

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Betty Barnes, Laura Mann, Clinton Bryan and Sandi Dickey. Council members absent: Brian Prigel and Terry Trantow. City Administrator Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Scott Hohensee.

## **Public Comment**

### ***Scott Hohensee, Bingen***

Scott Hohensee said he was present to determine what action the council was going to take regarding his request to consider an amendment to the city's zoning ordinance for minimum lot sizes within the Single-Family Residential zone.

Jan Brending noted that the city council made the decision at the last council meeting to not address the amendment at the present time because it would be looking at the entire zoning ordinance later in the year and that a priority had been established for looking at the commercial zoning first.

Scott Hohensee said he agrees with Brian Prigel comments about providing alternatives to handling yard and garden debris if the city enacts a burn ban.

## **Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2009**

Clinton Bryan moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2009 city council meeting. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Conditional Use Permit 2009-002, Maria Carrillo, Child Day Care - Decision**

Laura Mann moved to approve Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision for Conditional Use Permit Application 2009-002 submitted by Maria Carrillo for an in-home child day care at 738 E. Steuben. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Old Business**

### ***Proposed Burn Ban Ordinance and Alternatives for Disposal of Yard and Garden Debris***

Jan Brending presented two draft ordinances related to a proposed burn ban. One ordinance establishes a burn ban except for agricultural burns. The second ordinance provides for the city picking up yard and garden debris twice a year in November and April. Brending noted that the debris would be picked up each week during November and April.

Jan Brending said she spoke with the Department of Ecology who is supportive of the burn ban. She said they provided a copy of an ordinance adopted by the City of Waterville.

The city council and staff discussed the proposed burn ban and how to handle yard and garden debris. Council members expressed an interest in working with the county to see if there was a way to bring back the chip sites. Jan Brending noted that the city can make suggestions to the county but can't force the county to do anything. She said that one of the problems with the previous site was illegal dumping including leaves and grass. Brending said it is possible that the city could hire out chipping/grinding of larger woody debris.

Council members suggested that a part-time employee could be hired to man a site on the weekends to prevent illegal dumping.

Jan Brending noted that it is important to remember that the city cannot gift services and there is probably a limit on how yard and garden debris the city could accept without charge.

Council members and staff discussed options to the burn ban including allowing those property owners who meet the standards to continue obtaining burn permits or having the fire department handle burns for areas that may present a wildfire hazard.

There was a consensus of the city council to hold a public hearing at the first meeting in May to get public input on the proposed burn ban and how to handle yard and garden debris.

There was a consensus of the city council to expand the amount of bags/bundles that are picked up during the Community Pride from 4 bags and/or bundles to 8.

Jan Brending said she will include a notice regarding the public hearing in the newsletter that will go out by the end of the week.

### **Mayor's Update and Council Comments**

#### ***Newsletter***

Laura Mann asked if the newsletter will include information on the city's dog ordinance. Jan Brending said yes.

#### ***Brush and Sandwich Boards in Right-of-Way***

Clinton Bryan said that he is concerned with brush that is growing into the right-of-way including overhanging sidewalks. He asked how the city addresses this issue.

Jan Brending said the city contacts the property owners and asks that all brush be cut back from the right-of-way, including sidewalks. She said the letter states that if the city has to remove the brush, the property owner will be charged. Brending said that if a council member is aware of a problem they should notify city hall of the location.

Clinton Bryan said he is also concerned with sidewalk signs that may be impeding pedestrian traffic on sidewalks.

Jan Brending said sidewalks signs are allowed if private property is not available but the signs must be located within the "furniture zone."

Clinton Bryan said he is concerned with the sidewalk signs in front of the hair salon and grocery store on Humboldt next to city hall. He said that with the benches in place and the sidewalk signs in place there is little room to move down the sidewalk.

Jan Brending said she will talk to the property owners about the sidewalk signs. She said there are several others in town that need to be moved off of sidewalks or moved into the "furniture zones."

#### ***Park Tree***

Jan Brending said the city had a tree come down in the park that was removed by Columbia Tree. She said the cost for removal was \$1,362.

#### ***Water Meeting with White Salmon***

Jan Brending said she attended a meeting with representatives from White Salmon, Washington Department of Health and Washington Department of Ecology. She said the main focus of the meeting was to discuss White Salmon's water system including Buck Creek, the aquifer recharge project and water rights. Brending said that she learned at that meeting that the Department of Ecology is requesting additional information regarding the city's water rights change applications. She said the information is related to whether or not Bingen's wells are connected hydraulically to White Salmon's wells. Brending said Ecology is supposed to provide something in writing.

#### ***Bingen Water System Plan***

Jan Brending said she and Ken Alexander, Gray & Osborne, will be meeting with the Washington Department of Health next week to discuss some outstanding issues related to the city's water system plan.

#### ***Facility Use Policy***

Jan Brending said Bingen AA has moved out of the small facility located adjacent to the restrooms in the park. She said that back in 2001 she had proposed a public facility use policy and permit process. Brending said she would like the council to consider adopting a facility use policy and permit process for use of the building in the park and use of the park itself. She noted that in the last couple of years the park has been used for Easter egg hunts, reunions, concerts, etc. Brending said that in some cases there is a lot of garbage and damage done to the park. She said she is not necessarily advocating a fee for use of the park but a deposit that would be held until after the event in case of any cleanup needed. Brending said the policy will be on the agenda at the next council meeting.

#### **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 April 7, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11055-11094 totaling \$82751.79. Current – \$66193.07; Street - \$2651.54; Street Construction & Maintenance - \$974.06; Water - \$4511.76; Sewer - \$5548.57; Treatment Plant - \$2872.79.

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 April 7, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11038, 11051-11054 totaling \$55425.82. Current – \$2224.14; Street Construction and Maintenance - \$53201.68.

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 April 7, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 11039-11046 totaling \$20617.03. Current - \$9875.84; Street - \$1920.53; Water – \$2692.07; Sewer - \$711.68; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$5416.91.

At 8:35 p.m. the city council adjourned.

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City Clerk

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Mayor