

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 6, 2007

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

## Public Comment

*Ruth Winner, Gorge Heritage Museum*

Ruth Winner said the museum is looking into an alteration of the building involving the north door of the back wall. She said any proposal will be brought before the council. Winner said the museum would like to have an electronically controlled ADA door. She said Terry Trantow and the committee are also working on ADA ramps, etc. Winner said she wants to make sure the city council is full advised well in advance.

## Approval of Minutes – October 16, 2007

The following corrections were made to the October 16, 2007 city council meeting minutes:

Page 4, add section “Utility Discount Program” under “Mayor’s Update and City Council Comments” with following language: “Betty Barnes asked what documents are required on the city’s utility discount program to determine disability eligibility. Jan Brending said the intake procedure requires a document from a medical provider. City council members agreed to amend the intake procedures to also allow eligibility determination documents from the Social Security Administration. Brending said she will provide a draft amendment to the intake procedures at the next council meeting.”

Sandi Dickey moved to approve the minutes of October 16, 2007 as amended. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## Presentation of Preliminary 2008 Budget

Jan Brending presented the preliminary 2008 budget. She said the budget is currently in two formats: line item and summary. Brending said she is also developing the narrative format that will be available prior to the next council meeting.

Laura Mann said the department heads put together the needs of each department and most of their requests are in the budget. She said the department heads did a really good job in listing their requests.

A tentative budget committee meeting has been scheduled for December 6 at 4:30 p.m. The committee will discuss proposed 2007 budget amendments.

## Proposed Interlocal Agreement Regarding Clerk-Treasurer Assistance

Brian Prigel said he was approached by Mayor Gaddis about the possibility of providing assistance to the city. He said White Salmon is asking for the assistance for a limited period of time. Prigel said that everyone knows that the current situation in White Salmon is not the best. He said he feels it is incumbent upon Bingen to help them out. Prigel provided an overview of the proposal. He said he does not believe that the assistance to White Salmon will affect Jan Brending’s performance of her duties for Bingen.

Sandi Dickey said she wonders how Bingen’s clerk treasurer has time to assist White Salmon. She said the city increased the deputy clerk’s hours last year to provide assistance to the clerk treasurer. Dickey said she feels that the Bingen city clerk treasurer needs to be in Bingen.

Jan Brending said she is also concerned about making sure that Bingen is covered. She said that is why the number of hours per week is limited. Brending said she intends to work primarily from 6 to 8 am realizing that during the day she may have to run up to White Salmon to assist with some task. She said she will also be available by phone to address any questions.

Laura Mann said she feels that Brending does a good job for Bingen.

Betty Barnes said she wonders if this is the time to take action on the proposed agreement when a new White Salmon city council may be elected tonight.

Brian Prigel said he does feel it is the right thing to do and the timing is appropriate. He said it will be difficult enough for a newly elected mayor to come into a bad situation. Prigel said he does not always

like the interaction and way things go between Bingen and White Salmon and that he feels there are people who would like to see White Salmon fail.

Terry Trantow said he feels it is important that White Salmon not fail.

Betty Barnes requested a 5 minute break at 7:45 p.m. The city council adjourned for 5 minutes and resumed the session at 7:50 p.m.

Tim Hearn moved to accept the interlocal agreement providing professional assistance by the clerk-treasurer to the City of White Salmon. Laura Mann seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 to 1 with the following vote: Barnes – Aye, Dickey – Nay, Hearn – Aye, Mann – Aye, Trantow – Aye.

### **Interlocal Agreement Regarding Fire Protection Mutual First Aid**

Tad Connors said the agreement was originally put together by the two fire chiefs. He said the agreement went first to White Salmon. Connors said he has developed some changes which have been sent to Deborah Phillips whom he has not heard back from. He said the underlined information is what should be deleted and the information in italics should be added.

The council discussed the agreement and requested that the fire chief, David Spratt attend the next city council meeting to provide more information regarding the agreement.

### **Klickitat County EDA Grant Projects – Discussion**

Jan Brending presented information on possible projects to be submitted from EDA grant funding. She said the ideas include turnouts for the fire department, skate park, picnic shelter, and covered/lighted basketball court. Brending said the proposed 2008 includes funding to purchase the turnouts. She said she feels it is appropriate for the funding to come from current expense reserve funds.

Laura Mann said she agrees.

Bruce Brending said he has submitted a proposal to the city of White Salmon for the development of a law enforcement gun range. He said the proposal has been developed conceptually between Bingen-White Salmon, Goldendale and the county. Brending said the state has dedicated \$20,000 towards the project. He said there has not been any specific site selected. He said funding is needed to purchase property and cover some basic improvements.

Brian Prigel asked what types of improvements would be needed.

Bruce Brending said dirt berms, possibly concrete barriers, pneumatic targets, parking, a weather overhang. He said ideally the facility would be large enough for a 50-yard rifle course. Brending said when he submitted the proposal to White Salmon he identified the need for \$30,000 with \$15,000 from each city.

Laura Mann asked if there are needs for equipping vehicles for animal control.

Bruce Brending said he is meeting with Goldendale and the county to discuss animal control. He said that Goldendale has an animal control program with a part-time officer. Brending said the idea being discussed is to have a full-time animal control officer with both cities and the county contributing. He said the officer would be funded ½ to 1/3 time by the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department. Brending said the officer would be in the area one day a week to do proactive work and would also be available for call out.

Brending said outfitting a vehicle for animal control would be money well spent.

Laura Mann said her preference would be to submit the skate park for funding.

The council also discussed the possibility of funding a part of a new or used street cleaner.

Brian Prigel suggested that another option for funding would be the hiring of an architect/planning team to develop preliminary plans for the community center and improvements to the park.

Staff will develop additional information for the next council meeting.

## **Agreement for Legal Representation of Indigent Persons**

Tad Connors said he requested this issue to be placed on the agenda. He said that the current agreement ends at the end of December. Connors said the law firm is very easy to work with. He said it is up to the city council to decide whether to extend the contract through negotiation or to go out to bid.

Brian Prigel said the city can go back to the old way of doing things where the judge selects an attorney from a pool, or renew the agreement, or go out to bid. He asked Connors if the attorneys are providing fair counsel.

Tad Connors said yes. He said they do a pretty good job and he does not have to spend a lot of time on issues.

Betty Barnes moved to negotiate to extend the current agreement if acceptable with the law firm. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

### *Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement Service*

Jan Brending said the agreement before the city council is the document that the city of White Salmon adopted in October with the word “attempt to” added to Section 12.4.

Betty Barnes moved to accept the proposed amendments to the Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services. Tim Hearn seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

### *Personnel – City Administrator Position*

Brian Prigel said the council discussed the possibility of creating the position of city administrator but also leaving the position of clerk treasurer in place so the city can decide which position to fill.

Tim Hearn said he thought the mayor was going to bring back a proposed job description.

Sandi Dickey moved to table the discussion until a job description is developed. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Mayor’s Update and Council Member Comments**

### *Electrical Receptacles – Steuben Street*

Brian Prigel said he has authorized Coburn Electric to repair/replace the electrical receptacles on Steuben Street. He said that he feels that although he has some concerns they need to be kept functional. Prigel said if there are no problems then it will be money well spent. He noted that the city of Stevenson does not have the same configuration as Bingen. Prigel said he is still concerned about possible vandalism.

### *Landscaping*

Betty Barnes said she would like to see the landscape beds cleaned out before winter.

Brian Prigel said he will talk to David Spratt. He said it might be a good idea to wait until all the leaves are down, thought most of them are down now.

Barnes said that a number of the plants also need deadheading. Sandi Dickey volunteered to work with the public works crew to show them how to do maintenance on the plants.

Betty Barnes said she would like to recognize the businesses for the work they do in keeping up the beds. She said she would particularly like to recognize the Wine Merchants.

The council agreed to develop a certificate of appreciation to present to the Gorge Wine Merchants.

### *Bio Solids Wall*

Jan Brending said the contractor is on site and work has begun on the bio solids wall. She said the work will take approximately two weeks.

### *Depot Street Sewer Project*

Jan Brending said the contractor is also on site for the Depot Street Sewer project. She said the contractor is considering options for handling traffic when they begin working within Maple Street. Brending said one option is to close Maple Street detouring traffic at Oak down along to Depot Street and then across the railroads tracks. She said they are also considering flagging Maple Street.

*Wilcox & Flegel*

Betty Barnes asked if Depot Street will be paved where Wilcox & Flegel removed the pumps. Jan Brending said yes, Wilcox & Flegel will pave Depot Street in that area when they pave their property.

*Parking Signage*

Betty Barnes noted that the parking signage in front of city hall is misleading the with arrow pointing towards the building. She said she is also concerned that the signs are too tall.

Jan Brending said she recommended that the signage be place perpendicular to the street. She said then the signage will read correctly.

The council also suggested that the handicapped parking signage between Mirror Image and Beneventi's needs to be corrected.

Jan Brending said she will be developing a letter to business owners regarding the parking limitations once all of the signs have been installed.

*Mail Delivery*

Tim Hearn said he would like to have mail delivered to home addresses and wondered if that was possible.

Brian Prigel said possibly. He said people are supposed to have free access to mail and are supposed to get a free box because there is no rural delivery. Prigel said one of the issues is the definition of "rural" and "urban." He said that towns with fewer than 2,500 addresses do not qualify for urban delivery. Prigel said it is possible to try and push the issue.

*Burglary*

Bruce Brending reports that DJs was recently broken into but with citizen involvement the police department was able to arrest an individual.

Betty Barnes asked what the recent incident outside of the Bingen Family Salon was about. Bruce Brending said the county was picking someone up on a warrant.

**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 November 6, 2007. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 9357 through 9360 and 9374 through 9422 totaling \$108,714.46, manual checks 1065 totaling \$15,656.33, and payroll checks 9361 through 9373 totaling \$19,273.43 for a grand total of \$143,644.22. Current - \$65,573.69; Street - \$8,687.49; Community Development - \$28,619.28; Water - \$7,604.88; Sewer - \$2,171.01; Treatment Plant - \$7,776.06; Dallesport Treatment Plant - \$6,995.72; Sewer Construction and Maintenance - \$210; Treatment Plant Replacements - \$349.76; and Dallesport Billing Trust Fund - \$15,644.22.

The council adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor