

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 16, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Clinton Bryan, Sandi Dickey, Laura Mann, Catherine Kiewit, Guillermo Fisch, Dustin Smith, Sandra Guzman. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Anthony Connors were present. Audience: Bruce Brending, Jim Andring, Craig Juris, Tim O'Neill.

## Public Comment

### *Guillermo Fisch, Bingen*

Guillermo Fisch said he wanted to pass on compliments to the city crew for the street sweeping work that was recently completed.

## Klickitat County Prosecutor

Tim O'Neill introduced himself and Craig Juris. He said Juris is his chief criminal deputy prosecutor. O'Neill reviewed work that is currently being done in Klickitat County. O'Neill and the city council discussed the public disclosure act and current issues.

Betty Barnes asked what would be involved if White Salmon contracted with Skamania County for law enforcement services in White Salmon which is in Klickitat County.

Craig Juris said there would have to be an interlocal agreement between Klickitat County and Skamania County for Skamania County to operate in Klickitat County. He said the problems involved in having another county operate in Klickitat County are large. Juris said he does not believe there would be any cost savings and that the response time would not be the same. He said there could be times when the two cities might not be covered and because of an incident in the county the response time could be several hours. Juris said Skamania County will have to learn how to work with the city attorneys and learn a whole new set of procedures.

Clinton Bryan said it could be argued that it is just a learning curve.

Craig Juris said he believes the learning curve could be slower. He said he doesn't think either county has the employees to cover Bingen-White Salmon. Juris said Bingen-White Salmon currently has a group that is doing a very good job. He said the current relationship is the best there has ever been with the prosecutor's office. Juris said the department has done hard work on burglaries and has been able to bring the culprits to sentencing. He said Klickitat County's two detectives are already overloaded. Juris said there are always ways to look at improvements and to look at ways to cut costs. He said that to remove a working efficient agency to save money which might not happen seems odd.

Tad Connors asked Craig Juris how he would feel working with Skamania County on a felony that occurred in Bingen-White Salmon.

Craig Juris said he does not know most of the deputies in Skamania County. He said issues with keeping and storing evidence and chain of custody could raise some issues. Juris noted that if evidence was requested by a defense attorney it might have to be transported to Goldendale which creates even more problems with chain of custody.

Tim O'Neill said it is difficult enough now to get officers ready to testify. He said Skamania County is another 30 minutes away. Craig Juris said another issue is whether Skamania County will want to drive prisoners all the way to Goldendale.

Betty Barnes and council members thanked Tim O'Neill and Craig Juris for attending the council meeting.

## Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2010

Changes to the minutes of the March 2, 2010 city council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 4, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph, last sentence should read: "Bruce Brending said that if the fine is not significant then it will not be a deterrent."

Clinton Bryan moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2010 city council meeting as corrected. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Proposed Interlocal Agreement – Street Striping (Pavement Marking) Equipment**

Jan Brending said the proposed interlocal agreement is between Bingen, White Salmon and the Port of Klickitat to purchase and maintain street striping equipment. She said the three entities began discussions last year because they realized they were spending \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year for street striping services by contract and still not getting everything that was needed done. Brending said she anticipates the cost of the equipment to be approximately \$10,000. She said once the agreement is signed she will develop equipment bid specifications and go out to bid for the equipment.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the agreement addresses supplies.

Jan Brending said no, it is the responsibility of each entity to purchase their own supplies.

Tad Connors said he thinks the agreement is fine without addressing the purchase of supplies.

Council members suggested there may be cost savings if the entities can purchase supplies in bulk.

Guillermo Fisch moved to approve the interlocal agreement for pavement marking equipment. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Proposed Interlocal Agreement – Camera and Lighting for Recycling Center**

Betty Barnes said she has spoken with Rex Johnson, Klickitat County commissioner. She said the county commissioners have not taken a vote on whether or not to provide funding towards the installation of a camera and lighting at the recycling center. Barnes said the county has brought up the idea of installing a fence which she feels does not accomplish the purpose Bingen is trying to achieve. She said some questions have been raised about how information from the camera will be used for enforcement purposes. Barnes said she feels that if the site can be kept open 24/7 and vandalism reduced then it is worth installing the equipment. She said she has arranged to meet with Rex Johnson at the site on March 25. Barnes said it is important to understand the impacts fencing might have on the site including keeping property available to the city and the impacts on the Community Pride event.

Jim Andring said it appears that the city wants to encourage use of the recycling facility and the county wants to discourage use. He noted that a fence will make it harder for police officers to see what is going on in the area. Andring said Allied Waste will need a lot of room to move containers in and out of the facility.

Catherine Kiewit asked Bruce Brending if video footage is helpful in prosecution.

Bruce Brending said the police department can follow-up on illegal dumping and that the video footage would be one tool the department would use.

Catherine Kiewit said she thought it would be helpful to know what fencing would cost.

City council members discussed the aspects of possibly closing the recycling site.

Betty Barnes suggested the council go ahead and approve the interlocal agreement for the purchase of the camera and lighting equipment so the process could move ahead if the county provides the funding.

Sandi Dickey moved to approve the interlocal agreement for the purchase of camera and lighting equipment to be installed at the recycling center. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Bank Agreements – Cash Management Master Agreement and ACH Origination Agreement**

Jan Brending said the two bank agreements will allow the city to offer direct pay for utility payments and direct deposit for payroll. She said the agreements have been provided to Tad Connors for review.

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize Jan Brending, City Administrator to sign the Cash Management Master Agreement and ACH Origination Agreement with First Independent Bank. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **City Administrator Update**

Betty Barnes said she would like to bring one item in the city administrator's update to the council's attention as she thinks it has relevance to the council's discussion of the parking ordinance. She said the city has been able to license more dogs this year than it has in the last year due to the actions of Dena Riggelman and the threat of enforcement and a \$100 fine.

### **Request for Letter of Concern – Hanford Cleanup**

Betty Barnes said the City of Hood River has sent a request for a letter of concern regarding the Hanford cleanup. She said the council needs to be careful about getting involved in everyone's causes and to consider the level of support being requested. Barnes said she did receive a letter from Dave Poucher saying that he had contacted Senator Honeyford who offered to brief the mayors on the issue.

Catherine Kiewit said she does not feel there is any harm in providing a letter of concern regarding the issue.

There was a consensus of the council to write a letter of concern to the U.S. Department of Energy regarding the Hanford cleanup.

### **Review of Parking Ordinance – Penalties for Violations and Time and Day of Parking Restrictions**

Betty Barnes said the intent of the discussion is to review penalties for violations and time and day of parking restrictions.

Clinton Bryan said he would like to discuss the issue of parking tickets being reduced to \$10.

Tad Connors said he has spoken to the clerk of the court and found that parking tickets that have been contested were reduced. He noted that when the ordinance was originally adopted and the penalty set it was originally his understanding that there were base state fees that needed to be accounted for. Connors said that for reasons that are not explainable there are no additional state fees for parking tickets.

The city council discussed penalties for parking violations including minimum and maximum fines.

Catherine Kiewit says she thinks the minimum for a parking fine should be \$40. She said she would like to keep the maximum at \$100. Kiewit said she is still interested in pursuing an option for customers who have received parking tickets to have them reduced.

Betty Barnes asked student council members Sandra Guzman and Dustin Smith for their opinion regarding parking fines.

Dustin Smith said he thinks a ticket of \$40 or a ticket of \$100 would have the same affect.

Sandra Guzman said that a \$40 ticket is still high enough that it won't be ignored.

Laura Mann said parking enforcement is necessary. She said the main street in Bingen needs to be made available for walk-in business. Mann said Bingen wants customers to come and visit.

The council agreed to continue discussion of the parking ordinance at the next council meeting.

Jan Brending noted there is one correction in the ordinance that needs to be made. She said the council has previously discussed making the parking in front of the Gorge Heritage Museum 2-hour parking. Brending said there are the north half of the 100 blocks of Alder and Walnut have residential structures with 2-hour parking. She suggested that instead of amending the ordinance for those areas the council may want to consider just removing the parking signage similar to what it has done in the 200 block of North Oak.

### **Treasurer's Report – February 2010**

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's report for February 2010.

Laura Mann moved to accept the treasurer's report for February 2010. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

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

#### ***Downtown Cleanup***

Betty Barnes said staff will be conducting a downtown cleanup on March 26 beginning at 9:00 a.m. She said council members are welcome to come and help out.

#### ***Yard and Garden Debris Pickup***

Betty Barnes said that she has discussed the upcoming yard and garden debris pickup with staff. She said she is recommending that the amount of yard and garden debris not be limited but limit the pickup time to just one week – the week of Community Pride.

Jan Brending said another issue that has been raised by staff is whether pickup should be provided to businesses including apartment complexes. She said that businesses can claim this type of activity as a business expense and that the service really is designed for residents.

There was agreement of the council to limit the pickup of yard and garden debris to residential customers only and to one week during Community Pride.

#### ***April Newsletter***

Jan Brending said she is getting ready to send out the April newsletter which will address Community Pride week and the yard and garden debris pickup. She said she is interested in any suggestions for the back space on the newsletter.

Catherine Kiewit suggested the letter be translated into Spanish to reach the Hispanic community.

Jan Brending noted that the city was criticized in the past for translating portions of the newsletter and was told that everything the city publishes should be translated or nothing at all. She said translating the newsletter will cause it to double in the size. Brending noted she sends the newsletter to all box holders in Bingen.

Betty Barnes suggested the newsletter in Spanish be posted at the post office.

Brending said that is not feasible due to the amount of other postings.

The council agreed to provide a translation of the newsletter at city hall and to place Spanish wording on the English newsletter letting people know that a Spanish version is available.

Guillermo Fisch volunteered to translate the newsletter for the city.

#### ***Circulation of Petitions***

Jan Brending said a request has been made to place one of the parks and recreation district petitions at city hall. She said she contacted MRSC about the issue and was told the city can allow petitions to be placed at city hall or circulated on city facilities as long as any and all petitions are allowed.

There was a consensus of the city council not to allow the placement of petitions or circulation of city petitions in city facilities.

#### **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 March 16, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 12125-12151 totaling \$12507.30. Current – \$8599.95; Street - \$1191.97; Community Development - \$503.10; Water - \$1223.59; Sewer - \$59.21; Treatment Plant - \$929.48.

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 March 16, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 12106-12121, 12124 totaling \$10049.43. Current - \$4690.34; Street - \$1115.88; Water – \$1333.78; Sewer - \$213.03; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$2696.40.

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 March 16, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 12105, 12112-12123 totaling \$8725.83. Current – \$35.00; Water - \$8525.83; Treatment Plant - \$165.00.

At 9:40 p.m. the city council adjourned.

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City Clerk

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Mayor