

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Brian Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Clinton Bryan, Betty Barnes, Laura Mann, Sandi Dickey, Catherine Kiewit. City Administrator Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Bruce Brending, Jim Andring, Ben Harvey, Bill Ward, Lori Kreps, Mark Peppel, Bob Landgren, Jesse Burkhardt, Dave Poucher, Dana Scheffler.

## **Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 09-13-567 and 09-16,570, Amending Sewer Rates and Requirements for Billing**

Jan Brending noted that she has pulled the proposed ordinance amendments for water rates and requirements for billing because additional wording is needed for the amendment. She said she is only asking the council to approve Ordinance 09-13-567 and 09-16-570 related to sewer billing. Brending said sewer rates are not increasing for 2010 but the allowance for a 5% increase in the following years still remains. Brending said the second ordinance provides for a late fee for a balance past due on the water/sewer utility bill that is over \$15.00.

City council and staff discussed the need to revise the entire ordinance as it relates to billing in the future.

There were no public comments on the proposed ordinances.

Betty Barnes moved to approve ordinance 09-13-567, amending Bingen Municipal Code 13.24.030, monthly sewer rates. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Betty Barnes moved to approve ordinance 09-16-570, amending Bingen Municipal Code 13.24.080, requirements for billing for sewer service. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion it was passed unanimously.

## **Parks and Recreation Presentation – Parks and Recreation Working Committee**

Dana Scheffler said he represents a committee that is working on establishing a parks and recreation district. He provided background information on the desire to establish a parks and recreation district. Scheffler noted that Laura Mann is a member on the committee. He said the proposed park district boundary would include Lyle, Snowden, Bingen, White Salmon, Underwood, Trout Lake. Scheffler said the committee needs to submit a request and documentation to Klickitat County and Skamania County to start a petition in order to get on the November 2010 election ballot. He said a resolution is needed from each city within the district boundaries who wish to be part of the district.

Jan Brending said a proposed resolution stating the city's desire to be part of the proposed district is not on the city's agenda for tonight. She said she believes it is important that the city council have broad information about the establishment of parks and recreation district and the impacts it may have on the city's constituents. Brending said the parks and recreation district will be a taxing authority which will be needed to provide for the operations and maintenance of a new aquatic facility when built.

Dana Scheffler said the initial ballot measure would be for the formation of the district and the election of five commissioners who will then shape what happens within the district. He said it is the committee's hope that private funding will cover the majority of a new aquatic center.

Catherine Kiewit asked how citizens from Lyle would benefit from the proposed park district.

Dana Scheffler said citizens of Lyle already use the White Salmon pool. He said the committee feels it is important to build the pool outside the city limits of White Salmon to avoid the perception that it is a pool only for White Salmon citizens. Scheffler said the committee is looking at the larger facility where the district can be an agency that can help facilitate things like trails and transportation.

Catherine Kiewit asked if people from Glenwood and Underwood sit on the committee.

Scheffler said there is no one from Glenwood or Lyle on the committee.

Catherine Kiewit asked if it would be possible to have representation on the new board from each area.

Scheffler said the board will be made up of five commissioners but there is no specific requirement that each district be represented. He said the goal is that the commissioners be interested and enthusiastic.

Betty Barnes asked if the commissioners will be paid.

Scheffler said no.

Betty Barnes asked if the creation of a park district would have any affect on city parks.

Brian Prigel said that initially there would be no affect but the city could work with the district on things down the road.

Laura Mann said other organizations are interested in the formation of the park district including Northside Foundation and the White Salmon Community Youth.

Bill Ward said the idea of the park district started with the need for a new pool. He said the school has offered land for a new pool and performing arts center. Ward said it is not the intention to build a new pool with district funds.

Brian Prigel asked if the city council would like the consideration of a resolution put on the agenda for the second meeting in December. There was a consensus of the city council to do so.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the committee is not able to get the resolutions by January is the committee still interested in pursuing the idea at the next opportunity. She said things seem kind of rushed. Kiewit noted that sometimes something is a great idea but it may take time.

Dana Scheffler said there are some built in buffers to the schedule in order to get it on the November 2010 ballot.

Brian Prigel asked when the committee is making presentations to other political entities within the proposed boundaries.

Bill Ward said in the near future. He said the committee will meet with Lyle on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Underwood in January. Ward noted that the area in Skamania County is only that which is included in the White Salmon School District boundary.

### **Public Hearing – Draft 2010 Budget**

Jan Brending reviewed the proposed 2010 budget. She said a public hearing is scheduled tonight with the final hearing scheduled for December 1.

Jan Brending provided information to the city council regarding White Salmon's proposed 2010 budget focusing on the law enforcement budget. She said the 2010 law enforcement budget costs to Bingen will include a percentage share of overhead costs based on the department's operation and maintenance budget. Brending said White Salmon calculates the overhead costs and percentage share in the same manner as Bingen does. She said she feels the method is calculated correctly. Brending noted that White Salmon's overhead includes costs for legislative (council members), executive (mayor), finance, and civil legal. She said these are the same items that make up Bingen's overhead costs. Brending said it is up to the two cities to determine whether Bingen should pay part of the White Salmon overhead and what should be included in the overhead costs.

Betty Barnes said she does not believe Bingen should have to pay for costs associated with executive, legislative and legal. She noted that Bingen already pays for those costs.

Sandi Dickey asked Lori Kreps, White Salmon City Clerk Treasurer, to explain the White Salmon overhead costs.

Lori Kreps said White Salmon's city council, mayor and civil attorney have costs associated with the police department.

Lori Kreps asked if the treatment plant pays a part of Bingen's overhead costs.

Jan Brending said yes. She said how the treatment plant operations & maintenance costs are paid for is different. Brending said both cities pay an equal amount per ERU into the treatment plant fund.

Jan Brending noted that White Salmon's proposed 2010 budget no longer includes provisions for a 7<sup>th</sup> officer to be hired. She said it does include funding for a 0.90 FTE police clerk/parking enforcement clerk. Brending said the original draft of the 2010 budget provided for a 7<sup>th</sup> officer and a 0.50 FTE

police clerk. She noted that it is her understanding that White Salmon was concerned about how to continue the funding for a full-time officer into 2011.

Dave Poucher, White Salmon Mayor, said White Salmon needs to have a basis to hire a police officer. He said the city needs to make sure the money is available to pay them.

Laura Mann asked if the police clerk is currently half-time.

Dave Poucher said yes. He said the position will provide for parking enforcement 4 hours a day. Poucher said the department has not been able to address enforcement. He said White Salmon would much prefer to have the 7<sup>th</sup> officer but feels that under the circumstances both cities will be benefit from a parking enforcement officer.

Betty Barnes asked that if White Salmon determines in 2011 it can sustain the 7<sup>th</sup> officer would it affect the new position.

David Poucher said that when White Salmon can achieve \$1.8 million in revenue in its current expense fund then it will be able to do both.

Catherine Kiewit asked when White Salmon thinks they will be able to achieve that level of funding.

David Poucher said the city needs to start growing again to meet its revenue needs. He said the city had that level of revenue in the past.

Betty Barnes asked Lori Kreps if the White Salmon attorney has to look at issues related to the treatment plant.

Lori Kreps said yes.

Brian Prigel said it possible to look at gray areas such as how overhead is paid in multiple ways. He said such an issue could become an endless cycle with little return.

Bob Landgren said that during the budget discussions the committee talked to Bruce Brending about Huckleberry and Spring Festivals and the need to reduce the outlay for overtime. He said he would like to work with those events that have live music and alcohol so that it is the event's proponents' responsibility to obtain security instead of using the police department.

Bruce Brending said he agrees. He said that if an event is going to provide alcohol or live music then they need to provide security or pay the city for overtime for the police department. Brending said the proposed 2010 budget reflects a change in the department's overtime budget.

Betty Barnes asked Bruce Brending about his opinion of the proposed budget.

Bruce Brending said he is not completely happy with the situation because he is a strong advocate for the 7<sup>th</sup> officer. He said it needs to be a priority for budget purposes. Brending said the department has made great strides in becoming stable and the 7<sup>th</sup> officer would add additional coverage. He said the addition of a police clerk in the office has freed him up to do other things and he thinks that providing parking enforcement will help. Brending said he would not hire a 7<sup>th</sup> officer if he knew there might be problems in keeping the position in coming years. He said the revenue needs to be healthy before the officer could be hired. Brending said if revenues reach \$1.8 million he will be asking to hire the officer.

Laura Mann asked how long it takes to hire someone.

Bruce Brending said testing is scheduled in December. He said that if an entry level officer is hired the earliest he could get them into the academy would be the first of February.

Laura Mann asked if the police clerk/parking enforcement clerk could be brought on at half-time for the first half of the year and then increased halfway through.

Bruce Brending said that is a policy decision of the council.

David Poucher said the city has gone through the budget pretty thoroughly and feels good about starting the position in January.

Betty Barnes noted that parking is an issue in Bingen.

Catherine Kiewit asked if there are ramifications to not fulfilling the interlocal agreement requirements.

Tad Connors said there might be political consequences but it would be difficult to measure any financial consequences.

Bruce Brending said the interlocal agreement and a joint police department have solved a lot of problems. He said Bingen gets 24/7 coverage.

Jan Brending noted that the agreement between the two cities is looked at by other cities in the state. She said that many cities contract with their counties and they wish they could get an agreement like the one Bingen and White Salmon has.

Tad Connors noted that it is important to retain the existing officers and it is probably more important to keep them happy then to increase the number of officers at this point.

Dave Poucher noted that White Salmon called 25 cities of similar size to Bingen/White Salmon and found that only 6 of those had 24/7 coverage. He also agreed that it is important to keep the officers the department has.

Betty Barnes said she wants it understood that the 0.90 FTE police clerk/parking enforcement clerk does not count towards the officers required in the cities' interlocal agreement.

Dave Poucher said he agrees – the position is not considered an “officer.”

Brian Prigel said the council has the authority to draft a letter to White Salmon expressing concerns about the budget.

Betty Barnes said she would like to see a letter that says Bingen would prefer to see a 7<sup>th</sup> officer hired but that taking into account White Salmon's budget constraints that Bingen understands the need not to fill the position at this time. She said she also wanted the letter to state that the police clerk/parking enforcement clerk should in no way count towards an officer position and that when White Salmon reaches \$1.8 million in current expense revenue it will fulfill its commitment to hire the 7<sup>th</sup> officer.

Sandi Dickey moved to authorize the mayor to write a letter to White Salmon stating that Bingen would prefer officer to be hired but understands White Salmon's budget constraints at this time, the clerk position will not count towards and officer position and that White Salmon will hire the 7<sup>th</sup> officer when its current expense revenue reaches \$1.8 million. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Jan Brending noted that the White Salmon 2010 budget currently does not include any funds for leave buyout when Rich Cortese leaves in January. She said her budget for law enforcement costs includes additional funds to cover the potential costs for the leave buyout.

Betty Barnes said Tad Connors wrote a letter to White Salmon in April 2008 which stated Bingen would cover costs for Cortese through November 2009. She said the employment contract provides for employment through January 2010.

Dave Poucher said resolution of the issues didn't happen as quickly so Cortese started later than was originally anticipated.

Tad Connors said that at the time the letter was written that was his understanding that is how long Cortese would be working for White Salmon.

Lori Kreps asked the Bingen city council if it was okay for White Salmon to move ahead with adopting their 2010 budget tomorrow evening.

There was a consensus of the Bingen city council that it was fine for White Salmon to move ahead with adopting the budget.

City council members thanked White Salmon for attending the council meeting.

### **Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 09-17-517, Outdoor Burning Ban**

Jan Brending provided an overview of the proposed ordinances related to the proposed burning ban. She said Tad Connors has reviewed both ordinances – adding #5 to page 2 of the burning ban ordinance and deleted language from the amendments to the disposal regulation ordinance.

Laura Mann said she thinks that the amendments to the disposal regulation ordinance may negate the need for a burn ban ordinance.

Jan Brending said she thinks it would be good to have both so that it is clear that there is a burn ban and what are the exceptions.

There was no public comment on the proposed ordinance.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve Ordinance 09-17-571, adopting an outdoor burning ban. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

### **Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 09-18-572, Amending Disposal Regulations**

There was no public comment on proposed ordinance 09-18-572.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve Ordinance 09-18-572, amending disposal regulations. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Klickitat County EDA Grant Proposals**

Jan Brending said she is recommending the city ask for \$20,000 to go along with the city's contribution of \$40,000 to build phase I of the skate park. She said she was contacted by a group who was looking for a city or community council to go through asking for funding for spaying and neutering of pets in Klickitat County. Brending said she did not receive any paperwork from the group.

Betty Barnes said she contacted David Spratt, Fire Chief to see if the fire department had anything that they wanted to add to the list. Barnes said Spratt did not have anything.

The city council and staff discussed the EDA grant process.

Clinton Bryan moved to submit a request to Klickitat County for \$20,000 towards the construction of phase I of the skate park. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report – October 2009**

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

Laura Mann moved to accept the October 2009 treasurer's report. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Discussion of Options for Household Pets, Livestock or Animal Ordinances***

Jan Brending said the council has draft ordinances for "household pets", "livestock", and "animals". She said the household pets ordinance and livestock ordinance go together while the animal ordinance is an option for a more simplified process.

There was consensus of the council to delay discussion of the ordinances until the next council meeting.

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

#### ***Radio Show***

Brian Prigel said he was able to introduce Betty Barnes to radio broadcasting as she will soon be the mayor.

Betty Barnes said the radio show made Brian Prigel's job easy or Brian Prigel made it look easy.

#### ***Skate Park Planning Workshop***

Jan Brending said the first skate park planning workshop has been held with 9 kids showing up. She provided a copy of the 3 designs that were developed. Brending said she feels the final design will likely be a compilation of the 3 designs. She said the next workshop is scheduled this Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

Betty Barnes said it was a blast to see the kids get involved.

***Christmas Lights***

Jan Brending said David Spratt has informed her that he needs 12 new sets of lights. She said 12 sets of LED lights will cost approximately \$283.80. Brending said lights are vandalized during the holiday season.

Betty Barnes moved to authorize the purchase of 15 sets of LED lights. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

***Jim Andring, Bingen-White Salmon Police Department***

Jim Andring said he had a friend visit from California who used to live here. He said the individual was delighted with the way the town looks.

Bruce Brending said the individual did not recognize the town.

**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 17, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11723-11765 totaling \$7782.78. Current – \$2314.45; Street - \$401.02; Fire Equipment - \$2319.42; Water - \$396.08; Sewer - \$175.75; Treatment Plant - \$2176.06.

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 17, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 11726-11742 totaling \$12351.93. Current - \$5290.22; Street - \$1211.49; Water – \$1754.71; Sewer - \$464.10; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$3631.41.

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

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City Clerk

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Mayor