

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 1, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Laura Mann, Clinton Bryan, Catherine Kiewit, Maria Perez, Rosi Salguero. Council members absent: Sandi Dickey. City Administrator Jan Brending was present. Audience: Ben Mitchell, Tony Domish, Preston and Jackie Cox.

Public Comment

Jackie Cox, Bingen

Jackie Cox asked if the city council would consider adding chickens to the livestock ordinance. She said she would like to have fresh eggs and that Bingen is one of a few communities that do not allow chickens. Cox said she would like to add fresh eggs to living a healthy lifestyle.

Betty Barnes said the city has visited this issue several times and most of the city council was seated at those times.

Catherine Kiewit asked Cox if she lived in Bingen when the council previously discussed the issue.

Cox said she was not interested in raising chickens at that time.

Laura Mann said one of the things the council talked about is the size of lots in Bingen. She said most of the lots are only 50 feet by 100 feet. Mann said chicken coops at the edge of the property might be a problem with neighbors.

Jackie Cox said most ordinances do not address size of lots but do address setbacks. She said two square feet is needed for each chicken. Cox said she would plan to compost the waste.

Betty Barnes said another issue the council considered was disease. She noted that chickens carry more disease than ducks.

Catherine Kiewit said she is a fan of chickens but agreed that when the issue was previously discussed the size of lots did come up. She said because of the size of lots in Bingen it does not seem feasible to allow chickens.

Clinton Bryan said there will be some odors and there are concerns due to the wind.

Betty Barnes said she is hearing from the majority of the council that they do not wish to open up the ordinance at this time.

Catherine Kiewit said that because it was so recently addressed she is not sure she wants to open it up but she said that if the council heard from more of the public then it may become more important to revisit the ordinance.

Clinton Bryan suggested that there might be someone that lives outside the city limits that Cox could work with in raising chickens.

Betty Barnes and council members thanked Jackie Cox for bringing the issue to the city council.

Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2012 – Regular Council Meeting

Changes to the minutes of the April 17, 2012 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 2, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence should read “She said Lloyd Dekay has volunteered to store it for the city and that it will be used at future city fundraising events.”

Page 3, 1st paragraph should read “Tony Domish reported that Judi Culp is at a class in Everett this week dealing with property and evidence.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2012 regular council meeting as corrected. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Conditional Use Permit 2012-001, Zepher Inc.

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing for a conditional use permit submitted by Zepher Inc. to operate a light industrial business assembling trailers at 405 E. Steuben.

Barnes asked council members if they have any conflict of interest or appearance of fairness. There was none reported.

Jan Brending reviewed the staff report for the proposed conditional use permit. She said Zepher Inc. has a conditional use permit for the same use at a different location. Brending said the city's zoning ordinances allows light industrial uses in a commercial zone through the conditional use process.

Catherine Kiewit asked Andy Mack representing Zepher Inc. if the location is to provide additional space for Zepher.

Andy Mack said yes. He said Zepher intends to move into space at the Port in the next 1 to 1-1/2 years.

There was no comment from the audience either for or against the proposed conditional use.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve Conditional Use Permit 2012-001, Zepher Inc., allowing a light industrial use assembling trailers to be established at 405 E. Steuben and finding that the proposed use meets the criteria in Bingen Municipal Code 17.40.030 and 17.40.070 with the condition that the permit pertains to the business and not the property and that no outside storage is allowed. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Napa Sidewalk Sale

Clinton Bryan stepped down from the council for the discussion of a request for a temporary street closure submitted by NAPA.

Clinton Bryan said NAPA is requesting a one-day closure of the 100 block of East Humboldt so they can again hold the "Rock-N-Roll Tool Event" on June 21st.

Jan Brending said last year the city authorized the closing of the 100 block of East Humboldt for one for the event as long as sidewalks and crosswalks were kept clear and emergency response access provided. She noted city hall did not receive any complaints regarding last year's event.

Maria Perez moved to authorize the closure of the 100 block of East Humboldt on June 21st for the NAPA "Rock-N-Roll Tool Event" provided that sidewalks and crosswalks are kept clear and emergency response access is provided. Laura Mann seconded the motion which passed with the following vote: Bryan – Abstain, Dickey – Absent, Kiewit – Aye, Mann – Aye, Perez – Aye.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Gorge Out Fundraiser – Table Rental

Betty Barnes said the tables used at the Gorge Out Fundraiser were provided by the Alumni Association. She said the table rental would have cost the city \$450. Barnes asked authorization to pay a small amount to the Alumni Association for table rental.

Clinton Bryan moved to pay \$200 to the Alumni Association for table rental. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Community Pride

Maria Perez said the youth helped clean up areas of Bingen. She said a lot of areas seemed cleaner this year but the worst area was Depot Street with lots of cigarette butts. Perez said approximately 30 bags of garbage was collected.

Betty Barnes said there were 10 kids and 2 adults in addition to herself and Maria Perez. She said Beneventi's provided pizza. Barnes said she took 2 of the kids down to the Community Pride site so they could understand how the event works.

Council comments discussed asking business owners to help pay for garage cans and cigarette butt containers for Depot Street.

Spring Fest

Betty Barnes asked if the council would like to have a booth at Spring Fest. A number of council members said they would not be available during Spring Fest.

Water Report

Betty Barnes said the water report has been provided to the council. She said the distribution system leakage (DSL) for March is 32.69%.

Asphalt Repair

Laura Mann asked when the asphalt at Steuben and Walnut is going to be repaired.

Betty Barnes said that David Spratt was under the impression that the city was going to replace the water line this year and the asphalt would be repaired at that time. She said he is scheduling the repair soon because the city will not likely replace the remainder of the water line until next summer.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad – Coal Trains

Betty Barnes said that Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad officials met with county and city officials to discuss coal trains. She said BNSF told them that they did not normally discuss these type of issues outside of house but felt there was a lot of misinformation about the number of trains that might increase. She said BNSF could not say for sure how many additional trains but said it would be no more than 9 per day. Barnes said currently 24-30 trains travel through the Gorge per day.

Maria Perez asked if they knew what time the trains would be coming through. She said access to the marina in the summer is a concern to her.

Barnes said that the railroad through the Gorge on the Washington side does not have the capacity to increase for additional trains because there is not room.

Catherine Kiewit said she has been talking to the Gorge Commission about air quality. She said she had a number of questions about air quality standards, is it being measured and where are the monitoring sites. Kiewit said she was e-mailed links to a number of documents that she did read. She said the National Scenic Area is monitoring air quality – monitoring emissions, data and pollution sources both in and outside of the Gorge. Kiewit said there are a number of monitoring stations with the closest being in Memaloose. She said there are also stations at Wishram and the Bonneville Dam. Kiewit said the analysis of pollution in the Gorge is broad with the a major contributions being the coal plant, forest fires and agriculture production. She said the information put her more at ease because the amount of pollution in the Gorge is much less than the metro area. Kiewit said that 9 additional trains though the Gorge might not be a major deal in the big picture. She said that for Bingen pollution might not be the biggest concern. She said the real concern might be obstruction of access to Bingen Point.

Betty Barnes said that access with discussed with BNSF by herself and David Sauter, Klickitat County Commissioner. She said she heard a willingness to have further discussions on the issue of access.

Betty Barnes said she is proud of the city council for taking the time to look at the coal train issue from all angles.

Committee and Staff Reports

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Tony Domish reported that he and Tony Warren attended the domestic violence summit in Portland last week. He said they obtained very good information.

Domish reported that the surplus vehicle was sold for \$2,701. He said 10% of the fund will go to the state with the rest going into the drug fund.

Domish reported that there was a burglary approximately a year ago in Bingen resulting in the theft of some musical instruments. He said that one of the instruments has been recovered and hopes to recover 2 more.

Domish reported the police department will be hosting the “jail” again at Spring Fest in the same location as last year.

Budget Committee

The budget committee will meet on Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. to review the annual report.

Office Closures

Betty Barnes reported that the city has been closing offices on Mondays since the beginning of the year with very little comment from the public. She said that when the issue was first brought to the council there was discussion that if a holiday took place on a day other than Monday the office would be opened on Mondays. Barnes asked if the council wants to continue that policy or just keep the offices closed.

City council members discussed the issue and there was a consensus that opening the offices occasionally on Mondays might be confusing to the public and that offices will continue to be closed on Mondays even if there is a holiday during the week that falls on a day other than Monday.

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 1, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 5/01/2012) 15154-15170 totaling \$12509.79. Current – \$5404.56; Street - \$2531.99; Park Construction & Maintenance - \$64.12; Water - \$2093.69; Sewer - \$590.01; Treatment Plant - \$1825.42.

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 1, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 04/30/2012) 15148, 15152-15153 totaling \$1847.41. Current – \$1847.41.

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 1, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (dated 04/30/2012) EFT, 15149-15151, totaling \$19694.44. Current – \$8653.75; Street - \$2796.40; Water - \$2257.69; Sewer - \$352.67; Treatment Plant - \$5633.93.

At 8:20 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor