

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Brian Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Betty Barnes, Laura Mann, Clinton Bryan, Terry Trantow and Sandi Dickey. City Administrator Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Mike Wellman, Bruce Brending, Javier Sanchez, Jim Kacena.

Public Comment

Jim Kacena, Economic Development and Business Retention Committee

Jim Kacena said he is on the board of the Chamber of Commerce and is chair of a newly formed Economic Development and Business Retention Committee. He said the purpose of the committee is still being defined but the intent to bring together talents, thoughts & ideas for our area and to develop meaningful programs using existing resources to promote and develop economic development. Kacena said it is not the Chamber's intent to duplicate efforts and noted that Klickitat County is also involved in the committee. Kacena said that he has spoken to Jan Brending about serving on the committee and she has said she will. He said he hopes that one or more of the council members will participate. Kacena said that companies like Insitu are challenged in finding facilities and housing. He said that the chamber would also like to help the unemployed or businesses that are struggling. Kacena said that this is a good time to promote entrepreneurship.

Brian Prigel asked when the committee meets.

Jim Kacena said the 3rd Wednesday of each month at noon.

Betty Barnes said that as Kacena was speaking she thought Jan Brending would be a good candidate as she currently serves on the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District Board.

Jim Kacena said he wants the committee to be productive that it will not just be another committee having committee meetings.

Mike Wellman, City of White Salmon

Mike Wellman said he is here to update the City of Bingen on the improvements to White Salmon's water system. He said that bids for Buck Creek will be opened next week. Wellman said he is also looking at modifying how water is taken out wells 1 and 2 because in the future 80 to 90% of White Salmon's water will come from Buck Creek. He noted that White Salmon has received a \$1 million grant from the Washington Department of Ecology to take water from Buck Creek and store it in the wells. Wellman said White Salmon has also received the paperwork for the \$1.5 million grant from the State of Washington. He said he does not know if White Salmon will have enough funds to do all that the city wants.

Mike Wellman said there is the potential for the City of Bingen to assist in community growth in White Salmon along the riverfront area by possibly providing water to some of the property in that area.

Brian Prigel said he has spoken with David Poucher, White Salmon mayor, regarding this issue. He said that at one point in time Bingen provided water to that area including Bridgemart and the RV park. Prigel said that the idea is that through an agreement Bingen would provide hookups to the area west of Bingen's city limits along Highway 14 using our water rights and hookup allowance. He said there are issues that need to be worked out and both the Washington Department of Health and Department of Ecology along with the Bingen city council would have to agree to the idea.

Mike Wellman said he asked a hypothetical question to the Washington Department of Health (DOH) that if Bingen wanted to share water could it be worked out. He said DOH seems to think that it could be. Wellman said White Salmon is not looking at trying to benefit from Bingen's water rights but is looking at trying to keep businesses in our area and prevent them from moving. He said that DOH does not think the issue would have to do to the Washington Department of Ecology because it has been done in the past.

Mike Wellman reviewed the status of White Salmon's water rights issues and source. He said that at the present time he does not know where White Salmon will get more water rights.

Brian Prigel said if the council is interested in exploring the issue it should consider looking at serving the area in its entirety from Bingen City limits to the park and ride.

Betty Barnes said she does not see this situation any differently than how White Salmon provides water directly to Bingen's customers on Lois Lane and Bridgeview Court.

The city council discussed the water line that serves the riverfront district of White Salmon. Terry Trantow asked if the line would need to be enlarged. Brian Prigel said no.

Jan Brending asked Mike Wellman if this would be a temporary service until White Salmon solves its water issues.

Mike Wellman said yes. He said the purpose is to keep the economy of the area going strong.

Clinton Bryan asked what the timeframe for bringing Buck Creek online is.

Mike Wellman said construction should be completed November 2009 with the Creek ideally coming on line 2 months later.

Laura Mann asked if the agreement to provide hookups would be temporary until White Salmon hookups are available.

Mike Wellman and Jan Brending said yes.

There was consensus of the city council to have the mayor and staff work out the details through an interlocal agreement and bring it back to the council.

Brian Prigel asked if the road up to Buck Creek will be kept open all the time during construction.

Mike Wellman said the city does not want to close the road but there has been a lot of vandalism and might have to do something.

Javier Sanchez, Bingen

Javier Sanchez said that he has removed the addition to the shed last Friday. He said however, that he received a letter from the court.

Jan Brending said Javier Sanchez needs to resolve a couple of things with city hall including paying for the building permit and obtain a final inspection.

Tad Connors said Javier Sanchez will still need to appear in court. He said the city council meeting is not the place to discuss the criminal charges.

Approval of Minutes – April 7, 2009

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2009 city council meeting. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Bingen Facility Use Policy

Jan Brending said at a minimum she would like the city council to consider adopting a policy and application/permit for use of the facility adjacent to the park restrooms.

There was a consensus of the city council that the city hall meeting room would not be available for public use.

The city council agreed to the following changes to the proposed policy and application/permit:

- Delete council meeting room from "Availability of Facilities" in the draft policy
- Delete bullet "Federal, state and local government agencies are exempt from fee requirement." from "Fees" in the draft policy
- Change the word "greed" to item #6 in draft Application and Permit to "agree"
- Add "illegal drugs" to item #5 in draft Application and Permit
- Add requirement of \$100 deposit to be held until keys are returned to both policy and application
- Add information regarding the cost for a lost key (\$200 for lost key) to both policy and application

Treasurer's Report – March 2009

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for March 2009.

Jan Brending noted that the State Auditor's Office has scheduled the Exit Interview for the 2006-2007 audits on Monday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m. Brending said that all council members are invited to attend the exit interview. She noted that if more than 2 council members wish to attend the exit interview public notice will need to be provided for a special meeting. Brending said the exit interview will be conducted via telephone with the auditor's office. She said normally the budget committee and the mayor attend the exit interviews. Council members indicated that it would be appropriate for the budget committee and the mayor to attend the exist interview.

Jan Brending said she also needs to schedule a Budget Committee meeting to review the 2008 Annual Report no later than mid-May.

Laura Mann moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2009. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Community Pride Week – Request

Jan Brending said she has received a request from the Chamber of Commerce related to the community cleanup. She said Community Pride hopes to have the PUD bring in a chipper to the site to chip brush. Brending said ideally volunteers will be chipping on Saturday and Sunday but that it might not be until Monday. She said the Chamber is requesting that brush be allowed to be stored onsite until it can be chipped.

There was consensus of the city council that the brush could be stored onsite but most be removed and the site cleaned up within a week.

Hood River Toll Bridge Painting Project – Letter of Support Request

Brian Prigel said that when support for the SR-35 Bridge project was obtained the organizations agreed to support funding for each other's projects. He said the Port of Hood River is seeking support for a funding request of \$3.8 million to paint portions of the Hood River Bridge. Prigel said he thinks the city should write a letter of support but also include information regarding the limited life of the bridge and highlight the need for a long-term solution.

Betty Barnes moved to authorize the mayor to sign a letter of support for the Hood River Toll Bridge painting project while highlighting the need for a long-term solution. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Gorge Heritage Museum

Jan Brending said she and Sandi Dickey met with Etta Hepner regarding the CIDA report last week. She said the meeting went very well. Brending said she reviewed the report with Hepner and answered some general questions regarding what would need a building permit and what would not.

Jan Brending said she is recommending the city council accept the CIDA report/plan. She noted that if the museum wants to provide a different option to address accessibility the museum can submit that plan to the council for approval. Brending said she believes the CIDA report will assist the museum in obtaining grant funding for accessibility.

Laura Mann moved to accept the CIDA report/plan for the Gorge Heritage Museum. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Bingen Water Rights Applications

Jan Brending provided an overview of the city's water rights applications that have been submitted to the Klickitat County Water Conservancy Board. She said the city has received information from the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) that it will not accept the report from Tim Flynn, Aspect Consulting that Bingen's wells are connected to White Salmon's well #1 without additional information. Brending said she spoke to Tim Flynn about the letter from DOE. She said it could cost an additional \$5,000 to \$10,000 to address the comments from DOE. Brending said that at the present time there is not a lot of benefit to the city of Bingen to continue pursuing the applications. She said she is recommending that the applications be withdrawn from the Conservancy Board.

Brian Prigel said he agrees with Brending. He said the original thought of the council was that adding White Salmon's wells as additional points of withdrawal to Bingen's rights would help provide some relief to White Salmon and secure Bingen's investment in the well field.

Betty Barnes moved that the city withdraw its four water rights applications from the Klickitat County Water Conservancy Board. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Brian Prigel asked Jan Brending to write a letter to DOE noting that applications are on file with the Conservancy Board and were previously reviewed by the Department of Ecology.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Klickitat County Solid Waste Department

Laura Mann said she had a conversation with John Longfellow at the Klickitat County Solid Waste Department. She said she would like to volunteer to sit on the Solid Waste Advisory Board in place of Brian Prigel. Mann noted that the county will be reviewing the county's Solid Waste Plan as required by the Washington Department of Ecology. She said that she invited John Longfellow and Tim Hopkinson to the city's meeting on May 5. Mann said she thought it would be good for the county to talk to the council and Bingen citizens about composting opportunities.

The council agreed it would be good to have representatives from the Solid Waste Department at the May 5 meeting.

Jan Brending noted that approximately 8 residents signed up for the yard and garden debris pickup this week.

400 W. Steuben – Tree Trimming

Jan Brending said she has received a complaint from a resident adjacent to 400 W. Steuben requesting that the city trim back the tree that overhangs their property to the north. She said the tree is located in the northeast corner of the 400 W. Steuben property.

Brian Prigel said he is concerned about cutting the tree back. He said it should be limbed up. Prigel said the tree is very large and suggested council members look at the tree before making a decision. He said that cutting tree back would result in at least half of the tree being removed.

Fire Grant Application

Jan Brending said she and David Spratt are working a fire grant application to FEMA for training funds. She said the funds would be used to bring training to the station so that firefighters would be certified at the Firefighter I level. Brending noted the grant will require a 5% match from the city.

Klickitat County EDA Grant

Jan Brending said the city has received the document from the county for the EDA grant. She said she will obtain proposals from firms for development of the bid specifications so the sport court can go out to bid.

The city council discussed the timeline for constructing the sport court and skate park. Jan Brending said the first step in constructing the skate park is to hire a firm to design the court with input from local skaters. She noted the council has set aside \$40,000 for the initial phase of a skate park. Brending said she is hopeful that with some donations the city can construct a skate park this year.

Way-side Horn

Jan Brending said she will be trying to set up a demonstration of way-side horns at the Maple Street and possibly the Walnut Street crossing in early June. She explained to the council that way-side horns are an alternative to the trains blowing their whistles at the crossing. Brending noted for new council members that a quiet zone in Bingen is not likely due to safety issues with driveways and industrial development so close to the crossings. She said that once the date is identified public notice would be provided so that citizens can listen for the horns and provide public input.

Water Equipment Request

Jan Brending said the city flushes the fire hydrant once a week at the Port of Klickitat because it is a dead-end system. She said the DOE requires that the water be dechlorinated and that David Spratt is requesting authorization to purchase a dechlorinating diffuser and hose. Brending said she will prepare a budget amendment for council action at the next meeting.

Daubenspeck Water – Irrigation

The city council asked the irrigation at the park be started and that it be kept as a green space for residents. Sandi Dickey noted that the landscape irrigation on Steuben Street needs to be started.

The council asked if the high school students are going to help with the landscape maintenance on Steuben. Jan Brending said she has a call into Leslie Jackson.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Bruce Brending said he submitted a COPS Recovery Program grant for 2 positions. He said the grant is very competitive and that awards will be made in September.

Brending said 3 car prowlers were recently arrested in Bingen with all three being adults.

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 April 21, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11115-11132 totaling \$9679.43. Current – \$4495.82; Street - \$1188.85; Water - \$2202.17; Sewer - \$173.25; Treatment Plant - \$1619.34.

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 April 21, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11113 totaling \$3657.72. Current – \$18.48; Street - \$21.07; Water - \$2385.11; Sewer - \$493.76; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$739.30.

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 April 21, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 11095-11112 and 11114 totaling \$14403.06. Current - \$5672.93; Street - \$1542.57; Water – \$2183.02; Sewer - \$576.01; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$4428.53.

At 9:15 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor