mann attended the Klickitat County EDA meeting to make Bingen’s presentation. He said he expects Bingen will receive funding for the new basketball court.

Boeing-Insitu Interview

Brian Prigel said a representative from Boeing interviewed him and Jan Brending regarding Insitu. He said Boeing publishes an internal magazine that will include a future article on Insitu and its impacts on the community.

Mayor Pro-tem

Laura Mann said the city needs to appoint a mayor pro-tem. She said that it is her understanding that Terry Trantow would prefer not to be the mayor pro-tem this year.

Laura Mann moved to appoint Betty Barnes as mayor pro-tem. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Water-Sewer Committee

Laura Mann volunteered to sit on the Water/Sewer Committee. Terry Trantow will also serve on the committee.

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 January 20, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 10871-10884 totaling \$9285.15. Current – \$4413.35; Street - \$1545.19; Water - \$1518.48; Sewer - \$85.25; Treatment Plant - \$1722.88.

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 January 20, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 10846-10861 totaling \$12589.44. Current - \$5043.34; Street - \$1814.30; Water – \$1736.85; Sewer - \$426.59; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$3568.36.

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 January 20, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 10862-10870 and 1104 (dated December 31, 2008) totaling \$74487.62. Current - \$1739.22; Street - \$46.88; Community Development – 704.36; Street Construction and Maintenance - \$68100.59; Water – \$2495.50; Sewer - \$532.31; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$868.69; Dallesport Billing Trust Fund - \$0.07.

At 8:55 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor