

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 19, 2009

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

Public Comment

Mike Rabinowitz, White Salmon

Mike Rabinowitz said he owns a duplex in Bingen and received a water bill for \$453. He said there was a leak from a frozen pipe during the winter and leaking toilet that has been fixed. Rabinowitz asked if the city could reduce the water bill. He said he would also like to see the meter replaced so that it can be read each month.

Jan Brending said the request from Rabinowitz should be scheduled for the next council meeting so that information can be presented regarding the request. Brending said city hall staff has developed a list for meter replacements of specific residences that typically have high readings so they can be read on a monthly basis. She also noted that she is preparing a budget amendment so that at least half of the residential meters can be replaced in the next year.

Betty Barnes moved to direct staff to prepare a memorandum in response to Mike Rabinowitz's request for a reduction in the water bill and to waive the late charge while the request is pending. Clinton Bryan seconded the request and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2009

Changes to the minutes of the May 5, 2009 city council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 5th paragraph, add the following sentence: "There was a suggestion to see if the White Salmon garbage truck be used for yard and garden debris and disposal."

Page 2, add the following after 2nd paragraph: "There was consensus by the council to bring the ordinances back for review no later than October."

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2009 city council meeting as amended. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Klickitat County Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Disability Board (LEOFF) Appointment

Jan Brending said that since Tracy Hanson has left the City of Goldendale a new city representative to the LEOFF board is needed. She said the mayor of Goldendale, Arletta Parton has volunteered to serve on the board.

Laura Mann moved to send a letter of support for Arletta Parton to represent the three Klickitat County cities on the LEOFF board. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Professional Services Contract – Development of Specifications and Construction Documents for Sport Court

Jan Brending said she has received a proposal for the development of specifications and construction documents for the sport court but is concerned with the costs. She said she would like to obtain a new proposal from a local engineering firm. Brending said she will present a recommendation at one of the meetings in June.

Treasurer's Report – April 2009

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's report for April 2009. She said she is closely watching the sales tax returns which continue to be down as they are throughout the state.

Betty Barnes moved to accept the treasurer's report for April 2009. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Request to Construct Awning that Extends into the Right-of-Way, Cochran Investments

Jan Brending said the city has received a request from Cochran Investments (NAPA) to construct an awning that would extend 3 feet into the right-of-way. She said there are several other businesses that have awnings or signage that extend into the right-of-way.

Clinton Bryan stepped down from the council for the discussion of the request because he is an employee of Napa. Because a quorum was no longer available, the request was set over to the June 2 meeting.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Maple Street Project

Jan Brending said the irrigation has been tested and accepted by David Spratt, Public Works Superintendent. She said the replacement is scheduled for delivery on May 22 and will hopefully be installed the following week.

Arborist

Clinton Bryan asked if the arborist has been hired. Jan Brending said she has not yet contacted an arborist to obtain a proposal to present to the council. It was noted that one of the trees on South Maple is leaning and that the new trees may need to be staked for a time.

Yard and Garden Debris Disposal

Betty Barnes said she spoke with the mayor of White Salmon. She said White Salmon allows residents to have 2 bags of yard clippings and therefore has something already in place. Barnes said the mayor did not think it was a problem to use the White Salmon garbage truck if we paid for the White Salmon overtime. She said they have an 8-yard truck.

Brian Prigel said that White Salmon may not be including larger brush in the 2 bags of yard clippings and they might be interested in having a program for that.

Street Lights

Betty Barnes asked if anyone is aware of any street lights that are not working.

Clinton Bryan said the light in front of his property works intermittently.

Post Office Posting

Laura Mann said she would like to renew the discussion about purchasing a display box for the post office to hold only Port and Bingen public notices. She said it is sometimes difficult to see official postings because of all the other stuff that is posted.

Water System Plan

Jan Brending said the State Department of Health (DOH) has approved the city's water system plan. She said DOH has also adjusted the number of approved connections from 600 to 500. Brending said the city has 407 active connections which allows the city 93 new connections. She said the main reason for the change in approved connections is due to the city's distribution system leakage (DSL) number which is approximately 47%. Brending said the state wants systems to have a DSL of 10%. She said the city will be conducting a leak detection survey this year and are actively replacing water meters with new radio read meters to improve tracking water usage. Brending said the city can apply to DOH once its DSL is under control to have the number of approved connections increased.

Treatment Plant Award

Jan Brending said the Bingen Treatment Plant has received an award for 2008 for Outstanding Performance.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Bruce Brending said there was a dog bite incident in Bingen several days ago. He said the owner was cited for dog at large and served with a potentially dangerous dog designation letter. Brending said the bite was a puncture in the hand that needed medical attention.

Betty Barnes asked if the property which houses the grandfathered dangerous dog in Bingen is appropriately marked.

Bruce Brending said he will have the animal control officer check the signage.

The council asked why a number of state police cars were in the area recently.

Brending said he did not know but that they may have been working with the commercial vehicle enforcement trooper.

Tree Replacement

Jesse Burkhardt asked if there is plan for tree replacement.

Jan Brending said not at the present time but it is something they could include in the contract with an arborist.

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 May 19, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11193-11213 totaling \$12898.99. Current – \$4492.53; Street - \$1080.93; Water - \$4839.73; Sewer - \$773.13; Treatment Plant - \$1712.67.

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 May 19, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11192 totaling \$179.00. Treatment Plant – \$179.00.

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 May 19, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 11175-11191 totaling \$10787.92. Current - \$4915.58; Street - \$1012.75; Water – \$1466.35; Sewer - \$387.85; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$3005.39.

At 7:50 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor