

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 21, 2012

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

Approval of Minutes – August 7, 2012

Changes to the minutes of the August 7, 2012 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, last paragraph, last sentence should read: “Barnes said the city changed over to well water on Monday, August 6.”

Page 2, 4th paragraph, first sentence should read: “Ken Alexander said that Bingen’s distribution system leakage is not all unusual for cities the same size.”

Page 3, 8th paragraph, first sentence should read: “Jan Brending requested the City council authorize the mayor to sign the agreement upon approval by Tom Hons, Treatment Plant Manager and Anthony Connors, City Attorney.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2012 regular council meeting as corrected. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Tracy Wycoff, Police Chief, said things have been going quite well. He said he has been working with the department to address issues and that accountability has been implemented as to time, supplies and equipment. Wycoff said each officer is accounting for how much time is spent in each city including overtime. He said he has been working to update the evidence system. Wycoff said a system is needed for lost items that are not evidence that will allow for easier access when the evidence officer is not available. Wycoff said Judi Culp is working five 8-hour shifts again instead of four 10-hour shifts. He said he thinks it is important to have the office staffed and opened to the public. Wycoff said he is happy how things are going and thinks the officers understand his philosophy. Wycoff reported that Skamania County officers have been helping out with traffic and that allows the regular officers time for followup on outstanding cases. He said he is open to ideas and suggestions from the council. Wycoff said that he has also started to work on updating the department’s policies and procedures and that he is also out on the road taking calls.

Laura Mann asked how many officers does the department currently have.

Tracy Wycoff said 3. He said he hopes to bring on at least 2 officers after the first of the year. Wycoff said the department has one reserve officer.

Betty Barnes asked Wycoff to share the status of the Skamania County officers.

Tracy Wycoff said 7 Skamania County officers have offered assistance. He said the budget is configured to provide for 170 hours of Skamania County officer support each month. Wycoff said he is trying to keep that to 100 to 120 hours each month. He said he is available 24/7 and that the regular full-time officers are available for callout. Wycoff said he would like to see 2 additional officers added to get better coverage. He said investigation and followup can take an officer off of the street.

Betty Barnes said she has noticed much more visibility. She said it is clear that this is a policed community.

Tracy Wycoff said he had complaints that traffic was not being addressed and feels that has now changed. He said he feels it is important for officers to be out in the community and contacting people.

Betty Barnes noted there is a “crosswalk issue” in Bingen where vehicles do not stop appropriately for pedestrians in crosswalks. Catherine Kiewit agreed.

Catherine Kiewit said she heard from of couple of residents that they appreciated Tracy Wycoff attending the Concert in the Park on Saturday.

Public Hearing – Proposed 2012 Budget Amendments, Ordinance 2012-08-605

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing on proposed 2012 budget amendments.

Jan Brending said there are 2 amendments to the budget: providing an appropriation for miscellaneous expenses related to fundraising for the skatepark and providing an appropriation for the small works contract for electrical work for installing aerators at the treatment plant.

The city council discussed expenses related to fundraising for the skatepark.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve Ordinance 2012-08-605, amending the 2012 budget. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Street Closure Request for Block Party, Catherine Kiewit

Catherine Kiewit said she is requesting to close East Humboldt between Pine and Vine on Sunday, September 16 from 1 to 9 p.m. She said she will pickup up road barricades from public works and set them up like last year.

Sandi Dickey moved to allow a street closure on East Humboldt between Pine and Vine on Sunday, September 16 from 1 to 9 p.m. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote: Bryan – Aye, Dickey – Aye, Kiewit – Abstain, Mann – Aye, Perez – Aye.

Treasurer’s Report – July 2012

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer’s Report for July 2012. She said development of the 2013 budget is underway with a call to department heads to prepare draft budgets. Brending said a draft budget will be made available to the city council by October 1st.

It was noted that the July 2012 treasurer’s report has 1st Independent Bank still listed as one of the banks Bingen does business with.

Jan Brending said the August report will show the name change for the accounts.

Laura Mann moved to accept the July 2012 treasurer’s report. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Water Discussion Continued

Jan Brending said David Spratt has provided information regarding the water leaks that were included in the Gray & Osborne Distribution System Leakage report. She said all of the leaks have been repaired. Brending said in addition Spratt has provided information regarding a waterline that services the Reese Mill and Warner Road. She said Spratt will be installing a valve so that this area can be isolated because it is possible that the line is leaking. Brending said currently the Reese Mill is not using water and the line could be shut off. She said she will be contacting SDS Lumber to see if there are drawings of the Reese Mill area.

Jan Brending said Gray & Osborne has provided information on the costs to construct a new well and costs for addressing hydrogen sulfide. The city council discussed the cost information.

The city council discussed conducting a community survey to find out if residents and businesses would prefer the city to treat hydrogen sulfide, drill a new well, or continue to purchase water from the City of White Salmon. Council members discussed that the costs of purchasing water could be set aside for capital improvements if Bingen was not purchasing the water.

Jan Brending suggested that conducting the hydrogen sulfide pilot test would provide additional information that could be used in conducting a community survey. She suggested that it would be helpful to residents to know what options are available, the cost of those options and how those options would affect water rates.

Laura Mann moved to authorize proceeding with a professional services contract with Gray & Osborne for \$14,000 to conduct a hydrogen sulfide pilot test. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Clinton Bryan suggested the City of Bingen may want to approach the City of White Salmon regarding a long-term approach for the price of water purchased from White Salmon.

Jan Brending noted that prior to Bingen going back to using the Dry Creek and Park wells Bingen was purchasing approximately 78% of its water from White Salmon. She said for the week of August 20 the city purchased 49% of its water from White Salmon.

Huckleberry Festival – Skatepark Fundraising

The city council discussed skatepark fundraising that will take place during Huckleberry Festival. Laura Mann suggested meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 4 before the regular council meeting to finalize the details for the fundraising.

Mayor’s Update and Council Comments

Concert in the Park

Betty Barnes said that a concert is scheduled at the park on September 3. She said Isaac Riley has offered to donate to pay for some additional electrical work – installing a 50 amp 220 plug on the existing power pole. Barnes said the work will be permanent.

Committee and Staff Reports

Klickitat County Emergency Management Department

Jan Brending said Ed Powell has been hired as the director of the Klickitat County Emergency Management Department. She said it is her understanding that communications and dispatching will be moved out of the Sheriff’s office to the Emergency Management Department.

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD)

Jan Brending reported that Klickitat County has appointed her to represent the three Klickitat County cities on the MCEDD board for another 2 years.

Civil Service Commission

Jan Brending said she has been appointed to serve as the Secretary/Chief Examiner for the Bingen-White Salmon Civil Service Commission.

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 August 21, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 07/31/2012) 15364-15365 totaling \$971.67. Current – \$971.67.

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 August 21, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 08/21/2012) EFT, 15372 – 15400 and check (dated 8/15/2012) 15370 totaling \$98037.71. Current – \$76479.60; Street - \$2027.89; Water - \$2200.84; Sewer - \$1681.64; Treatment Plant - \$7508.74; Sewer Construction & Maintenance - \$451.26; Treatment Plant Replacement - \$7687.74.

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 August 21, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (dated 08/15/2012) EFT, 15366-15369, 15371, totaling \$12640.53. Current – \$5234.98; Street - \$1662.01; Water - \$1456.82; Sewer - \$229.29; Treatment Plant - \$4057.43.

At 8:55 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor