

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Laura Mann, Sandi Dickey, Clinton Bryan, Catherine Kiewit, Maria Perez, Rosi Salguero. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Ben Mitchell, Paul Beneventi, Mika Clark, Missy Smith, Fabiola Rincon.

Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2012

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2012 regular council meeting. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Jail Contract

Tad Connors reviewed the status of establishing a jail contract. He said the Klickitat County Prosecutor reviewed the original contract from Klickitat County not the revised contract provided by himself and Ken Woodrich. Connors said he would like authorization for himself and the mayor to continue negotiations and if necessary to have further discussions with Skamania County. He asked if the mayor can make the decision with which entity to go with if all things are not equal understanding that Klickitat County is the preference if possible.

Laura Mann said she believes that is what was authorized at the last meeting.

There was a consensus of the council that Tad Connors and the mayor are to continue negotiating the jail contract selecting the best entity.

Water Discussion

Betty Barnes said the city has received comments about the quality of water over the last few weeks which is due to hydrogen sulfide. She said that following the repair of the leak on Steuben Street the city stopped using White Salmon water but following receipts of comments she asked David Spratt to mix White Salmon water with Bingen water shutting down the well with the highest level of hydrogen sulfide. Barnes said that action has helped but the city is still receiving comments. She said the water is safe to drink it if you could drink it. Barnes said that a long term solution to the problem is aerating the reservoir but that in the mean time the quickest fix is to stop using water from the Dry Creek and Park wells and rely on White Salmon water and the Reservoir well.

Mika Clark said the water has been bad the last two weeks and especially this weekend. She said the water is not fit to drink and had to by a Brita filter. Clark said the smell is especially bad in a small house and that bleach could not take care of the smell.

Catherine Kiewit noted that the problem varies from residence to residence and is not consistent throughout Bingen.

Paul Beneventi said he has had customers return water at this business. He noted that he has also experienced problems with high levels of chlorine.

Fabiola Rincon said he has concerns about the water also.

Betty Barnes said she has spoken with Mr. Rincon who lives next door to Maria Perez.

The city council discussed concerns with the water.

Clinton Bryan asked what it would cost to aerate the reservoir or to drill new wells.

Staff will provide information to the council that was previously developed regarding possible solution for addressing the hydrogen sulfide issue. In addition, the council will discuss at the first meeting in April what it costs to produce water versus what it costs to purchase water.

There was a consensus of the council to temporarily stop using the Dry Creek and Park wells and rely on White Salmon water and the Reservoir well with the understanding that the solution is not be indefinite.

Utility Billing Reduction Request – NAPA

Clinton Bryan stepped down from the council for the discussion regarding the NAPA utility billing reduction request.

Clinton Bryan, representing NAPA, said city staff contacted NAPA after the monthly meter reading because the radio reads had flagged the reading as a possible leak. He said NAPA uses less than 2000 gallons of water on a month basis. Bryan said the leak was found and fixed. He said NAPA is asking for a reduction in the sewer overage and if possible in the water usage billing.

The council discussed the need to have a written policy in place. It was noted this is on the council's priority list and will be presented to the council soon.

Laura Mann moved to reduce the February utility billing for NAPA by \$973.35 -- \$359.10 for water usage charges and \$614.25 for sewer overage charges. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Bryan – abstain, Dickey – aye, Kiewit – abstain, Mann – aye, Perez – aye.

Proposed Ordinance 2012-02-599, Amending the 2012 Budget

Jan Brending reviewed the proposed amendments to the 2012 budget. She said beginning cash balances are amended to match actual balances. Brending said other amendments including providing for EMT training for two firefighters, travel and conference fees for Betty and herself to attend the AWC Labor Relations Institute, the purchase of a new handheld meter reader, and funding for the Gray & Osborne wastewater planning contract.

Clinton Bryan moved to approve ordinance 2012-02-599 amending the 2012 budget. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship

Jan Brending said the city received an application for the AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship from Rosi Salguero.

Laura Mann said it was wonderful to read Salguero's application. She said she is impressed by how much Salguero gives to the community.

Catherine Kiewit moved to nominate Maria Rosa Salguero for the AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship and to include a letter from the mayor emphasizing Salguero's service on the city council. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Betty Barnes thanked Rosi Salguero for her service on the city council.

Proposed Amendment to Interlocal Agreement for Financing Joint Wastewater Plan – Cities of Bingen and White Salmon

Betty Barnes said there are minor changes to the interlocal agreement due to changes in the scope of work and cost estimate with Gray & Osborne.

Laura Mann moved to authorize the mayor to sign the proposed amendments to the interlocal agreement for financing the joint wastewater plan. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Personal Services Contract – Gray & Osborne, Development of Joint Wastewater Plan

Jan Brending said she is requesting authorization for the mayor to sign the contract after White Salmon approves the amendments to the interlocal agreement.

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize the mayor to sign the contract with Gray & Osborne for development of a joint wastewater plan in the amount of \$231,477 after the amended interlocal agreement with the City of White Salmon is signed. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Port of Klickitat Binding Site Plan Amendment – Review

Jan Brending said the Port of Klickitat has presented amendments to its binding site plan for the city's review. She said several of the port's lots are being combined. Brending said Klickitat County is interested in whether the city has any concerns or comments regarding the proposed amendments.

Laura Mann moved to send a letter to Klickitat County Planning Department stating the city has no issues with the Port of Klickitat's plans to consolidate lots. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Water Discussion Continued

Proposal for Engineering Replacement of Water Lines, Gray & Osborne

Jan Brending presented a proposal from Gray & Osborne for engineering the replacement of two water lines.

The council discussed the proposal and asked for additional information regarding the cultural resource review, construction engineering/inspection, and indirect costs.

Submission of Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Application

Betty Barnes said when talking to Gray & Osborne about the engineering for the replacement of the two water lines the opportunity to apply for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan was discussed. She said because the deadline was March 1st she authorized the application to be submitted on the city's behalf. Barnes said she felt it was important not to miss the opportunity for the funding. She noted that if the council feels it can't proceed with the project then it will not have to accept the loan.

Catherine Kiewit moved to retroactively authorize the submission of a Drinking Water State Revolving Loan application for the replacement of the Steuben Street and Bingen hill water lines. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Water Usage

Betty Barnes said the city is using significantly less water after the leak on Steuben Street has been repaired.

Jan Brending said the March water usage and production reports will give an indication on the amount of water that is no longer being used and a new Distribution System Leakage (DSL) number. She said Gray & Osborne is also waiting for the March reports to finalize their report to the city.

Clinton Bryan suggested including a note in the utility billing for customers to keep an eye out for possible water leaks including areas of unusual pooling of water.

Coal Train – City of Mosier Letter

Betty Barnes said the council has received a copy of the City of Mosier letter regarding the coal trains.

Laura Mann said she liked the letters and thought that a lot of the points on the second page could be used to build on.

Catherine Kiewit said she talked to someone at the Gorge Commission and also reviewed the Commission's website. She said there are minutes of a Gorge Commission meeting that talk about air quality. Kiewit said she will follow-up and hopefully have additional information to provide in a month.

Betty Barnes said the council can discuss the coal train issue again at the first meeting in April.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Earth Day and Community Pride

Maria Perez said she would like to do something to recognize Earth Day.

Betty Barnes said she would like to recommend adoption of a resolution at the next council meeting. She said in addition she would like to discuss Community Pride cleanup and setting up a time to cleanup with kids from the community.

Gorge Out Fundraiser Invitations

Betty Barnes asked council members to send names for invitations to the fundraiser to Jan Brending.

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 6, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 3/06/2012) 15040-15063 totaling \$15894.06. Current – \$5593.37; Street - \$1527.38; Water - \$7166.69; Sewer - \$412.72; Treatment Plant - \$1193.90.

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 6, 2012. The council by unanimous vote

does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 2/29/2012) 15037-15038 totaling \$449.25. Current – \$449.25.

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 6, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (dated 02/29/2012) EFT, 15034-15036, 15039, totaling \$20086.46. Current – \$8867.38; Street - \$2879.76; Water - \$2540.97; Sewer - \$350.18; Treatment Plant - \$5448.17.

At 8:50 p.m. Betty Barnes announced the city will meet in a closed session to discuss professional negotiations.

At 9:37 p.m. the city council resumed regular session.

Sandi Dickey moved to authorize the mayor and city attorney to contact Tony Menke for advice regarding the letter from the union. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was seconded.

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

City Clerk

Mayor