

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Brian Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Betty Barnes, Terry Trantow, Sandi Dickey, Clinton Bryan, Laura Mann. City Administrator Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Risii Howard, Lucia Nunez, Ramon Robles, Maria Perez, Devon Sanchez.

## **Public Comment**

### ***Bingen-White Salmon Police Department***

Betty Barnes suggested to Bruce Brending that information be placed in the newspaper about being aware that vandalism is on the increase during the summer and that graffiti should be painted over once reported to the police department.

Bruce Brending agreed.

## **Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2009**

Clinton Bryan moved to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2009 city council meeting. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **Signage Request – Posting No Parking Signage on East City Hall Wall**

Jan Brending explained that she has received a request from John L. Scott Property Management requesting they be allowed to install two signs on the east wall of the city hall. She provided information to the city council regarding the ownership east of city hall and existing easements. Brending noted that Don Struck created a 12' ingress/egress easement across the property owned by Ramon Robles and provided an easement on property that is owned by Struck (located between the Robles property and the property managed by John L. Scott). She said that there have been some concerns regarding parking in the easement area which is the reason for the request. Brending noted that if Mr. Robles wishes to fence his property excluding the easement he would have the right to do that. She said that she has suggested the three property owners try to work out the issues. Brending said she would like to contact Don Struck to see if he could meet with Ramon Robles and the property management firm.

Ramon Robles and Maria Perez said they would like to work with the property owners to solve the problem. They suggested that the easement could be moved to the east of the driveway and allow parking alongside the city hall wall.

Clinton Bryan said he would prefer the signage be located on posts and not installed on the city hall wall.

The city council discussed that they can only authorize signage to be installed on the city's property. It was noted that there are footers supporting the wall and that the wall is located west of the property line.

Clinton Bryan moved to authorize signage to be installed on posts within city property along the east wall of city hall as long as the installation of the signage does not damage the footers supporting the wall. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Public Hearing – Six Year Transportation Program**

Brian Prigel opened the public hearing regarding the city's proposed six year transportation program for 2010 to 2015.

Jan Brending noted that she has moved the 300/400 North Alder Widen and Overlay, the 100 North Alder Sidewalks, and the 300 Willow Street projects up on the priority list. She said David Spratt would like to the North Alder overlay project done as soon as funding is available. Brending said hopefully the city can do the work through the county next summer. She noted that the sidewalks on the east side of the 100 block of North Alder are badly deteriorating. Brending said she believes that the ground underneath the concrete has been undermined which is causing the sidewalks to break apart.

Jan Brending said that funding for street projects remains a problem throughout the state as well as throughout the country. She said there is very little funding for arterials much less for side streets.

Laura Mann moved to adopt Resolution 2009-002, Adopting the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program for the Years 2010 to 2015. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Professional Services Contract – Arborist Services, Park and Street Tree Maintenance Plan**

Jan Brending said the city has received 2 proposals for arborist services. She said one proposal was received after the due date but there had been some discussion in the field regarding an extension of the date. Brending noted that the proposal received after the due date is at a higher cost and is not the one she is recommending.

Jan Brending said she met with both arborists and feels they would both be qualified to do the job. She noted that Milling Tree care will be providing the city with a usable data base of the street and park trees. Brending said this will allow the city to keep an up-to-date inventory of trees and their maintenance.

Laura Mann moved to authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Milling Tree Care for arborist services to develop and park and street tree maintenance plan for the cost of \$1,500. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Professional Services Contract – Engineering Services, Basketball Court Specifications**

Jan Brending said that Bell Design has presented two proposals one that includes design of the cover for the court and one without the cover. She said she spoke with Stoner Bell prior to the meeting and he said Bell Design could provide the design of the cover without developing bid documents and providing construction engineering for \$5,500. Brending said the costs would then be \$24,520 for design of all items with the intent to build the court and lighting now with the construction of the cover to take place at a later date.

The city council discussed the proposal and asked staff to ensure that the lighting be coordinated so that there would be minimal costs for adjustments when the cover is added.

Betty Barnes moved to award a professional services contract to Bell Design for engineering services for the development of specifications for a covered basketball court and construction engineering services for a price not to exceed \$24,520. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Professional Services Contract – Surveying Services, South Maple Street**

Jan Brending said she has been working with the Port of Klickitat and SDS Lumber to develop a scope of work for surveying the rights-of-way and property lines in the area of South Maple Street and the city's treatment plan and public works shop. She said that a survey will identify any problems areas for boundary lines so that the three entities can work together to get these issues cleared up. Brending said Bell Design has prepared a proposal for Phase I which includes research and identifying the property lines. She said a separate proposal for Phase II will be developed after Phase I is completed which will identify the specific number of points to be set, easements that will need to be recorded, and any property exchanges to clear up property boundaries. Brending said she recommends splitting the cost of Phase I, \$8,468.00, three ways – a cost of \$2,823 to the City of Bingen. She said an agreement needs to be drawn up between the three entities agreeing to the project and funding before a contract can be signed with Bell Design.

Betty Barnes moved to authorize the mayor to proceed with Phase I of the Maple Street survey including signing an agreement with the Port of Klickitat and SDS Lumber and once the agreement has been signed authorizing the mayor to sign a contract with Bell Design for surveying services in the amount of \$8,468. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Equipment Purchase – Wireless Radio Read Meters**

Jan Brending said she has recommended to the budget committee that the city proceed with purchasing a number of wireless radio read meters for replacement in 2009. She noted that the city has identified the replacement of manual read meters with radio read meters in its water system plan in trying to address the city's Distribution System Leakage (DSL) issue.

Clinton Bryan asked if the purchase will help with the issue.

Jan Brending said that it will not solve the issue in its entirety but should help in getting better readings and providing information on a more timely basis to compare against monthly production numbers. She said it will also assist water customers during the winter as it will be easier to notice a leak with monthly reads versus waiting until April to see a high reading. Brending said installing the radio read meters will help narrow down the potential problems and replace meters that are not reading at all or are reading on the low side.

Laura Mann moved to authorize the purchase of 199 meters in various sizes for an estimated cost of \$34,674.56 with funding to come from the water/sewer equipment fund and water fund. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Treasurer's Report – May 2009**

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's report for May 2009. She noted that a proposed budget amendment will be presented at the July 7 council meeting. Brending said the budget amendment will address a downturn in investment interest returns and include items the council has recently authorized for expenditure.

Jan Brending said that because of recent banking law changes, the city has closed its sweeps account which is not insured by FDIC. She said a new account has been opened with a 0.45 percent interest rate. Brending said at the present time she will move funds into that account. She said that if the state pool investment fund begins earning more interest she will evaluate how much of the city's funds should be placed into that account. Brending noted that the state pool investment account is not insured.

The city council agreed that the signers on the new account will be Jan Brending, Brian Prigel and Betty Barnes.

Betty Barnes thanked Jan Brending for staying on top of the city's investments and budget.

Betty Barnes moved to accept the treasurer's report for May 2009. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Wayside Horn Demonstration***

Jan Brending said she has obtained additional information regarding wayside horns. She said the horns can be demonstrated at Walnut and Maple at the same time but that they would not be demonstrated in lieu of a train horn when an actual train is moving through the area. Brending said a normal installation of wayside horns includes two horns – one on each side of the tracks but that only one horn at each crossing would be demonstrated. She said the cost of demonstrating the horns at the same time on Walnut and Maple would be an additional \$1,000.

Jan Brending suggested that it might be more appropriate to demonstrate the wayside horns at a time when the city thought it could proceed with installation. She said because gates will need to be installed at Walnut it not likely the city has the funding at this time to proceed.

There was consensus of the city council not to proceed at this time with a demonstration of wayside horns.

#### ***Providing White Salmon Water and Water Connections***

Jan Brending said the city has received a proposed interlocal agreement from White Salmon that only addressed selling water to White Salmon. She said the agreement also needs to address how Bingen will provide connections to White Salmon. Brending said she has discussed the proposal with Andy Cervantes, Washington Department of Health. She said that Bingen will lease water connections to White Salmon and that any connections provided by Bingen will count against Bingen's allowable connections until such time that White Salmon is able to provide water connections. Brending said White Salmon will need to pay Bingen for the leased connections. She noted that White Salmon will collect its normal hookup fee and will bill the property owner for water usage. Brending said she recommends that the number of leased connections provided by Bingen be limited. She said there are approximately 7 vacant lots between Underwood Fruit and Dock Grade.

The city council discussed the proposal to provide water and water connections to White Salmon.

Brian Prigel said that as long as the Department of Health and Department of Ecology are in agreement with the proposal he feels Bingen is safe. He said he believes this is the right thing to do but feels the number of connections should be limited. Prigel suggested limiting the time the connections could be used.

The city council and staff discussed a time limitation. It was noted that it would be difficult to remove the connection if White Salmon still had no connections available. There was agreement from the council that Bingen should be the first on the list for connections once they are made available.

There was consensus of the city council to include language in the interlocal agreement that would allow Bingen to provide up to 10 connections, one per existing lot as of the date of the agreement, at the cost

of \$200 per month per connection and that Bingen would be placed first on the list for connections when they become available.

#### ***Maple Street Update***

Jan Brending said that Coburn Electric should be installing the replacement light soon. She noted that the reason the lights are staying on south of the railroad tracks is there is no controller. Brending said she contacted Nutter who has agreed it would be easier for the city to contract directly with Coburn Electric to solve the problem. She said she will obtain a quote from Coburn for the most cost effective way to install a controller so that the lights are not on 24/7.

#### **Mayor's Update and Council Comments**

##### ***City Administrator's Update***

Jan Brending noted that she has provided a city administrator's update on things that she is working on.

##### ***Stop Grant***

Tad Connors said the city has previously applied for a Stop Grant but that it has been difficult to work with the county regarding the use of the funds. He recommended the city not apply for the grant again.

There was consensus of the city council not to apply for the next Stop Grant.

#### **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 June 16, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11270-11319 totaling \$131,976.28. Current – \$4406.00; Street - \$115.31; Water - \$703.02; Sewer - \$86.40; Treatment Plant - \$1072.69; 73/95 Bond Redemption - \$18450.00; Public Works Trust Fund Loan - \$107,142.86.

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 June 16, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 11253- 11269 totaling \$12425.19 Current - \$5324.03; Street - \$1214.37; Water – \$1759.40; Sewer - \$465.37; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$3662.02.

At 8:15 p.m. the city council adjourned.

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City Clerk

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Mayor