

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 3, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Terry Trantow, Betty Barnes, Tim Hearn, Sandi Dickey and Laura Mann. Clerk Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Ruth Winner, Judy Farrell, Tom Hons, Denise Mills, Jesse Burkhardt.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2007

Laura Mann moved to approve the revised minutes of the special council meeting minutes of June 10. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2007

The following changes were noted for the June 19, 2007 council meeting minutes:

Page 1, add the following after 2nd paragraph under “Etta Hepner, Gorge Heritage Museum”: “Betty Barnes said she believes this is not a new issue but one the museum committed to over a year ago.”

Page 1, 5th paragraph, 1st sentence should read: “Laura Mann motioned to table the flume and basketball court lighting request until the next council meeting.”

Page 2, 2nd paragraph should read: “Terry Trantow said Bruce Brending had previously spoken to the city council and said that giving tickets has not done any good in White Salmon to curb the issue.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2007 council meeting as corrected. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Presentation of Treatment Plant Award – Department of Ecology

Denise Mills with the Department of Ecology said she is present to recognize Tom Hons and the work he has done with the treatment plant. She said Hons keeps the plant in compliance and also recognized that the city council provides Hons with the resources needed to run the plant. Mills said the city’s treatment plant was in 100% compliance for 2006 and is one of 56 facilities out of a total of 321 facilities in the state to receive the award.

Tom Hons noted there are a lot of details in keeping the treatment plant running perfectly.

Brian Prigel thanked Tom Hons for his hard work and thanked Denise Mills for coming and presenting the award.

Tom Hons said Jean Hayes, the permit manager for DOE was at the plant today regarding the permit renewal that occurs once every five years. Hons noted that temperature standards may be changing how the plant is run in the future. He said he will be taking water temperature readings at the plant and possibly in the Columbia River.

Denise Mills said it is important for the operator to be aware of these kinds of issues because they can have future financial impacts.

Tom Hons noted that the city might want to consider purchasing property south of the plant for future use as new wetlands.

Brian Prigel said the property was previously identified as a location for future expansion of the plant.

Tom Hons said he also discussed the city’s infiltration problem with Jean Hayes. He noted that in extreme weather conditions in the winter the sewer overflows on Depot Street at the west-end manhole.

Brian Prigel said he wants to start an I&I program with the City of White Salmon which will require planning between the two public works departments, watching the weather and when conditions are right going out and pulling manhole covers to see where problems are occurring.

Laura Mann asked if the problems are occurring due to more development.

Brian Prigel said probably not. He said the problem is related to weather and water getting into the sewer lines. He said staff can print out some history graphs that show where the problems occur.

City council members thanked Denise Mills and Tom Hons for being present and congratulated Tom Hons.

Treasurer's Report – May 2007

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for May 2007.

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

Old Business

Lighting in Daubenspeck Park

Brian Prigel noted that Jan Brending spoke last week with Etta Hepner.

Jan Brending said Hepner told her that the museum board had discussed the issue of lighting the flume but had tabled any action until the next board meeting at the end of July.

Terry Trantow said the board had stated that the issue was not related to the museum and that it was city business.

Laura Mann said she agrees that the flagpole should be lighted. She said she is concerned about the trenching that is necessary and putting in a telephone pole for lighting.

Brian Prigel said there is an additional concern that the electrical cannot be tied to the restroom building and will have to be taken to the new electrical panel east of the restroom.

Laura Mann asked if a solar panel for running the lighting could be placed on the flagpole.

Terry Trantow suggested possibly putting the solar panel on another pole.

Jan Brending said an additional option is to have the flag raised and lowered on a daily basis.

Judy Farrell said the museum has been contacted by a Cub Scouts leader who said the Cub Scouts could assist in putting the flag up on a daily basis during the summer.

Betty Barnes asked if the assistance would be until the flagpole could be lighted.

Judy Farrell said yes.

Betty Barnes said the city has had plenty of time to look at this issue and that other entities have made commitments.

Laura Mann said she disagrees that the council has to make a decision tonight. She noted that the basketball court hoops are not the right height. Mann said she would like to see more of a plan before things are installed.

Betty Barnes said she agrees that one or two winters wouldn't hurt on the basketball court. She asked Ruth Winner if SDS might be willing to do the trenching.

Ruth Winner said yes.

Jan Brending said that if the city crew did the trenching SDS could be invoiced for the hourly wages and benefits.

City council members discussed different options for lighting the flagpole.

Betty Barnes suggested on checking on the price of purchasing another solar panel and locating it on a new pole or attaching it to the flagpole.

Terry Trantow said he would agree to placing a solar panel on a separate new pole.

Betty Barnes moved to allow the museum board to move forward with lighting the flagpole with a solar panel purchased by SDS to be located on a separate pole installed by the PUD with coordination to be done by Ruth Winner and give Brian Prigel the privilege of determining the location of the pole and to move forward with the project as soon as possible. Tim Hearn seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Community Center and Park Planning

Jan Brending noted that she will be presenting the city council with a proposal in August to hire a consulting team to assist the city in developing a plan for the community center and park improvements. She said the things that came out of the park planning meeting were a covered lighted basketball court, a small skatepark with room to grow, and a covered picnic shelter. She said the planning would provide the city with preliminary drawings and a preliminary cost estimates for the different components.

Betty Barnes suggested that it might be a nice idea to hold a city council in Daubenspeck Park in August.

Mayor's Update and Council Members Comments

Vehicles on Humboldt Street

Tim Hearn said he is still unhappy about the driving situation up and down Humboldt Street. He said vehicles race up and down the street, squealing tires, etc. Hearn said it occurs mainly from 5 to 9 p.m. He noted that he is very happy to have a new police chief.

Water Odor and Taste

Tim Hearn noted that he has received complaints about the water particularly from Big River Diner.

Sandi Dickey said she was at Big River Diner and could not drink the water because it was so bad.

Brian Prigel said water odor and taste was a particular problem in Bingen a number of years ago.

Tim Hearn asked if the city crew has flushed the lines.

Brian Prigel said yes. He noted that the city sold quite a bit of water on the east end of town to a contractor working on a gas line.

Betty Barnes said she has an odor problem at her house. She asked if flushing the lines only once is normal.

Brian Prigel noted that flushing the lines was not done through out town.

Brian Prigel said some additional tests can be done at Big River Diner. He said he does not know if there is testing that can be done to determine what is causing the odor and taste problem throughout Bingen.

Steuben Street Crosswalks

Tim Hearn asked when the meeting regarding the crosswalks is going to take place.

Jan Brending said she will do some follow up on Thursday with the manufacturer.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Tim Hearn said he is glad to see that the City of White Salmon gave the police officers a raise.

White Salmon Financial Assistance

Brian Prigel noted that White Salmon has officially request Jan Brending to assist them in getting their financial books updated. He said White Salmon will be billed for Brending's hourly salary and benefits rate.

Wilcox & Flegel

Terry Trantow said he received notice that Wilcox & Flegel will not longer be CFN but will be going to Pacific Pride.

Jan Brending noted that when the Guler Oil site is redeveloped customers will be redirected to the Garwood site which will be closed after the redevelopment is completed.

Dry Creek Proposal

Brian Prigel said he will light a fire under Bell Design to get a preliminary design for Dry Creek.

Fire Department Fund Raiser

Betty Barnes said there have been some generous donations to the fire department fund raiser. She said hot dogs will be sold on the 4th at Bingen Point. Barnes said the fund raising will continue through Huckleberry Festival.

Gorge Heritage Museum

Betty Barnes said she would like to encourage the Cub Scouts in their community efforts related to the flagpole at the flume.

Judy Farrell asked where the flag is located.

Ruth Winner said it is located at the museum.

Judy Farrell said she wanted to let the council know that Ruth Winner had let the museum board know about the lighting issue at the flagpole back in October 2006. Farrell thanked Winner for her efforts.

Ruth Winner said approximately \$3,500 was raised by the museum board through the home tour. She thanked those who participated.

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 July 3, 2007. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 8976 through 9011 totaling \$81,677.87 and payroll checks 8964 through 8975 totaling \$10,984.11 and manual checks 9012-9014, 100011, and 8963 totaling \$8,160.76 for a grand total of \$100,822.74. Current - \$55,750.50; Street - \$2,091.40; Community Development - \$15.36; Street Equipment Reserve - \$1,440.70; Street Construction and Maintenance - \$13,500.00; Water - \$3,647.55; Sewer - \$1,964.24; Treatment Plant - \$5,269.80; Dallesport Treatment Plant - \$4,287.18; 1989 Water Line Redemption - \$5,928.00; Sewer Construction and Maintenance - \$870.00; Water and Sewer Equipment Reserve - \$6,058.01.

The council adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor