

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Sandi Dickey, Laura Mann, Guillermo Fisch, Clinton Bryan. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Tony Domish, Maria Rosa "Rosi" Salguero, Adriana Benitez, Don and Heidi Struck, Mike Madden.

Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the February 1, 2011 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, paragraph 1: Clinton Bryan should be shown as in attendance.

Page 3, 8th paragraph should read as follows: "Jan Brending said HUGS stands for "Help Us Grow Safely" and is directed towards children in the community."

Page 4, 1st paragraph should read as follows: "Tony Domish reported that the department has three applications for reserve officer and will be starting reserve training on March 1 with Bingen-White Salmon candidates attending via video so they do not have to drive to Goldendale."

Page 4, add the following paragraph after the 3rd paragraph: "Laura Mann applauded Jan Brending and each employee for a great year-end budget position."

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2011 regular council meeting. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Klickitat County Solid Waste Planning – Don Struck

Don Struck said he is representing the Klickitat County Solid Waste Planning Advisory Committee on behalf of the county commissioners. He said the county is inviting the city to participate on the committee. Struck said he has volunteered to reconstruct the 9-member committee and work on getting the county's solid waste plan updated. He said Klickitat County is the leading importer of solid waste in the state. Struck said the landfill provides a large amount of income to the county. He said county residents would likely have to pay 30 to 40 percent more in taxes if the county didn't have the landfill. Struck said the committee will work with a consultant in updating the plan and there will be very few changes.

Betty Barnes said she has nominated Laura Mann to the committee with Guillermo Fisch as an alternate.

Don Struck said the first meeting will be scheduled in March if the consultant is on board by then. He said the committee is important. Struck noted that Joan Frey will also be serving on the committee.

Skyline Hospital – Mike Madden

Mike Madden said Skyline Hospital has made a decision to put a Maintenance & Operations (M&O) lid lift on the ballot in April. He said that new federal mandates are causing the need for additional funds. Madden said one of the biggest mandates is the requirement for electronic health records. He said the new system will cost approximately \$1.5 million and will take several years to implement. Madden said the result of the new levy is about a 7 cent increase resulting in approximately \$76,000 extra dollars each year. He said the hospital has made significant strides over the last 7 to 8 years. Madden said the hospital has a payroll of nearly \$1 million each month. He said the hospital is looking for support for the levy lid lift.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the hospital will implement electronic health records if the levy does not pass.

Mike Madden said it will be implemented but the hospital will either have to increase rates or reduce costs including layoffs. Madden said Skyline Hospital is doing better than most small hospitals due to the local economy.

Catherine Kiewit suggested that the literature about the levy lid lift should discuss the consequences of what will happen if the levy does not pass.

Mike Madden said the hospital wants to stay positive but said it is a good idea that could be done through a newspaper article.

Betty Barnes asked if electronic health records will still be mandated even if the health bill is repealed.

Mike Madden said yes.

Public Hearing – Proposed Amendments to 2011 Budget

Jan Brending presented proposed amendments to the 2011 budget. She said that the majority of the amendments deal with matching beginning balances to actual. Brending said there are a couple of carryover items from 2010 mostly related to retainage on capital improvement projects such as the skatepark, basketball court and Dry Creek sewer project. She said the law enforcement budget has been adjusted to match the budget adopted by White Salmon.

Laura Mann moved to adopt Ordinance 2011-01-588, Amending the 2011 Budget. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Amendments to Bingen Municipal Code 17.68 Nonconforming Uses

Jan Brending presented proposed language amending the city zoning code related to nonconforming single-family residential uses in commercial zones.

Tad Connors recommended additional language be added to Section 17.68.040 Enlargement and Extension.

There was a consensus of the council to move the proposed amendments to a public hearing at the March 1st council meeting.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department – Canine Program

Betty Barnes thanked Tony Domish for putting a good report together on the canine (K9) program. She said the council had previously discussed the K9 program and agreed that if private funding could be provided that the program should continue.

Council members discussed the report with Tony Domish.

Laura Mann noted that there might be some savings in the costs as it appears the overtime amounts might be incorrect.

Betty Barnes presented a draft letter to the City of White Salmon in support of the K9 program if private funding can be found.

Laura Mann said she supports the plan and writing a letter to White Salmon.

Betty Barnes noted that at the recent Klickitat County EDA board meeting, the board voted to fund \$5,000 for the K9 program. She said the county commissioners have to make the final decision on the grant funding.

Laura Mann moved to send a letter to the City of White Salmon supporting the K9 program if private funding can be found. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Student Council Member Interviews and Appointment

Adriana Benitez introduced herself to the council. She said she is a member of ASB and is interested in what is going on in the community.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept Adriana Benitez as the first term student council member and Rosi Salguero as the second term student council member. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Student Council Members Oath of Office

Student council members Adri Benitez and Rosi Salguero were sworn in by Mayor Betty Barnes.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

AWC Webinars

Jan Brending said she has provided information to the council regarding some webinars AWC is holding over the next several months. She said that if council members want to attend they can contact her and she will get them registered.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the webinar could be done as a group. Jan Brending said she will check.

Fire Department Laptop

Betty Barnes said that the city received a grant for \$1800 to purchase a reconditioned laptop and software. She said the software costs approximately \$700. Barnes noted that the city previously bought two rugged laptops for the police department with federal grant funds. She said Jan Brending has spoken with the granting agency about using one of the laptops for the fire department. Barnes said the granting agency said the laptop could be loaned to the fire department for a short period of time and the city could do a dollar for dollar trade for the laptop. She said she would like to fund the purchase of the laptop and software from the \$5,000 received last year from Fire District No. 3. Barnes said the city will purchase computer equipment equal to the costs of the rugged laptop and associated equipment for the police department based on their requirements.

Port of Klickitat Access

Catherine Kiewit asked for an update on the stakeholders meeting regarding Port of Klickitat access.

Jan Brending said the meeting was held. She noted that the Washington Department of Transportation will be doing some initial review of potential options for a new access. Brending also noted that a staffer for one of the legislators called and asked for information on the issue.

Snow Removal Policy

Laura Mann said it might be time for the city to develop a snow removal policy.

Betty Barnes said that she worked with staff to develop an initial snow removal policy last year. She asked that the policy be provided to council members.

Joint Police Committee Meeting

Betty Barnes said a Joint Police Committee meeting will be held on March 7.

Joint Wastewater Committee Meeting

Betty Barnes said the City of Bingen had requested an original date of February 28 for a Joint Wastewater Committee meeting and then suggested March 8. She said White Salmon has said that date is not available. The council suggested holding the meeting on March 23 at 1:00 p.m.

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 February 15, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT, 12939-12960, 12962-12968 totaling \$25304.69. Current – \$13099.69; Street - \$1260.69; Park Construction and Maintenance - \$7775.87; Water - \$1943.17; Sewer - \$246.95; Treatment Plant - \$978.32.

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 February 15, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (02/15/2011) EFT, 12932-12936, 12937, totaling \$12218.29. Current – \$4768.39; Street - \$1747.47; Water - \$1686.27; Sewer - \$260.72; Treatment Plant - \$3755.44.

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 February 15, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (01/31/2011) 12929 totaling \$8939.86. Current – \$4115.26; Street - \$1258.15; Water - \$1170.06; Sewer - \$172.79; Treatment Plant - \$2223.60.

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 February 15, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 12930-12931 totaling \$529.07. Current – \$529.07.

At 8:30 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor