

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 4, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Sandi Dickey, Betty Barnes and Laura Mann. Members absent: Tim Hearn and Terry Trantow. City Clerk Treasurer Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Bruce Brending, Bruce Bolme, Jesse Burkhardt, Etta Hepner, David Spratt, Kevin Kelly, Barbara Sexton.

Public Comment

David Spratt, Bingen Fire Department

David Spratt and Kevin Kelly, on behalf of the Bingen Fire Department, presented to Betty Barnes a certificate of appreciation for the time she dedicated in raising funds for the purchase of the department's thermal imaging camera.

Approval of Minutes – February 19, 2008

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2008 city council meeting. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Amendments to Dog Ordinance

Jan Brending and Tad Connors provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the dog ordinance. Sections 6.04.150 and 6.04.170 which refer to “dangerous dogs” are removed. Fees related to dog licenses and penalties have been changed based on the discussion at the last council meeting.

Bruce Brending asked if the ordinance addresses the limited commission for the animal control officer.

Tad Connors said no but it could be put in. Connors suggested that the last paragraph of 6.04.080 be worded to read as follows: “Further, any person authorized above to impound any dog is also authorized to issue, pursuant to RCW Chapter 7.80 and 7.08.040 a citation for failure to license as referred to in Sections 6.04.010 and 6.04.02 as well as any other violation of this Bingen Municipal Code Chapter 6.04.”

Laura Mann said she thought fines would be limited to \$100.

Tad Connors said he thought the city council wanted to realize \$100 plus also make sure that all court fees were covered.

City council members discussed the 2nd paragraph of 6.04.090. The decision was made to delete the paragraph.

Additional corrections to the ordinance were noted as follows:

Page 2, Section 6.04.010 License required. Remove box around paragraph.

Page 2, Section 6.04.030 last sentence of paragraph, change word “feel” to “fee.”

Page 3, Section 6.04.070 F. delete the word “the.”

Page 4, 6.04.090 Impoundment procedures. 1st sentence in 1st paragraph should read: “Whenever any dog is impounded under the authority of this chapter, written notice shall be sent to the owner or custodian of such dog if such owner or custodian is know.”

Laura Mann moved to adopt proposed ordinance 08-01-542, Amending BMC 6.04 (as amended). Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Contract – Water System Plan Development

Brian Prigel said the city received four statements of qualifications in response to the city's request. He said that based on the review of the statements of qualifications the city interviewed Gray & Osborne and Anderson Perry & Associates. Prigel said that based on the outcome of the interviews he and Jan Brending are recommending the city sign a contract with Gray & Osborne. Prigel noted that Anderson Perry & Associates have previously worked on the city's water system plan but feels it is the right decision to go with Gray & Osborne.

Betty Barnes moved to authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Gray & Osborne for completion of the city's water system plan. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Storm Water Drainage Project, 400 W. Steuben – Review of Preliminary Drawing and Request for Authorization to Proceed to Full Engineering and Cost Estimate

Jan Brending presented a preliminary drawing of the design for the storm water drainage project at 400 W. Steuben. She said she is requesting authorization to direct Bell Design to go to full engineering and to develop a cost estimate.

Betty Barnes moved to authorize going to full engineering and the development of a cost estimate. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Interlocal Agreement – State Fire Mobilization Reimbursement

The city council reviewed a proposed interlocal agreement between the City of Bingen and the Washington State Patrol for reimbursement of fire mobilization costs when the city responds to fires outside of the city limits.

Tad Connors asked David Spratt if he is aware of the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan.

David Spratt said yes.

Jan Brending said the contract is good for 2008 through 2013.

Betty Barnes moved to approve the interlocal agreement between the City of Bingen and the Washington State Patrol for reimbursement of fire mobilization costs. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Community Center/Park Planning – Review of Scope of Work

Jan Brending presented a proposed request for proposals for the community center/park planning project.

Laura Mann said she doesn't want to see the park planning lost in the planning for the community center.

Jan Brending assured her that it would not.

Betty Barnes asked that the request for proposals include the identification of the possibility of some type of fountain plaza.

Jan Brending said she could include it in the first paragraph of the RFP.

Betty Barnes moved to send out the Request for Proposals as amended. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Fire Safe Families Project – Authorization to Participate and Approval of Letter of Support

Jan Brending said the city was approached by the Klickitat County Health Department about participating in the "Fire Safe Families Project." She said the project would provide smoke alarms to the city to be installed by the fire department. Brending said David Spratt has reviewed the material and is supportive of the project.

Betty Barnes moved to authorize the city to participate in the Fire Safe Families Project and to send a letter of support for the county's grant application. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Community Garden

Jan Brending said the city council has a copy of the draft agreement between the city and Washington Gorge Action Programs. She said the city needs to determine the length of the agreement and how much the city will lease the property to Gorge Action Programs for each month.

It was agreed the city will remove any underground utilities from the property leaving the water hookup.

Tad Connors said he would like to see the city lease the property for more than \$1 per month and recommended that it be somewhere between \$25 to \$40 per month.

Laura Mann said she would like to see the fee be \$10 per month.

The city council agreed to lease the property for \$10 per month for a 9 month period.

Laura Mann moved to approve the lease as amended. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Mayor's Update and City Council Comments

Museum Planning

Jan Brending said the city has received a letter from the Gorge Heritage Museum outlining the museum's goals and vision for the museum. She said she is requesting authorization from the council to work with the museum and city committees to develop a request for proposals that would be similar to the one done for the community center/park planning.

Etta Hepner noted that 3 of the 4 committee members are also city council members.

Tad Connors said he has discussed this issue with Terry Trantow. He said there is no conflict of interest or appearance of fairness.

Jan Brending said she can provide the correct notice of the meeting so that the public is aware that 3 of the city council members will be present at the meeting so it should not be a problem.

Laura Mann moved to move ahead with the development of a request for proposals, working with the museum and city committees, for museum planning. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion. Betty Barnes said she will not vote on the motion as she sits on the museum board.

It was agreed to move ahead with the development of the request for proposals.

Treasurer's Report – December 2007

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's report for December 2007.

Laura Mann moved to accept the treasurer's report for December 2007. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Joint Police Committee Report

Betty Barnes said the city council has been provided with information presented by Bruce Brending at the joint police committee meeting. She said that White Salmon is facing financial difficulties and they have learned that it may be much worse than originally thought. Barnes said the city of Bingen knew that funding was available in the White Salmon budget for only 7 officers rather than 8. She said that a 6th officer has been hired and is ready to go to the academy but that has been put on hold due to a lawsuit. Barnes said that the mayor of White Salmon stated that it is possible that the department could have less than 5 officers including the chief depending on the outcome of the lawsuit and financial implications. She said that is a problem for the city of Bingen. Barnes said the committee discussed the issues including the possible option that the city of Bingen could pay for an officer directly. She said the city may even have to consider the option of reestablishing its own police department. Barnes said the White Salmon mayor said White Salmon could know in a couple of weeks or by the end of the month the outcome of negotiations related to the lawsuit and that he will contact Bingen's mayor.

Betty Barnes said she would like to send a letter to White Salmon letting them know how much Bingen appreciates Bruce Brending coming to the city of Bingen council meetings and how valuable it has been to be able to talk to him at the meetings.

Laura Mann said she thought that would be a good idea.

Laura Mann asked Bruce Brending if all department heads are developing proposed budget cuts along the same lines as was requested for the police department.

Bruce Brending said he did not know. He said he has urged the mayor to not look at further cuts in the police department or to implement cuts across the board. Brending said further cuts to the department will impact some services. He said that if an officer was dedicated to Bingen he would be able to maintain 24/7 coverage in Bingen through a split shift. Brending said he assumes the city council is looking at cuts across the board.

Laura Mann said Bruce Brending's letter to the mayor is very professional and thorough.

Brian Prigel said he believes Bingen has had the best police coverage since the merge of the departments. He said the city needs to look out for the safety and welfare of the citizens of Bingen. Prigel said that he hopes the situation does not play as it possibly could and that the department can continue. He said he hopes that White Salmon recognizes that 24/7 coverage is important and is one of the reasons why the merge took place. Prigel said Bingen needs to know its options.

Tad Connors said he feels there are a lot of things that are not known. He said he does not think it is fair to speculate due to pending litigation because everything is still in negotiations. Connors said that cuts could be made across the board or something entirely different could be proposed. He said that something could be presented other than a disaster scenario and that information is needed before Bingen takes any action. Connors said he does believe it is fair to ask White Salmon to make budget cuts across the board. He said it is his impression that there will be six officers plus the chief in 2008.

Back Hoe Purchase

Jan Brending said she has been working with Tom Hons regarding the possible purchase of a back hoe to be used exclusively by the wastewater plant. She said a situation recently occurred that brought to light that it might not be a good idea to share a back hoe between the water department and the treatment plant. Brending said Tom Hons has found a back hoe that is being offered by the City of Vancouver for \$15,000. She said she and Tom Hons is recommending the city purchase the back hoe from the city of Vancouver for \$15,000 plus taxes.

Brian Prigel said he supports the recommendation and would recommend authorize to purchase based on a favorable physical review by David Spratt and Tom Hons.

Betty Barnes moved to authorize the purchase of a back hoe from the City of Vancouver for \$15,000 plus taxes based on a favorable review by David Spratt and Tom Hons. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Water/Sewer Issues

Jan Brending said the City of White Salmon has adopted a new water ordinance that initially appeared to change how the city of Bingen would be charged for water. She said she has been assured that the ordinance does not affect Bingen. Brending said an amendment to the ordinance addressing that Bingen's water rates will be determined by an interlocal agreement is on the White Salmon council agenda for tomorrow evening. She said that she will be working with Tad Connors to draft interlocal agreements that address the water rate and ERU rate. Brending said she has begun trying to set up a joint water/sewer meeting to address a number of issues.

Maple Street Reconstruction Project

Jan Brending said the bid opening for the Maple Street Reconstruction project is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 7. She said she and Brian Prigel will meet with Rex Johnson, Klickitat County Commissioner on Thursday to discuss funding for the project. Brending said that the city is also tentatively on the agenda for the Klickitat County EDA board on March 13.

Financial Software Bid

Jan Brending said the request for proposals for financial software has been issued and the bids are due on March 7. She said that if there is only one bidder on the project then the review and recommendation process will be expedited.

Parking North of City Hall on Humboldt Street

Betty Barnes said she has been asked to note that the city has a parking space on Humboldt Street north of city hall that is limited to 2-hour parking. She said it does not appear to be used very much and asked that the parking limitation be considered the next time the city reviews its parking ordinance.

BNSF Right-of-Way

Jan Brending said the roadmaster for BNSF has expressed some concerns regarding the parking along the south side of Depot Street. She said she is developing a letter that will go out to business and property owners to let them know that the city does not own the property south of Depot Street and that parking in those locations is a privilege that should not be abused.

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 March 4, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 9799 through 9828 totaling \$20,427.65 and payroll checks 9786 through 9797 totaling \$12,362.27 and manual checks 9781, 9785, 9798 for a total of

\$5,535.53 for a grand total of \$38,325.45. Current - \$13,535.92; Street - \$5,786.02; Street Construction and Maintenance - \$72.00; Water – \$4,649.45; Sewer - \$1,334.73; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$8,136.12; Dallesport Treatment Plant – \$4,811.21.

At 9:10 p.m. the council resumed regular session and adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor