

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Sandi Dickey, Terry Trantow, Tim Hearn, and Betty Barnes. Council members absent: Laura Mann. City Clerk Treasurer Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Don Morby, Frank Backus, David Clark, Darrel Spies, James Dean, Al Blankenship, Darlene Blankenship, Bruce Brending.

Approval of Minutes – May 20 and June 3, 2008

Changes to the June 30 city council meeting minutes were noted as follows:

Page 1, 5th paragraph to read as follows: “Betty Barnes moved to award the Street Landscaping Spring cleanup contract to Vanguard Nursery for \$1,698.50. The motion was seconded by Terry Trantow and was unanimously passed.”

Page 3, 5th paragraph to read as follows: “Laura Mann moved to authorize the mayor to sign a contract with CIDA for up to \$11,500 for the museum project with the agreement that the museum will provide \$2,500 towards the project. Tim Hearn seconded the motion. Betty Barnes abstained from voting because she sits on the museum board. Terry Trantow recused himself because he sits on the museum board. The motion carried 3 to 09 with the following vote: Barnes – Abstain, Dickey – Aye, Hearn – Aye, Mann – Aye, Trantow – Recuse.”

Page 4, add the following paragraph after the 1st paragraph; “The city council was in consensus that the city would be interested in obtaining the Gorge Games skateboard facility for an interim project at Daubenspeck Park.”

Sandi Dickey moved to approve the minutes of the May 20 city council meeting and the minutes of the June 3 city council meeting, as amended. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Compression Brakes – Bingen Municipal Code 10.10, Vehicle Equipment Requirements

Brian Prigel said the city has received a letter from representatives of logging and trucking companies who have expressed concern about the city’s ordinance that prohibits the use of “Jake” brakes or compression brakes. He said the city probably adopted the ordinance in the past due to an issue with noise.

Frank Backus, SDS Lumber, said that it was brought to SDS’ attention several years ago that both cities have ordinances that prohibit the use of compression brakes in the city limits. He said muffled compression brakes are substantially different than the old ones that were causing problems with noise. Backus said prohibiting the use of compression brakes is a safety issue. He said that he and others are asking the city’s to go to an ordinance that allows the use of muffled compression brakes. Backus said that if SDS hears of people complaining about any of their trucks they will take the issue seriously.

Bruce Brending said that he has instructed his officers to ticket for defective exhaust systems and not for using compression brakes. He said he is not aware of any tickets given for the use of the brakes themselves.

Betty Barnes asked if trucks built prior to 1979 are required to have a muffled system.

The answer was yes – all compression brakes must go through the muffler as state law requires.

Betty Barnes moved to hold a public hearing for a proposed ordinance repealing Bingen Municipal code 10.10, Vehicle Requirements. Tim Hearn seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Interlocal Agreement – Distribution of Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funding

Jan Brending said the proposed interlocal agreement between the three cities and the county provides for the distribution of STP funds that are used by the county and then redistributed based on a formula contained in the agreement. She said the agreement has been in place for many years and is being renewed as the prior agreement has expired.

Betty Barnes moved to authorize the mayor to sign the interlocal agreement for the distribution of Surface Transportation (STP) funding. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

White Salmon Water Purchase

Betty Barnes asked if the city is bringing in White Salmon water. Jan Brending said yes at a minimal level. Brending said the city has 13 homes that are directly on White Salmon water and then depending on the level of the reservoirs water is brought in from White Salmon to help keep the reservoirs at a certain level. She said the city mainly brings in water when the weather gets hot.

Windermere Community Project

Betty Barnes asked if Windermere had been contacted regarding the proposed project in Bingen. Jan Brending said no that she has not had time to contact Carl McNew. She said she knows they are working on a large project at the White Salmon pool.

400 W. Steuben Storm Water Project

Betty Barnes asked about the status of the 400 W. Steuben storm water project. She said she would like to have the council updated as to how much has been spent to date on the project and what it will cost to complete the project.

Jan Brending said she will present information at the July 1st council meeting including possible funding sources.

Joint Police Committee Meeting Minutes

Betty Barnes said she would like to see the meeting minutes from the Joint Police Committee meeting completed. She asked if the joint meeting tentatively scheduled for June 30 has been cancelled.

Bruce Brending said yes. He said the results from the police audit will not be available in time for a meeting on June 30.

Joint Water/Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes

Betty Barnes said she would like the meeting minutes from the Joint Water/Sewer Committee meeting to be completed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Water Conservation

Terry Trantow said that he has been looking around and sees a lot of people who are wasting water.

Jan Brending said the June 2008 newsletter will be going out next week and focuses on water including water conservation. She said the newsletter encourages people to water from 6 am to 9 am and 6 pm to 9 pm and to think about how they are using their water.

Sandwich Board Signs at Hood River Bridge Intersection

Betty Barnes said she has noticed a number of sandwich board signs located at the Hood River Bridge intersection that are advertising Bingen businesses. She said she is concerned about these signs.

The city council discussed the issue noting that the signs are located in the city of White Salmon but are also located within the right-of-way of Highway 14. It was noted that WSDOT usually removes these types of signs when they are located in the right-of-way.

Swimming Pool Fundraiser

Tim Hearn said he would like to thank Beneventi's for the fund raiser they had for the pool. Jan Brending said it is her understanding the money raised will be used to provide free swim days at the pool.

Sandi Dickey said the public has been very supportive of the pool.

Parking Issues – Steuben Street

Jan Brending said the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department has begun issuing warnings for vehicles violating the 2-hour parking on Steuben. She said two business owners were in the office voicing concerns. Brending said that she has requested the public works department to change the 2-hour parking sign west of the Taqueria to 15-minutes as required by the city's ordinance. She said the owners of the Taqueria would like to make that space no parking.

Bruce Brending said it is more difficult to enforce a 15-minute parking space than a 2-hour parking space. He said if the space was made no parking the department could have the vehicle removed by towing.

The city council said they have decided in the past not to make the space no parking and want to continue it as 15-minute parking.

Legislative Representatives and Lt. Governor Visits

Jan Brending said a number of state legislative representatives, the Lt. Governor and a representative from the Governor's office have been in town mainly to discuss the White Salmon water issue. She said that she has been able to talk about the need for transportation funding and the city's community center project.

Vandalism

Betty Barnes asked if there has been additional vandalism in Bingen.

Bruce Brending said yes that it seems to be a different group of individuals based on the graffiti. He said Klickitat County did make an arrest related to some similar vandalism done at the middle school. Brending said he expects to see more vandalism with school being out.

The city council discussed ideas for addressing the vandalism at the park restrooms. It was agreed that the automatic electronic locks need to be fixed or replaced.

Jan Brending noted that she has a catalog that has surveillance cameras that might be useful on the outside of the bathrooms to monitor who is going in and out.

Land Use Applications

Jan Brending reminded the city council that land use applications that come before the city council require a quasi-judicial decision by the city council. She suggested city council members refrain from discussing the project with the applicant or other parties prior to a public hearing. Brending said the city currently has a conditional use application for the use of the old Fiberglass Supply facility that will be on the city's July 1st agenda. She said the city council will receive a staff report and the complete record including any comments that come in from the public or other interested parties.

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 June 17, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 10157 through 10182 totaling \$120,507.58. Current - \$2,328.66; Street - \$473.18; Street Construction & Maintenance - \$5,546.59; Water - \$1,534.43; Sewer - \$440.75; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$1,217.93; Dallesport Treatment Plant - \$1,823.21; Public Works Trust Fund Loan - \$107,142.83.

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 June 17, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 10135 through 10137 and 10141 through 10156 and 10178 totaling \$27,858.10. Current - \$7,596.89; Street - \$1,309.94; Water - \$2,129.81; Sewer - \$785.99; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$2,081.75; Dallesport Treatment Plant - \$13,953.72.

At 8:25 p.m. adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor