

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 21, 2008

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

Public Comment

Tim Hearn, Bingen

Tim Hearn said that Linda Schneider asked him to thank the city for the 2-hour parking in downtown and for enforcing it.

Approval of Minutes – October 1, 2008

Corrections to the October 1 city council meeting minutes were made as follows:

Page 1, 2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence should read: “Brending said she has spoken with Brian Prigel, David Spratt, the contractor, city engineer – Anderson Perry, and representatives from the Department of Health and Transportation Improvement Board who are all in agreement that the line should be replaced.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the October 1 city council meeting as amended. Tim Hearn seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Approval of Minutes – October 7, 2008

Corrections to the October 7 city council meeting minutes were made as follows:

Page 2, 15th paragraph should read: “Betty Barnes provided staff and council members with a memorandum that identified typographic and grammatical corrections and her recommendations related to the dog ordinance.”

Page 3, 7th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: “She said that based on advice from the city’s engineer – Bell Design and attorney, she contacted all three companies prior to the bid opening to see if there were any issues with one of the bids coming in after 2:30 p.m.”

Betty Barnes moved to approve the minutes of the October 7 city council meeting as amended. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Columbia Gorge Future Forum Presentation

Amanda Remington said she is the Executive Director of Mid-Columbia Economic Development District and a member of the Columbia Gorge future Forum working group. Remington provided a summary of the Columbia Gorge Future Forum Final Report – Envisioning Our Future dated October 2008. She said the report summarizes the process and strategies and vision that were developed. Remington said the Future Forum working group is asking that communities accept the report and use and consider it when taking actions within their individual community.

Jan Brending said she has briefly reviewed the document and that the vision and strategies are somewhat similar to those the city has adopted in its Community Action Plan.

Tim Hearn asked who was involved in the working group and how the project was funded.

Remington said page 51 of the report lists the members of the working groups and who provided financial and in-kind contributions toward the project.

Tim Hearn asked how the working group was developed.

Remington said a small group of people met together to discuss the future of the Columbia Gorge and then the group and process developed out of that meeting.

Brian Prigel said he believes the city is being asked to accept and acknowledge the report. He said it does not bind the city. Prigel said he recommends developing a resolution that the council could review and adopt at the next city council meeting acknowledging the report as a valid indication of what the Gorge community is looking towards.

There was consensus of the council that a draft resolution will be developed by staff for review and adoption at the next council meeting.

Proposed Resolution 2008-006, Authorizing Interfund Loan to Retire USDA Rural Development Loan

Jan Brending said the city has been asked to retire its loan with USDA Rural Development. She said the loan has a balance of \$55,784.15 with a payoff amount of \$56,838.70 as of October 31. Brending said that if the city pays off the loan it would save approximately \$24,000. She said the budget committee met and has made a recommendation on how to fund paying off the loan. Brending said the city can use existing funds in the loan redemption and loan reserve funds totaling \$12,101.92 and then by using an interfund loan for the remaining \$44,736.78. She said the committee is recommending the loan come from the sewer construction and maintenance fund with payment made over 5 years with 2.4% interest which is the current Local Government Investment Pool Anticipated Gross Earnings Rate as of October 16.

Tim Hearn moved to approve Resolution 2008-006, Authorizing Interfund Loan to the Water Fund from the Sewer Construction and Maintenance Fund in the Amount of 444,736.78 and Setting Repayment and Interest Calculations. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed 2008 Budget Amendment, White Salmon Law Enforcement

Jan Brending said White Salmon is currently working on an amendment to its 2008 budget. She said the law enforcement budget includes expenditures for the civil services commission, police department and the director of public safety. Brending said White Salmon is currently splitting the costs associated with the director of public safety 90% law enforcement and 10% fire. She said the budget committee is recommending the city pay its appropriate share (currently 27.27%) of 50% of the total costs related to the Director of Public Safety instead of paying its share of 90% of the costs. Brending noted that these costs would not include any expenditures related to the settlement of the lawsuit. She said a draft letter has been prepared for the council's review that would be sent to White Salmon.

Brian Prigel said he believes the intent in the original discussions about the position was that it would be a half-time position with law enforcement. Tad Connors agreed.

Laura Mann moved to authorize the mayor to send a letter to the City of White Salmon stating that Bingen intends to pay its appropriate share of 50% of the expenditures related to the Director of Public Safety position and that those expenditures will not include any that are related to the settlement of the lawsuit, such as repayment of retirement funds, back wages, etc. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it passed 4 to 1 with the follow vote: Barnes – Aye, Dickey – Aye, Hearn – Nay, Mann – Aye, Trantow – Aye.

Bingen Water Rights Change Applications, Aspect Consulting Hydrogeologic Evaluation

Jan Brending said the city hired Aspect Consulting to conduct an evaluation to see if Bingen's wells are hydraulically connected to White Salmon's wells. She said Aspect Consulting has determined that Bingen's wells are connected to White Salmon Well #1. Brending said the analysis completed by Aspect Consulting did not include an impairment analysis. She said she is asking for direction on how to proceed with the city's water rights change applications. Brending said the city has three options: 1) correct the records of examination asking for an additional (non-additive) point of withdrawal on Bingen's existing water rights; 2) conduct an impairment analysis and if the results are positive correct the records of examination asking for additional point of withdrawal that would be additive in annual quantity and instantaneous; or 3) end the application process by withdrawing the applications.

Brending said Aspect Consulting recommends the city pursue option #1 at this time. She said it is likely that White salmon will have to conduct its own impairment analysis related to the aquifer storage recharge project they have received funding for.

Laura Mann said she supports moving forward with option #1 that it appears to be crossing the "i's" and dotting the "t's."

Brian Prigel said option #1 has very little costs associated with it.

Laura Mann moved to proceed with correcting the records of examinations of the city's four water rights change applications asking for an additional (non-additive) point of withdrawal using White Salmon Well #1. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it carried with the following vote: Barnes – Aye, Dickey – Aye, Hearn – Nay, Mann – Aye, Trantow – Aye.

Treasurer's Report – September 2008

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's report for September 2008. She noted that she has added a reconciliation spreadsheet at the end of the report reconciling different totals from different reports. Brending said the numbers are different because some receipts are coded to an expenditure code when they are a reimbursement and some expenditures are coded to a revenue code when they are a refund of overpayment.

Laura Mann moved to accept the treasurer's report for September 2008. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Presentation of Results of Community Center/Park Planning Workshops

Jan Brending presented the results of the community center/park planning. She noted that there are two basic schemes: one with the community center located towards the back of 400 W. Steuben and one with it located towards the front of 400 W. Steuben. Brending also noted that the schemes call of the skatepark to be located on the south portion of the park instead of north towards Jefferson Street. She said that it was clear that there is a desire to protect some of the open spaces in the park for playing soccer, Frisbee, football, etc. Brending said the city also has the option of locating a community garden at the front entrance of the park with the skatepark north of the garden.

There was a consensus of council members that the area identified for the community garden should be left open with possible expansion provided for the skatepark. It was noted that the community garden can continue in its current location until the property is needed for development.

The council noted that there are no restrooms identified for the park, i.e. the plans show the current restrooms removed. Jan Brending said that discussion took place about having bathrooms in the community center with access from the outside. She said it appears that restrooms do need to be addressed in the plan.

Council members discussed the location of the community center/city hall. There was consensus of the city council with having the facility located towards the front of 400 W. Steuben – Scheme A so that it would be a focal point when entering downtown. Council members noted some concerns with the parking lot located to the east of the facility identified in Scheme A. Jan Brending noted that this is a vision and that when the city goes into design things could change slightly because of access, utility locations, etc.

Council members reviewed several styles for the design of the community center/city hall. There was consensus to use style #5 of the eight styles which is similar to that of the current city hall/fire hall.

Proposed Amendments to Dog Ordinance – Continued Discussion

Betty Barnes said she has some concerns about imposing bonding/insurance requirements on the owner of a "potentially dangerous dog" that is the same as that of a "dangerous dog." She said it may be difficult to obtain the additional insurance or bond. Barnes said many insurance companies are now doing credit checks which can affect a homeowner or renter's ability to obtain insurance or additional insurance. She asked Tad Connors how much a bond would cost.

Tad Connors said it is much more than homeowner's insurance.

Jan Brending said she will talk to Hugh Whitson about how much it costs to obtain the additional insurance and if there are any potential difficulties.

The council agreed to continue the discussion of the dog ordinance at its next council meeting.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Maple Street Reconstruction Project

Jan Brending said the Maple Street project is nearing completion. She said the water line replacement went well and very quickly. Brending said the downtown businesses were without water for only a short period of time. She asked the council if it would like to hold a ribbon cutting for the project. Brending said it is basically a photo opportunity for the newspaper and key stakeholders who were involved in the project. There was consensus of the council to hold a ribbon cutting.

West Steuben Stormwater Project

Jan Brending said work has begun on the stormwater project and it is moving very quickly.

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 October 21, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 10594, and 10596 through 10617 totaling \$156,045.14. Current – \$5,325.98; Street - \$1,071.64; Community Development - \$3,965.00; Street Construction & Maintenance - \$136,546.35; Water - \$5,804.37; Sewer - \$737.22; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$2,594.58.

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 October 21, 2008. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 10576 through 10593 and 10595 totaling \$13,077.06. Current - \$5,594.13; Street - \$1,064.24; Water – \$1,723.31; Sewer - \$638.53; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$4,056.85.

At 8:55 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor