

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 2, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Brian Prigel at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Betty Barnes, Terry Trantow, Sandi Dickey, Clinton Bryan. Council members absent: Laura Mann. Deputy Clerk Dena Riggelman and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Michael Rabinowitz and Paul Poknis.

Public Comment

Paul Poknis, Husum-Fordyce Water Association

Paul Poknis said he was from the Fordyce Water Association and he was here to thank the City of Bingen for helping them with sponsoring the water grant for their water system. He said the thank you was a long time coming but he didn't want to jinx anything since it took so long to close out the grant. Poknis said in August of 2006 they were able to hook up Husum and supply them with water. He said they appreciate what Bingen did for them and that everything worked out well.

Brian Prigel said that the City of Bingen does what it can to help. He explained the situation for the council members that were not present when this all came about. Prigel said that Fordyce Water Association was a non-profit entity and they had a hard time getting grants. He said that the City of Bingen acted as a go-between for Rural Water Development and Husum. Prigel said that he was glad that the City of Bingen could be of assistance.

Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2009

Clinton Bryan moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2009 city council meeting. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

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

Brian Prigel said that this decision was tabled last council meeting because the council did not have a quorum. He said that Clinton Bryan had stepped down from the council for the discussion of the request because he is an employee of Napa. Prigel said that the awning would be made out of metal so there would not be an issue of snow accumulation.

Betty Barnes made a motion to approve the construction of the awning that extends into the right-of-way for Cochrane Investments. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was passed with a vote of 3-0, with Clinton Bryan abstaining.

Request for Reduction in Water Overages Charges-Michael Rabinowitz

Brian Prigel explained that Mike Rabinowitz owns a duplex in Bingen and received a high water bill due to a leak. He said there was a leak from a frozen pipe during the winter and leaking toilet that has been fixed. Prigel said Rabinowitz has asked the council last meeting if the city could reduce the water bill.

Betty Barnes asked Mike Rabinowitz when the leak occurred.

Mike Rabinowitz said that the pipe froze in December and the toilet was fixed in May.

Brian Prigel said that the city has previously looked at the historical usage to determine the amount of reduction in the bill.

Betty Barnes said she was sorry but doesn't feel that the city is responsible for leaking toilets.

Mike Rabinowitz said that he couldn't find anything wrong last summer and paid the bill. He said that this time when he was contacted about the high usage he was told by David Spratt on how to shut everything off and check the meter to see if it was still spinning and that is how he found the leaking toilet. Rabinowitz said his renter never told him it was leaking. He said it would have helped if he had an actual reading of the meter in the winter months so he would have known sooner that there was a problem.

Dena Riggelman said that she believes that the property is scheduled to have a radio read meter installed soon.

Brian Prigel said that Jan Brending has given the council two scenarios for how to decide on the reduction.

Betty Barnes said she would like to go somewhere between the two scenarios.

Tad Connors said that the decision was on a case by case basis and there would be no precedence set this evening.

Betty Barnes made a motion to reduce the bill by \$145.20. Terry Trantow seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mike Rabinowitz asked if there was any way he could make payments for the balance as he didn't have that type of money right now due to the economy.

Tad Connors explained that it would be considered gifting of services and the city could not do that.

Mike Rabinowitz thanked the council for their decision.

Authorization to Obtain Engineering Services to Assist in SEPA Checklist Review

Brian Prigel explained that Tom Reser would like to put a culvert in Dry Creek at his property. He explained how Dry Creek and Jewett Creek run through the City of Bingen. Prigel explained what Mr. Reser would like to accomplish with his property and why there is a need for a SEPA Review.

Tad Connors said he thought if there was a problem shown with the study that the City of Bingen might be able to charge the cost back to the owner.

Sandi Dickey explained that she has to do water testing with the Department of Ecology at this site every month for Dickey Farms permit and she would like to abstain from the discussion due to conflict.

Betty Barnes made a motion to contact Bell Design to have them put a contract together and if the mayor agrees to it and it does not cost more than \$5,000 then he can go ahead and sign the contract, but if the cost exceeded the \$5,000 then it would have to be brought back to the council. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was passed 3-0, with Sandi Dickey abstaining.

Proposed Survey Work- Maple Street Right-of-Way and Property Lines

Brian Prigel explained that the property lines in this area have been a mess for 20 years and it was decided that after the Treatment Plant was built and the Maple Street Construction was completed that there would be a survey done to straighten out all the property lines involved with the City of Bingen, SDS and the Klickitat County Port.

Sandi Dickey made a motion to authorize obtaining a proposal and cost estimate from Bell Design for this project. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Wayside Horns Demonstration -- Update and Authorization to Proceed

Brian Prigel discussed the prospect of Wayside Horns versus a Quiet Zone. He said he would like to know exactly what it would take to demonstrate the horns and to clarify what would be involved. The council decided to table the decision on the demonstration until more details were available.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Joint Police Committee Meeting

Brian Prigel said that he attended the joint police committee meeting and that it might be possible through grants for the White Salmon/Bingen Police Department to obtain a K-9 unit.

Street Trees

There was a discussion about the new trees that have recently been planted on Maple Street starting to lean from the wind and that they should probably be staked to support them while they were getting established.

Charter Communications Bankruptcy

Tad Connors said that Charter Communications has filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy. He said he doesn't know what the City of Bingen class of creditors is. Connors said he would like to know how the council would like him to vote on the 12 ballots that he needs to turn in to determine what money the City of Bingen would receive. The council decided that they would defer to Tad Connors' opinion on the matter.

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 June 2, 2009. The council by unanimous vote

does approve for payment the following list: checks 11214-11225 totaling \$18,632.70. Current – \$7,859.78; Street - \$1,922.57; Water - \$2,864.65; Sewer - \$712.56; Treatment Plant - \$5,273.14.

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 June 2, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11226-11228 totaling \$2,698.13. Current – \$2,698.13.

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 June 2, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 11229-11252 totaling \$9,418.88. Current - \$5,662.67; Street - \$859.20; Water – \$1,004.17; Sewer - \$328.06; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$1,564.78.

At 8:15 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor