

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 5, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Tim Hearn, Sandi Dickey, Betty Barnes, Terry Trantow and Laura Mann. City Clerk Treasurer Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Bruce Brending, Bruce Bolme, Rick Johnson.

Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2008

Jan Brending noted that the name “Jim Connolly” should be changed to read “Jim Donnelly.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2008 city council meeting as amended. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Community Garden, Bruce Bolme

Bruce Bolme provided an update on the community garden project including providing a site plan for the Bingen site to be located at 405 W. Humboldt. He said the Bingen site is the largest of the three sites that have been identified. Bolme said the existing shed make the Bingen site possible. He said Gorge Action Programs will act as the fiscal agent for this season. Bolme said the committee is soliciting both dollar and non-dollar donations. He said the committee hopes to develop an education program. Bolme said there is a possibility that a farmers market will take place in Bingen during the summer. Bolme asked the city council to support the garden and to provide water from one of two existing water meters with low-flow irrigation.

Brian Prigel asked who will be the operating agency for the community garden program.

Bruce Bolme said that Washington Gorge Action Program will act as the fiscal agent. He said the Horizons garden committee has no legal structure.

Jan Brending asked who would sign an agreement for the use of the proposed property.

Tad Connors asked who will pay to fix the water meter if it is broken and who will be sent the water bill.

Bruce Bolme said the Horizons Steering Committee decides how to spend the funds.

Tad Connors said there will need to be a formal agreement with a formal association. He asked where the property is located.

Jan Brending said it is located at 405 W. Humboldt. She noted this is one of the properties where the city recently surplused the manufactured homes that were located on them.

Tad Connors said the city also needs to check with the insurance carrier about liability. He noted the state has a constitutional prohibition about gifting of funds and services which would need to be addressed. Connors said that in order for the city to have a contract it would need to enter into one with a formal entity.

Bruce Bolme said it is possible that liability coverage could be provided through the Washington State Extension or the Master Gardeners Association.

Brian Prigel asked Tad Connors if the city could pay for the water if the garden was available to Bingen residents.

Tad Connors said he does not know if that would qualify.

Bruce Bolme said he is not asking for the city to pay for the water but only to have access to water.

Jan Brending said she can check with city’s insurance agent about the risk management and liability issues. She said she can also check with MRSC and other Washington state entities to see how they are handling community gardens.

There was consensus that the city council supports the idea of a community garden.

Laura Mann asked if there are two sheds located on the city’s property.

Jan Brending said yes. She said the public works department will be moving one to the shop property.

Laura Mann asked how many possible plots will be available in Bingen.

Bruce Bolme said 25.

Laura Mann asked what would be the requirements to obtain a plot.

Bruce Bolme said the plots would be available to Bingen residents first.

Brian Prigel asked if there would be minimum standard and maintenance requirements.

Bruce Bolme said yes.

Laura Mann said she would like to see a copy of the application and standards.

Bruce Bolme said he could provide those when they have been prepared. He said the goal of the project is to first help low-income people. Bolme said residents of Bingen would be served first by the garden in Bingen.

Jan Brending said the garden committee plans on doing outreach including publishing notices and applications in Spanish.

Brian Prigel said he is excited about the possibilities for a community garden but is concerned there is still quite a bit of distance to achieving it.

Bruce Bolme said he likes to reach for the distance.

Animal Control Agreement, City of Goldendale

The city council reviewed the proposed agreement for animal control services to be provided by the City of Goldendale.

Laura Mann asked if the animal control officer's responsibilities are for both impoundment and education.

Rick Johnson said the intent is to return the dog first but the city's ordinances will be followed. He noted that the agreement and services will be a work in progress.

Jan Brending noted that the city had discussed obtaining a temporary kennel to hold dogs at the public works shop until the animal control officer could pick them up. She said that she would like to see the officer contact known dog owners who have not obtained a dog license. Brending said the city has started a list of addresses where dogs reside but there is no associated dog license.

Rick Johnson said that the city of Goldendale works with the local vet when he is promoting a shots clinic. He said city staff is on site to help get dogs licenses.

Betty Barnes said she would like Bingen to try and work with Alpine Vet.

Tim Hearn moved to accept the proposed interlocal agreement with the City of Goldendale to provide animal control services. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Jail Contract, Klickitat County

Tad Connors presented his version of the jail contract noting the differences between his and the contract sent by Klickitat County. He said the two areas involve the definition of city prisoner and when a felony actually has happened. Connors asked the city council to approve the version he has submitted.

Sandi Dickey noted that on page 2 there is a discrepancy between the two different agreements in price under "IV. Operational Costs" 1. She asked if it should be \$28.00 or \$22.00 per trip.

Tad Connors said it should be \$22.00 per trip.

Laura Mann asked if the contract uses the words "no felony."

Tad Connors said no but that the county will understand the intent.

Betty Barnes asked if the \$22.00 per trip is a one-way trip.

Tad Connors said it is a round trip.

Sandi Dickey asked where a crime would be categorized if an incident happened in Bingen but the individual was not stopped or arrested until they were in White Salmon.

Bruce Brending said the crime will be categorized where the incident took place. He said that depending on if additional crimes have been committed it could be split between the two cities or even between the two cities and the county.

Tim Hearn asked if it is necessary to have a separate jail agreement.

Jan Brending said the city needs to be billed separately and has always had a separate agreement even after contracting with White Salmon.

Tad Connors said the two cities do not necessarily have to have the same contract but it does help.

Bruce Brending noted that the clerks verify the billings when they are submitted to the city.

Tad Connors said the White Salmon attorney did say that might be nice to have just one contract.

Betty Barnes asked if there would be any problems for the officers if White Salmon chose to use Skamania County for their jail services.

Tad Connors said he did not think so but noted that at this time it does not appear that Skamania County can work out the issues.

Betty Barnes moved to accept the jail agreement as presented by Tad Connors with the change for the transportation fee of \$28.00 per trip to \$22.00 per trip. Tim Hearn seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Wilcox & Flegel Fence

Jan Brending said she has had Dean Nygaard review the fence and sidewalk at Wilcox & Flegel. She reported that he said the slope of the sidewalk is fine but that if the fence is removed from the sidewalk the fence along the sidewalk needs to be extended east to prevent pedestrians from tripping over the south edge of the sidewalk where it drops off. Brending said she has made contact with both Bell Design and the project manager for Wilcox & Flegel about the issue. She said Bell Design was not aware of what had happened. Brending said Mike Scott is currently on vacation but that he will be meeting with her as soon as he returns.

Betty Barnes said she would like to see the issue resolved as soon possible.

Mayor's Update and City Council Comments

Dog Ordinance Amendments

Laura Mann asked Tad Connors if there are issues related to the city's dog ordinance that should be addressed right away.

Tad Connors said not necessarily.

Rick Johnson suggested the city may want to consider revising its fees. He said the city of Goldendale matches the state fees. Johnson said the city also needs to address whether the animal control officer will have a limited commission to issue infractions.

Jan Brending said she and Tad Connors could ideas related to updating the ordinance at the next city council meeting.

Tad Connors asked how the animal control officer handles dangerous dogs.

Rick Johnson said that a police officer will issue the citation but that the animal control officer will prepare the report and go to court.

Infiltration and Inflow

Brian Prigel said that Tom Hons has identified two manholes that he would like to have grouted. This would be bid out through the small works roster process. Prigel noted that one of the problems is in the area around the park.

Laura Mann moved to authorize the development of a small works roster bid for grouting two manholes. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

400 W. Steuben Storm Drainage

Tim Hearn asked about the status of the engineering for 400 W. Steuben storm drainage.

Jan Brending said Bell Design ran into a problem with underground electrical and telephone utilities at Willow Street and Steuben. She said Stoner Bell worked with the public works crew and the two utility companies to determine the depth of the underground lines. Brending said he is now completing draft engineering and should have something to the council no later than the first meeting in March.

Treatment Plant Lighting

Brian Prigel reported that all the lights at the treatment plant work but that most of them have been turned off. He said Tom Hons is very energy conscious and should be applauded for that. Prigel said staff is looking at several options for having the lighting come either through a timer or through photocell control.

Laura Mann asked if the light couldn't be turned on before an employee goes home.

Brian Prigel said that is not energy efficient to leave the lights on over the weekend or from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Red Carpet Maintenance

Jan Brending reported that she has spoken to the owner of Red Carpet Maintenance about several issues related to the parking of their company vehicles. She said one of the issues involved running electrical cords from the office to the vehicles to keep them from freezing. Brending said the owner would like to place a cover over the cord and place orange cones when they do have to run the cords at night.

Alder and Steuben

Laura Mann said that in the future for a possible "wish list" to investigate what can be done about the standing water at the intersection of Alder and Steuben. She suggested the possibility of installing a french drain.

Jan Brending said she is not sure there is a nearby storm drain to connect to. She said she believes this was the issue during the Highway 14 construction when the problem was noted.

Embarq

Tim Hearn said he is concerned about Embarq vehicles parking at the top of Ash Street and Oak (SR 141) where the Embarq utility boxes are located. He said that it is very difficult to see around the vehicles when they are parked there.

Bruce Brending said they are usually parked legally off the road but that they have their strobes or cones out.

Jan Brending said she can talk to the local Embarq representative about the issue.

Napa Dumpster

Betty Barnes noted that Napa keeps its garbage dumpster and other items located on the sidewalk all week. She said the dumpster should only be placed on the sidewalk on garbage pick up day.

Jan Brending said she will contact Napa about the issue.

Police Audit

Betty Barnes asked if the police budget will need to be amended to pay for the police audit.

Bruce Brending said it was not included the 2008 budget but that it is his goal to pay for it with the savings in the hiring delay of two officers. He said the cost of the audit will be approximately \$4,500 plus lodging.

Betty Barnes asked if White Salmon needs to amend the budget will it come to Bingen.

Jan Brending said yes that is covered in the interlocal agreement.

Broughton Landing Project

Brian Prigel said Jason Spadero has asked him to submit verbal and written testimony at the hearing before the Columbia River Gorge Commission on February 12. He said that he is assuming the council still supports the project and if so he will take the previous letters of support and rewrite a new letter and submit it to the Gorge Commission.

There was council consensus for Brian Prigel to present verbal and written testimony in support of the Broughton Landing Project.

Department of Revenue Audit

Jan Brending said the Department of Revenue audited the city's excise tax returns for 2004 through June 30, 2007. She said some minor discrepancies were noted but that city received a credit due to how it had been reporting utility taxes on its sewer receipts. Brending provided a copy of the audit to city council members.

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 5, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 9685 through 9737 totaling \$77,982.67 and manual checks 9662-9664 and 9684 totaling \$4,488.08; and payroll checks 9672 through 9683 totaling \$12,282.65 for a grand total of \$94,753.40. Current - \$57,396.02; Street - \$4,590.69; Community Development - \$41.55; Water – \$8,935.22; Sewer - \$2,506.89; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$11,162.37; Dallesport Treatment Plant – \$8,657.01; Treatment Plant Replacement - \$1,463.65.

Executive Session

Brian Prigel announced at 8:25 p.m. that the city council will enter into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss real estate.

At 8:40 p.m. the council resumed regular session and adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor