

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 18, 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, Sandra Guzman, Dustin Smith. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Anthony Connors were present. Audience: Jim Andring, Missy Smith, Michael Madden, Cris Jimenez, Ron Schultz, Ken & Rebecca Golladay, Ray Paskey, David Spratt, Tomas Guzman, Judi Culp.

Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation

Betty Barnes presented Certificates of Appreciation to Dustin Smith and Sandra Guzman for serving as Student Council Members.

Approval of Minutes – May 4, 2010

Changes to the minutes of the May 4, 2010 city council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, Clinton Bryan was absent for the meeting of May 4.

Page 1, 2nd paragraph, 4th sentence should read: “Brending said the city could possibly use the following funds \$10,000 – Excise Tax Fund, \$15,000 – Park Construction & Maintenance, \$10,000 additional – Community Development, and \$43,442 from Current Expense for a total of \$64,942 in additional funding.”

Page 2, last paragraph, last sentence should read: “She said she thinks Leak Masters will do a good job and understands that the city has not ever had a survey done.”

Page 4, 2nd paragraph, 1st sentence should read “Jan Brending said she has provided a memorandum that outlines four options for addressing the times and dates for parking restrictions:...”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2010 city council meeting as amended. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Klickitat County PUD, Ron Schultz

Ron Schultz said he is the engineering manager for Klickitat County PUD. He provided an update to the city council on the activities of the PUD.

Betty Barnes thanked the PUD for offering to assist the city in getting the lights replaced in the decorative lighting.

Catherine Kiewit asked Schultz to explain why induction lighting is cheaper than LED lighting.

Ron Schultz said that induction provides more light per wattage and is simpler to operate.

It was noted that the light at the southeast corner of Alder & Humboldt is not working.

Public Hearing – Proposed Revisions to City Parking Ordinance.

Ray Paskey, Northwest Communications

Ray Paskey asked what the ordinance was intended to fix. He said that he believes there is more than enough parking available between 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and after 1:30 p.m. Paskey suggested looking at the actual problem and trying to solve that. He said 2 hour parking seems excessive and difficult to enforce and seems to be a waste of time and energy. Paskey suggested the council focus on a narrow time frame. He said the city went from one extreme – no enforcement – to the other.

David Spratt said he has put a lot of time in putting in the signs. He said if the council changes the ordinance it is a lot of cost to the city. Spratt said he would like the council to choose something and stick with it.

Jan Brending read written public comment into the record. Comments were received from J. McGregor Colt, Steve Wolford – Antiques & Oddities, Insitu, Lee Ast – Woods Miller LLC, Karalee Chabotte – First Independent Bank, Maria Perez, and employees of Custom Interface.

Betty Barnes said she has spoken with Steve Sliwa who assured her that Bingen was not driving Insitu out of town because Insitu is not leaving town. She said Sliwa said he can see where reasonable

restrictions are necessary and understands the desire to have a lower fine. Barnes said she also spoke with Greg Colt who said his comment was based on rumor. Barnes said Colt said he had heard that a general visiting Insitu had received a \$100 ticket. She said she explained to Colt that the city has worked with Insitu to address parking concerns. Barnes noted that she has received comments that the parking clerk is most courteous.

Betty Barnes said she has also learned that individuals with a handicapped parking permit can park in any regular or designated space for unlimited amounts of time. She said the information has been provided to the parking clerk.

Guillermo Fisch asked if individuals with handicapped parking permits know that information.

Betty Barnes said it is provided when they receive their permit.

Missy Smith asked who came up with the idea of a \$100 fine.

Betty Barnes said the council thought the fine was necessary as a deterrent and that the council thought that a portion of the fine went directly to court costs. She said since the ordinance was adopted things have changed and have found out that none of the fine goes to the court. Barnes said in addition, the city has the ability to enforce the ordinance now.

Guillermo Fisch asked what is meant by “park and ride”. It was explained that individuals park in downtown Bingen and ride with someone else to their destination.

Betty Barnes said people would park their vehicles on the main street and catch the Amtrak train.

Judi Culp said she recommends adding an additional handicapped parking space or moving one to the area in front of Antiques & Oddities. She said sometimes handicapped individuals have to park in front of the Winery because the space near Beneventi’s is used. Culp said she does not think moving the time frame back to 8 am from 9 am will be effective because most businesses do not open until 9 am.

Ray Paskey suggested the city do a study to determine what times of the day parking is being used.

Clinton Bryan said that it is important to remember that businesses come and go and that weather also affects how many customers are in Bingen at one time.

Guillermo Fisch suggested that 30 minute parking be provided in the heavy retail areas.

Catherine Kiewit said everyone has a personal experience. She said she needs to look at what is best for the entire community and for the long-term even if businesses move in and out. Kiewit said that she hopes everyone will understand that if the council’s decision does not jive with individual personal views she hopes they will realize the council is trying to come to a decision that benefits most people.

Missy Smith said she thinks the 2-hour limitation is fine but that the penalty is too much.

Guillermo Fisch said that the salon had someone parking in front of their business that had to move because they were there for more than 2 hours.

Betty Barnes said the city has set up a pass system to accommodate special events and needs of businesses. She said it will be enforced once the ordinance is amended.

Cris Jimenez said that he thinks the fine is not standard.

Jim Andring said 30-minute parking would work in front of certain businesses but not all. He said 30-minute parking might create spaces that aren’t used very much.

Sandra Guzman suggested that the fine be lowered and maybe change the parking restrictions to 3-hours.

Dustin Smith said he thinks the \$25 minimum and \$40 maximum for the fine is good.

Betty Barnes noted that if the council chooses the \$25 minimum and \$40 maximum the fine will be written as a \$40 ticket allowing the judge discretion to reduce the fine down to a minimum of \$25.

Ray Paskey said then people will have to take time off from work to get the ticket reduced.

Betty Barnes said that if you break the law you have a price to pay.

Ray Paskey said he does not intend to break the law but make stops into the office and then gets tied up on phone calls and goes over the 2 hour limitation. He said he also does not like to park his vehicles with expensive equipment in them away from the office.

Catherine Kiewit said she works in downtown Hood River and pays for a parking space that is 3 blocks away from where she works. She said that people have to get used to some things. Kiewit said Bingen is privileged not to have parking meters and the ability to park only a block away from places of employment.

Betty Barnes said that compared to other cities the parking in Bingen is pretty loose.

Ray Paskey said he is glad to pay reasonable parking tickets but that the option the council is considering assumes that the individual will pay the \$40 unless they go before the judge.

Laura Mann said a minimum and maximum gives the judge options for those who he continues to see violating the parking ordinance.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Guillermo Fisch moved to adopt option 3 with a \$25 parking fine.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Jan Brending suggested the council table discussion until the first meeting in June and schedule a public hearing on proposed amendments at second meeting in June.

The council agreed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Amendments to the 2010 Budget

Jan Brending provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the 2010 budget. She noted that adjustments have been made to investment interest and adding in those items the council has authorized for expenditures.

No public comments were provided on the proposed amendments.

Laura Mann moved to adopt ordinance 2010-06-580 amending the 2010 budget. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2010-004

Jan Brending said the proposed resolution authorizes and directs staff to install signage near the play areas at Daubenspeck Park asking users of the park to refrain from smoking in play areas.

Betty Barnes said officials from the county health department approached the city with suggestion of making the entire park a no smoking area. She said she feels this is a good first step.

Guillermo Fisch said he supports the proposed resolution.

Laura Mann asked if there would be enforcement.

Betty Barnes said that because the city has no way to enforce a “no smoking” designation asking smokers to refrain from smoking was a good way to handle the issue.

Laura Mann asked how many signs would be installed.

Betty Barnes said probably 2. She noted the signs would not likely be installed right away due to the skate park construction.

Catherine Kiewit suggested that 4 signs might be needed.

Sandi Dickey moved to adopt Resolution 2010-004, Authorizing Signage to Be Installed at Daubenspeck Park in Play Areas Asking Park Users to Refrain from Smoking. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2010-005, Charge for Providing Copies Related to Public Records Requests

Jan Brending said the proposed resolution provides for a \$0.15 charge per page for providing copies of documents related to a public records request.

Laura Mann moved to adopt Resolution 2010, Establishing Copying Fees for Public Records Requests per RCW 42.56.120. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Mutual First Response Agreement

Jan Brending said the proposed agreement puts into writing what is already occurring between the 3 fire departments (Bingen, White Salmon and Fire District #3).

David Spratt said that when a fire call goes out all three departments are paged out and when necessary departments are called off.

Clinton Bryan said that not one of the fire departments is large enough to handle a large fire.

Clinton Bryan moved to authorize signing the Mutual First Response Agreement between the cities of Bingen and White Salmon and Fire District #3. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report – April 2010

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

Sandi Dickey asked to have copies of the detailed budget reports provided to her.

Laura Mann moved to accept the treasurer's report for April 2010. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Skate Park

Betty Barnes noted that she and Jan Brending have been trying to get a meeting together with Laura Mann and Catherine Kiewit to discuss fundraising.

Clinton Bryan moved to table discussion of the skate park to June 1st. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

June Newsletter

The council and staff discussed the upcoming June newsletter. Jan Brending noted the council has a copy of last year's newsletter. She said the majority of the newsletter is required language related to the city's water quality report.

Catherine Kiewit suggested adding language that the decision makers for the water system live in Bingen and drink the city's water.

Burn to Learn

Betty Barnes said the city fire department used an old residential structure as a "burn to learn" exercise last Sunday.

Clinton Bryan said he thought it went really well.

David Spratt said five departments attended. He said it was a good training opportunity and that fire fighters who have never seen a fire got to see how fire reacts.

AWC Conference

Betty Barnes said that early registration for the AWC Conference is open. She said the conference is in Vancouver this year which provides a good opportunity for council members to attend.

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 May 18, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 12286-12309 totaling \$17304.01. Current – \$6266.99; Street - \$446.23; Community Development - \$5118.00; Water - \$3057.59; Sewer - \$809.24; Treatment Plant - \$1605.96.

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 May 18, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks EFT, 12279-12285 totaling \$11432.60. Current - \$5055.24; Street - \$1336.23; Water – \$1587.63; Sewer - \$251.70; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$3201.80.

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

City Clerk

Mayor