

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 5, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Maria Perez, Sandi Dickey, Clinton Bryan, Laura Mann, Catherine Kiewit. City Administrator Jan Brending was present. City Attorney Tad Connors was absent. Audience: Cindy Horton, Kevin Schleicher, Mike Madden, Ben Mitchell, Larry Murphy, Rich and Trina Cortese.

Public Comment

Rich and Trina Cortese

Rich Cortese said he owns property at 108 Bridgeview Court. He said he has some questions related to a sewer issue. Cortese said that he realizes the city may not have all the answers at this time. He said that it is his understanding that his home is on a "community sewer line." Cortese said the sewer had backed up into the house and that he called the city after hours and could not get a hold of anyone. He said he eventually got a hold of Betty Barnes. Cortese said 3 to 4 years ago the same thing happened when tree roots got into the pipe. He said that where the problem is in the sewer line is no where near his property. Cortese said he would like to know who did the work on the sewer line and who chose the site. He asked if permits were obtained and who inspected the installation. Cortese noted that he did not receive any information when he purchased the home about the sewer line. He asked if the sewer line is the right size for the number of homes on the line. Cortese said it is his understanding that his home and the two townhomes above him are on the line plus the vacant lot. He asked if the city has decided that community sewer lines are no longer allowed, when was that decision made. Cortese said he is trying to sell the home.

Betty Barnes noted that the city's attorney is not present. She said she will get the questions to Tad Connors so that he can respond.

Cortese asked if there are other community service lines in town. Cortese said he really can't move forward in selling his house without fixing the line.

Betty Barnes said she appreciates Cortese coming to the council meeting and let the city know what is going on.

Trina Cortese said the issue cannot wait and that it needs to be taken care of immediately.

City of Bingen Signage, Kevin Schleicher

Kevin Schleicher reviewed the proposed signage he is working on for an Eagle Scout project. He said he intends to complete two signs made out of cedar with purple and yellow letters and huckleberries for decoration. Schleicher said he has gotten permission for the signs from everyone but the city and the regional district for the Boy Scouts.

The council discussed the signage and font style. Council members suggested that it might be good to have something on the back since the signs are large.

Jan Brending and Betty Barnes will review the current sign locations to see if the new signs could be installed there. Brending will contact WSDOT to see if there are any issues in replacing the small signs with the new larger ones.

Approval of Minutes – October 16, 2012

Changes to the minutes of the October 16, 2012 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 2nd paragraph should read: "Randy Porter said that he is here to tell the council that the church is still interested in helping out with the skatepark fundraising. Porter said he had asked the church if they would be interested in doing carols during the Bingen Christmas parade. He said the church is interested in singing carols during the parade and asked if the council would like to see the music they plan to sing."

Page 1, 4th paragraph should read: "Changes to the minutes of the October 2, 2012 council meeting with noted as follows:"

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2012 regular council meeting as corrected. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Approval of Minutes – October 30, 2012

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2012 special council meeting as presented. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Approval of Minutes – November 1, 2012

Sandi Dickey moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2012 special council meeting as presented. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mike Madden, Skyline Hospital – Proposed Emergency Management Services (EMS) District

Mike Madden said the county commissioners are considering the action they want to take regarding emergency management services (EMS) in the county. He said they have two options establishing an EMS district or just establishing a county EMS levy without a district. Madden said the three cities in the county have to adopt resolutions if they want to be part of an EMS district. He said he would appreciate a letter of support for county wide emergency management services and also indicating that if the county chooses to establish an EMS district that the city would support that also.

Betty Barnes asked if Bickleton would be included in the district.

Mike Madden said no and that Alderdale would also not be included. He said Bickleton is serviced out of Prosser and Alderdale is serviced out of the Tri-Cities area.

Laura Mann thanked Mike Madden for his information and research. She said she supports the idea of the city writing a letter of support.

Catherine Kiewit asked why Mike Madden is taking the lead with this issue.

Mike Madden said the hospital would like to try to get the issue resolved before the EMS levy runs out. He also noted that he is retiring at the end of March.

Catherine Kiewit said she is impressed by the work that has been done.

Laura Mann moved to authorize a letter of support for developing county-wide emergency management services and that Bingen would support an EMS district if the other two cities also support the district. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

The council took a short break at 7:55 p.m. and resumed at 8:05 p.m.

Presentation of 2013 Budget

Jan Brending presented the proposed 2013 budget. She said the council will hold several public hearings on the budget including one this evening. Brending said the budget is scheduled to be adopted on December 4th but the council has until December 31st to adopt the budget. She said the budget includes a 1% increase in property taxes and a 5% increase in water and sewer rates.

Public Hearing – 2013 Revenue Budget and Property Tax Levy

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing for the 2013 revenue budget and property tax levy.

No public comment was provided.

Betty Barnes closed the hearing.

Proposed Resolution 2012-008, Regarding Property Tax Increase and Proposed Ordinance 2012-10-607, Determining the Amount to Be Raised by Advalorem Taxes for the Year 2013

Jan Brending presented the ordinance and resolution regarding property taxes for 2013. She said the 1% increase will result in \$1,890.99 additional taxes for 2013.

Laura Mann moved to adopt Ordinance 2012-10-607, determining the Amount to Be Raised by Advalorem Taxes for the Year 2013. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Catherine Kiewit moved to adopt Resolution 2012-008, Regarding Property Tax Increase. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Agreement with Natural Selection Farms, Inc. for Beneficial Use of Biosolids

Betty Barnes said this is a similar agreement the city had last year for hauling biosolids from the treatment plant. She said that Tad Connors reviewed the contract and made a few minor changes that were agreed to by Natural Selection Farms.

Sandi Dickey moved to approve a one-year agreement with Natural Selection Farms, Inc. for beneficial use of biosolids. Maria Perez seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Steuben Street Holiday Lights

Betty Barnes said that she was contacted by Jeri Fisch with Insitu regarding helping put up Christmas lights on the trees. Barnes is asking the council if they would be willing to contribute funds to assist in purchasing lights. She said there are only 7 strands of working lights left from last year.

The council discussed donating funds for the purchase of tree lights.

Laura Mann suggested the city look for additional partners to help with the tree lights each year.

Catherine Kiewit moved to provide \$500 towards the purchase of tree lights with the funds coming from the Community Development Fund. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Betty Barnes said SDS will be donating a Christmas tree to the city. She asked council members for input into how big of a tree and where it should be located. Barnes said she has looked at a couple of locations including at the park or the southwest corner of Walnut and Steuben. She said the corner may be the best location because the tree could be anchored to the railing and electricity could be run from the light pole.

Catherine Kiewit suggesting maybe using the live tree that is near the flume in the park.

Treasurer's Report – September 2012

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's report for September 2012.

Laura Mann moved to accept the treasurer's report for September 2012. Maria Perez seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Review of Resolution 2011-003, Providing Health Insurance Benefits for City of Bingen Employees

The council reviewed the language of Resolution 2011-003.

Laura Mann moved to suspend implementation of Resolution 2011-003, Providing Health Insurance Benefits for City of Bingen Employees for all employees pending union negotiations. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Holiday Work Schedule

Betty Barnes said she wanted to review the holiday work schedule with the council members. She said the city hall offices are normally closed on Mondays and that for the week of Thanksgiving the office would only be open on Tuesday and Wednesday due to the holiday office closure on Thursday and Friday and that for the weeks of Christmas and New Years the office will only be open Wednesday through Friday.

The council discussed the holiday work schedule and agreed to keep the office closed on Mondays.

The council asked staff to regularly review the message on the city's voice mail to insure the public knows who to contact in an emergency or if they are looking for a dog that may have been picked up by animal control. The council also asked that the message be updated when holiday closures occur.

Gorge Heritage Museum

Betty Barnes said city staff did investigate a green area north of the museum by digging a hole down 6 feet but did not find any signs of a spring or a water leak. She said the city has received an e-mail stating that there is water coming in the basement again which has been cleaned up.

Laura Mann said she feels the city needs to figure out what is going on at the museum and get it fixed. She suggested thanking the museum for cleaning up the water and requesting that if it happens again to please let the city know so that pictures can be taken.

Clinton Bryan said he would like to be contacted so that he can see where the water is coming from.

Surplus Sale

Betty Barnes said a viewing time for the surplus sale items was held November 1st and November 3rd. She said approximately 15 people attended each day.

Hydrogen Sulfide Pilot Test

Betty Barnes said Gray & Osborne started the hydrogen sulfide pilot test on October 17.

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 5, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT, 15520-15548 (dated 11/05/2012) totaling \$27,638.77. Current – \$5841.65; Street – \$2597.70; Water - \$10070.38; Sewer - \$970.87, Treatment Plant - \$5305.80; Sewer Construction & Maintenance - \$2634.53; Treatment Plant Replacement - \$217.84.

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 5, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (dated 10/31/2012) EFT, 15515-15517, totaling \$20092.72. Current – \$8689.75; Street - \$2872.71; Water - \$2281.02; Sewer - \$469.66; Treatment Plant - \$5779.58.

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 5, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 15514 (dated 10/18/2012) totaling \$3,468.77 and check 15518-15519 (dated 10/31/2012) totaling \$1751.25: Current – \$1751.25; Treatment Plant Replacement - \$3468.77

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 5, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (dated 10/02/2012) EFT, totaling \$0.01 (correction). Current – \$0.01.

At 9:20 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor