

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Laura Mann, Sandi Dickey, Catherine Kiewit, Clinton Bryan, Maria Perez. City Administrator and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Tony Domish, Ben Mitchell

Approval of Minutes – September 6, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the September 6, 2011 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 2, 6th paragraph, last sentence should read: “She said it was stated that the officer could leave earlier and there may be some cost savings to the department.”

Page 2, 7th paragraph should read: “Betty Barnes said she is concerned that if the officer leaves that officer overtime costs will go up so there will not be any cost savings.”

Page 3, 7th paragraph, 1st sentence should read: “Laura Mann said she received notice from the Klickitat County Solid Waste department that they were submitting a grant proposal for the 2012-13 Coordinated Prevention Grant.”

Clinton Bryan moved to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2011 regular council meeting as corrected. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Fall Yard and Garden Debris Pick-up and Dirt Hugger Proposal – Discussion

Betty Barnes reported that she spoke with staff about last year’s fall yard and garden debris pick-up. She said Allied Waste donated the use of a 40-yard container including delivery and pick-up.

The city council discussed asking Allied Waste if they could donate a container again this year. In addition, the council discussed the opportunity for taking the debris to Dirt Hugger where it would be recycled.

Clinton Bryan moved to set November 3rd through November 18th as the dates for the fall yard and garden debris pick-up allowing two weekends. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Solid Waste Recycling – Discussion

Laura Mann reported that Len Crawford, a council member for Goldendale, is interested in recycling and would like to discuss the issue with the City of Bingen and the City of White Salmon. She said Klickitat County estimates that it is recycling 8% of the county’s solid waste while the state’s goal is 50%. Mann said it is hard to measure how much solid waste is actually being recycled in the county.

There was a consensus of the city council to discuss the issue of recycling with the other two cities in the county.

Shane and Elisa Hearn, Bingen Garbage Service, said they specialize in the transportation of solid waste and are interested in the issue of recycling. Shane Hearn said there needs to be an incentive to recycle and noted that in other places recycling is done for a fee. He said that if the tipping fee was higher at the transfer sites then people would be more inclined to recycle. Hearn said Bingen Garbage Service is thinking of adding recycling and yard and garden debris pickup for a fee.

Betty Barnes noted that a copy of the e-mail Laura Mann sent to Klickitat County regarding the solid waste grant is in the council’s packet.

Request to Close Streets – Block Party Proposal

Betty Barnes said the city has received a request to close several streets for a block party.

Catherine Kiewit said she is a proponent for block parties as they are a great way to build community. She said she is asking permission to close Humboldt Street between Pine and Vine on October 2 from 1 to 9 p.m. Kiewit said the neighbors have agreed to the proposal. She said flyers for the block party will be provided and will be bilingual.

Betty Barnes asked if the use of alcohol on the streets has been addressed.

Catherine Kiewit said it has not been discussed but she can make it clear that alcohol can not be taken onto the streets and must be consumed on private property.

Laura Mann said the one-block closure only has two driveways and three homes with doorways facing the street.

Betty Barnes said street barricades are available from public works but someone will have to pick them and they will have to be set up and taken down by the neighbors.

Tad Connors agreed that the city should not be responsible for setting up and taking down the barricades.

Clinton Bryan moved to authorize the closure of Humboldt Street between Pine and Vine on October 2 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and allowing the neighborhood the use of street barricades as long as the neighborhood sets up the barricades and takes them down. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Bryan – Aye, Dickey – Aye, Kiewit – Abstain, Mann – Abstain, Perez – Aye.

Old Business

Water Use – Continued Discussion

Betty Barnes said that she has learned that the order for the 6-inch and 8-inch meters had not been placed by the salesperson. She said the city has requested the order to be placed and shipment expedited.

Betty Barnes said Jan Brending has provided a memorandum regarding water usage. She said it includes a recommendation to issue a Request for Proposals asking for assistance in addressing the city's Distribution System Leakage (DSL) issue. Barnes said a proposal will be presented at the October 4th council meeting.

Clinton Bryan moved to authorize proceeding with a Request for Proposals for engineering assistance with the Distribution System Leakage (DSL) issue. Maria Perez seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Betty Barnes said she has spoken with Laura Mann who has taken an initial look at the numbers and data and will continue to follow-up.

Proposed White Salmon Budget Amendment

Betty Barnes said the city has received a letter from White Salmon Mayor David Poucher requesting an extension of the interlocal agreements for approving amendments to the 2011 budget to October 19, 2011 to allow time for the union agreement to be settled.

Catherine Kiewit said she is concerned that as more time passes the City of White Salmon will keep spending and may exceed the current budget.

The council discussed the proposed request.

Laura Mann moved to send a letter authorizing an extension for the submission of proposed amendments to the 2011 budget and submission of the 2012 proposed budget until October 19, 2011 with a condition that the budgetary information be submitted to the Bingen Mayor and City Administrator by noon on October 12th. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Skatepark Fundraising

Betty Barnes said that she wants to thank staff, council members and others who put in more than 60 hours working at the Huckleberry Festival in the skatepark booth which raised \$1,247. She said that she believes when a community sees that staff and council members are willing to participate in the process then they see the city is part of the fundraising.

Sandi Dickey said that a customer of her daughter who lives in Seattle provided \$100 towards the skatepark.

Betty Barnes said there may be an opportunity to do some type of Halloween bash in the park to continue the fundraising effort.

Betty Barnes said the winner of the 50/50 raffle donated the proceeds back to the city.

Ben Mitchell, The Enterprise, asked how much was raised with the 50/50 raffle.

Sandi Dickey said \$289.

Sandi Dickey said that the people who provided donations for the fundraising during Huckleberry Festival said incorporating information into the city's web-page and using Facebook would make people more aware of the process. She said there is an opportunity to have a design developed for t-shirts and hats and then the city could sell them. It was suggested a proposal be made to the city.

Betty Barnes said there would need to be an upfront investment from the city to sell the t-shirts and hats.

Jan Brending recommended that if the city was to make an investment to sell t-shirts and hats that funds not specifically donated for the skatepark be used (i.e. general donations to the park fund).

Maria Perez said that CenterPoint Bank has asked that the City send them a fundraising letter.

Betty Barnes said she may be attending a meeting of the Elks and the Oddfellows to present information about the skatepark.

Street Landscaping – Spring Bulbs

Betty Barnes said Chips would like to donate and plant spring bulbs throughout the city's street landscaping. She said she will be contacting the master gardeners to see if they can help.

Sandi Dickey said Vanguard Nursery could provide a good price for the bulbs. Betty Barnes said she will let Chips know that information.

Clinton Bryan said he is supportive if the bulbs are spread uniformly throughout the beds.

There was consensus of the council to allow Chips to donate and plant spring bulbs uniformly through the city's street landscaping.

SR-35 Bridge

Betty Barnes said the latest information on the SR-35 Bridget is in the council's packet.

Street Issues

Laura Mann reported there are several places where the pavement has settled substantially or is cracked on Steuben Street – on the north side of Steuben in front of Wyers law office and in the intersection of Steuben and Walnut.

Water Fountain – Park

Maria Perez said that a resident, Mika Clark, contacted her about installing a water fountain for drinking purposes at the park.

The council agreed that it can consider the installation of a water fountain along with other improvements at the park. A letter will be written to Mika Clark thanking her for her suggestion and letting her know that it has been added to the list of possible improvements at the park.

Neglected Vehicle

Catherine Kiewit noted there is a vehicle on Humboldt Street that has had a red notification on it but has never been moved.

Betty Barnes noted there is also a fork-lift that is stored in the right-of-way on Humboldt.

Committee and Staff Reports

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Tony Domish said the police department raised just under \$700 with the "jail" at Huckleberry Festival.

Tony Domish said there were no significant calls for service or overtime worked during Huckleberry Festival. He said it was a great event despite the heat.

Tony Domish reported that Skamania County Sheriff Dave Brown donated two vehicles to the police department that will be turned into a command vehicle and a surveillance vehicle.

Tony Domish said the department recently did a crosswalk enforcement emphasis in Bingen and wrote 6 to 7 citations.

Clinton Bryan asked if the department will continue to do crosswalk enforcement periodically. Domish said yes. He noted that it takes three individuals to the enforcement.

It was noted that Judge Weisfield has not been fining individuals for several parking tickets that were issued even though the tickets were not dismissed.

Tony Domish said he will e-mail the information to Tad Connors.

Betty Barnes asked Tony Domish to coordinate with David Spratt about using the old Bingen police car as a decoy along Steuben Street.

Tony Domish said it will need a light-bar. Clinton Bryan said there might be a light-bar in the fire department.

Water/Wastewater Committee

Laura Mann said she and Clinton Bryan will be reviewing the interlocal agreements for water and wastewater.

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 September 20, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 14686-14701 totaling \$10288.18: Current – \$4910.50; Street - \$1137.27; Water - \$1252.47; Sewer - \$422.00; Treatment Plant - \$2565.94.

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 September 20, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (09/15/2011) EFT, 14680-14685, totaling \$12709.99. Current – \$5348.64; Street - \$1745.65; Water - \$1597.02; Sewer - \$247.18; Treatment Plant - \$3771.50.

Executive Session

Betty Barnes announced at 8:57 p.m. that the city council will meet for 10 minutes in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation.

At 9:07 p.m. the city council resumed regular session and adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor