

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 4, 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. Council members absent: Maria Perez. City Administrator and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Ben Mitchell

Public Comment

Laura Mann, Bingen

Laura Mann thanked the council for allowing the closing of Humboldt Street for the block party. She read a letter from John Mann. Mann said it was fun to see all the kids at the event. She said that they want to try another block party when it is warmer.

Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the September 20, 2011 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 6th paragraph, 1st sentence should read “Clinton Bryan moved to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2011 regular council meeting as corrected.”

Page 1, 10th paragraph, 1st sentence should read “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.”

Page 1/2, Last and 1st paragraph, 3rd sentence should read “He said that if the tipping fee was higher at the transfer sites the people would be more inclined to recycle.”

Page 2, 11th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read “She said the city has requested the order to be placed and shipment expedited.”

Page 3, 6th paragraph, last sentence should read “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.”

Page 3, 12th paragraph, add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph “It was suggested a proposal be made to the city.”

Page 5, 4th paragraph should read “It was noted that Judge Wiesfield has not been fining individuals for several parking tickets that were issued even though the tickets were not dismissed.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2011 regular council meeting as corrected. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Amendments to 2011 Budget, Proposed Ordinance 2011-05-592

Betty Barnes announced the public hearing for the proposed amendments to the 2011 budget. She reviewed the proposed amendments.

Catherine Kiewit asked how many garbage cans were purchased for the park.

Jan Brending said four.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approved Ordinance 2011-05-592, Amending the 2011 Budget. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Utility Billing Adjustment Ordinance, Policy Direction – Discussion

Betty Barnes said staff is seeking direction from the city council regarding specific policies that would be included in an ordinance providing for utility billing adjustments when a customer has a leak.

Catherine Kiewit said she likes the Tukwila ordinance. She said that she is more inclined to waive sewer overages and only in extreme scenarios waive a percentage of the water usage. Kiewit said she believes that if a customer uses the water then it should be paid for.

Jan Brending noted that only non-residential customers have sewer overage.

Betty Barnes said that she supports the council making the decision on utility billing adjustments because 5 people taking a vote does not look biased.

Catherine Kiewit said that if a policy is created then she has no problem with the mayor executing the policy.

Clinton Bryan asked if someone from the public works department will play a role in the decision making.

Betty Barnes said yes.

Laura Mann said it is important to have a policy and that it will solve a lot of questions that customers may have. She said that there should be a monetary limit or the use of a percentage when calculating the reduction. Mann said she also liked allowing one request per year.

Sandi Dickey said she likes the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District reduction provision.

Catherine Kiewit said she also likes the North Bend ordinance.

Laura Mann agreed.

The council discussed whether to limit utility reductions to service lines from the meter to the facility or to include “hidden leaks.”

The council agreed that the mayor or the mayor’s designee would make the administrative decision on utility reductions with an appeal process to the council.

There was a consensus of the council to develop a draft ordinance using a combination of the North Bend and Tukwila ordinances for presentation to the council at a future council meeting.

White Salmon Pool Bucks Refund Request – Discussion and Action

Betty Barnes said the City of White Salmon has provided a specific deadline of October 5th at noon for requesting a refund for pool bucks. She said that she recommends the city write a letter to White Salmon stating that Bingen would like to use the pool bucks for the 2012 season but if for some reason the pool does not open or pool bucks are not allowed to be used that the City of Bingen would receive a refund. Barnes said she would like to request White Salmon respond in writing.

Catherine Kiewit moved to send a letter to the City of White Salmon stating that Bingen would like to use its pool bucks in the 2012 season and that if the pool does not open or pool bucks are not allowed for use then Bingen would be refunded the price of the pool bucks. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Agreement for Disposal of Biosolids – Review and Action

Jan Brending said the City of Bingen no longer has a local site for disposal of biosolids. She said when the city renewed its biosolids permit the city identified that it would be using a “beneficial use facility” such as Natural Selection Farms. Brending said the city is currently working on securing a local site for disposal.

Tad Connors said the agreement would only go through the end of December. He said that because of that and discussing the agreement with Tom Hons he is recommending that the city move ahead.

The council discussed the agreement and the disposal of biosolids.

Laura Mann moved to authorize the mayor to sign the agreement for disposal of biosolids with Natural Selection Farms. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposal for Development of Wastewater Plan – Review and Action

Jan Brending said the Joint Wastewater Committee agreed to forward recommendation of developing a Joint General Sewer/Wastewater Facility Plan to both city councils. She said funding for the sections related directly to the treatment plant, Bingen’s collection system, and Bingen’s I&I evaluation would be paid for out of Bingen funds. Brending said the Treatment Plant section would be paid out of the Treatment Replacement Fund (Capital Reserve) and the sections related to the Bingen collection system and I&I evaluation would come from Sewer Construction and Maintenance Fund (Capital Reserve).

Laura Mann and Clinton Bryan said they support moving ahead with hiring Gray & Osborne to develop a plan.

Laura Mann said the joint committee meeting was very productive and that they were able to work through the entire agenda. She said that Mark Peppel, Adrian Bradford and Karen Skiles are members of White Salmon's committee.

Clinton Bryan made a motion to move forward with hiring Gray & Osborne to develop a joint wastewater plan with White Salmon. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement – Discussion and Action

Betty Barnes reviewed the provision in the interlocal agreement that allows Bingen to make a decision at its first meeting in October as to whether Bingen wishes to continue the 32% compensation rate. She noted that the approval to continue the 32% compensation rate is conditioned on the approval and acceptance by both city councils of the 2012 budget by no later than December 23rd. Barnes said that if the budget is not approved then the compensation rate would be determined by the language in the previous agreement.

Betty Barnes recommended delaying the decision to the first meeting in November since the budgets for both 2011 and 2012 are running behind. She said White Salmon has not yet approved the union contract for police officers.

Catherine Kiewit said she thinks that is a great idea. Kiewit asked to have information regarding the number of calls for each city for the last year.

Betty Barnes noted that the city has received a budget for 2012 but has not received the 2011 amendments. She said that White Salmon is basing its 2012 budget on Bingen paying 26% for law enforcement services which is the worst case scenario.

There was a consensus of the council to notify White Salmon that Bingen will be extending the decision on whether to continue with 32% to its first meeting in November.

Old Business

Fall Yard & Garden Debris Pick-Up – Disposal of Debris – Discussion and Action

Jan Brending said Allied Waste has agreed to donate a 40 or 50-yard container (size depending on availability at the time) for the City's Fall yard and garden debris pick-up. She said deliver and pickup is also free. Brending said Allied is willing to take the debris to Dirt Huggers for free as long as Bingen agrees to pay Dirt Hugger's tipping fee. She said it could cost as much as \$350 which would come out of Current Expense.

The city council discussed recycling opportunities for yard and garden debris and agreed further investigation into recycling opportunities is needed.

Laura Mann suggested writing a letter of thank you to Allied Waste.

Sandi Dickey moved to have Allied Waste take the debris to the landfill. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Water Distribution System Leakage Issue – Engineering Proposal

Betty Barnes said the city has received a proposal from Gray & Osborne which has been provided to the members of the Water/Sewer Committee.

Jan Brending said an interview with Gray & Osborne is scheduled for Monday, October 10 at 12:00 p.m.

Fire Department Radio Equipment

Betty Barnes said the radio equipment for the fire department that is funded by a Klickitat County EDA grant has been ordered.

Jan Brending said the equipment should arrive this week.

White Salmon Water Purchases

Betty Barnes reported that Bingen is now bringing its water in through the Highway 141 intertie versus the Highway 14 intertie.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Betty Barnes said Tony Domish is not present but he wanted the council to know that another fuel theft occurred at Wilcox & Flegel with about \$1200 to \$1400 worth of fuel taken. She said a sheriff's officer was able to get the license plate number and investigative work has been done. Barnes said Domish said they hope to make an arrest soon.

Betty Barnes reported that a decoy police vehicle is being used throughout Bingen to help slow traffic down.

Recent Fires

Laura Mann said as long as she has lived here she has not been aware of any fires on the bluff in Bingen and now there have been at least 2 in the last 3 months.

Clinton Bryan said the fires are being investigated by the Forest Service or the Department of Natural Resources.

Fish Plant

Betty Barnes said the Joint Wastewater Committee discussed the fish plant. She said that the pilot test seemed to go well.

Block Party

Catherine Kiewit thanked the council for allowing the street to be closed. She said there was a very good turnout even though the weather was cool. Kiewit said there were about 30 people present at one point. She said she got to meet new people and that everyone seemed enthusiastic about doing it again.

Skatepark Fundraising

Betty Barnes said she may schedule a special meeting to discuss skatepark fundraising and whether something can happen for Halloween.

Laura Mann noted that there is a lot going on that weekend.

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 5 at 12:30 p.m. to begin discussions on the 2012 budget.

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 October 4, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT, 14708-14730 totaling \$89388.06: Current – \$73224.64; Street - \$1750.16; Fire Equipment Reserve - \$23.92; Park Construction & Maintenance - \$1746.20; Water - \$1917.15; Sewer - \$278.20; Treatment Plant - \$1188.88; Treatment Plant Replacement - \$9,258.91.

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 October 4, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (8/31/2011) 14678-14679 totaling \$1040.87: Current –\$1040.87.

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 October 4, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (9/22/11, 9/29/11, & 9/30/11) EFT, 14705-14707 totaling \$2447.45: Current –\$659.23; Community Development - \$23.30; Fire Equipment Reserve - \$230.61; Water - \$990.86; Sewer - \$159.02; Treatment Plant - \$384.43.

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 October 4, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (09/30/2011) EFT, 14702-14704, totaling \$20151.86. Current – \$8403.60; Street - \$2693.45; Water - \$2619.19; Sewer - \$397.22; Treatment Plant - \$6038.40.

At 9:05 p.m. the city council adjourned.