

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 4, 2009

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

## **Public Comment**

### ***Bruce Brending, Bingen-White Salmon Police Department***

Bruce Brending reported that there was a bomb scare in Bingen today. He said a suspicious package was found in the area of 1<sup>st</sup> Independent Bank and Insitu at 8:00 a.m. and reported to the police. Brending said he used his discretion and called the Washington State Patrol and then activated the bomb unit out of Portland. He said a perimeter was set up with several businesses evacuated. Brending said Highway 14 was closed for a short time and Highway 141 from Steuben to Humboldt was closed for the entire incident. He said representatives from Skamania County, Klickitat County, Washington State Patrol and Fish & Wildlife in addition to Bingen and White Salmon personnel responded and helped with establishing the perimeter. Brending said the bomb unit out of Portland investigated the package and found that it had actually been sealed with duck tape and appeared to hold something resembling batteries and wires. He said the bomb was detonated with a water device. Brending said no explosives were found. He said the investigation is ongoing. Bruce Brending said the incident went as smoothly as it could go.

Bruce Brending reported an arrest was made in regards to some of the residential burglaries that had taken place recently. He said the individual is probably responsible for the majority of the burglaries but the department has several ongoing investigations.

Bruce Brending reported that the canine program is moving forward. He said the dog should arrive around August 10 with the dog working in early October after training.

Bruce Brending reported that the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department did not receive funding from the COPS grant program. He said his proposed budget for 2010 will reflect requesting for additional funding for officer positions.

Betty Barnes said she did not believe the Bingen City Council was aware that Bruce Brending was due a pay raise in June and opted not to receive the pay raise.

Bruce Brending said he had to make cuts in the department budget including training and uniforms and felt it was not appropriate to take a step increase when the department is making sacrifices itself.

Betty Barnes said she wanted the council to know that Brending's action was totally voluntary.

## **Approval of Minutes – July 21, 2009**

Corrections to the meetings minutes of July 21, 2009 were noted as follows:

Page 1, attendance: Tad Connors was not present at the July 21, 2009 meeting.

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2009 city council meeting as amended. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Vacant Council Position – Appointment**

Jan Brending reported the city received one letter of interest for the position vacated by Terry Trantow. She said the individual is Catherine Kiewit who is running for the position in the fall.

Betty Barnes moved to appoint Catherine Kiewit to council position #5 (vacated by Terry Trantow). Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Catherine Kiewit will be sworn at the next council meeting.

## **Solid Waste Recycling Center – Discussion**

Jan Brending said she received a phone call last Friday from Tim Hopkinson regarding the solid waste recycling center located at the public works property. She said two of the last five mixed recycling containers had to be landfilled and that a glass recycling container was turned away from the recycler in

Portland and then had to also be landfilled. Brending said the reason is because people are using the containers for garbage disposal. She said this has been a concern of the public works crew also. Brending said both David Spratt and Tim Hopkinson have reported that dog waste has been dumped in the containers or left at the site.

Brending said that a solution she has discussed with Tim Hopkinson would to be fence and gate the facility and possibly install cameras. She said this would limit the facility use to daylight/business hours with the site being unavailable in the evenings and weekends. Brending said the city has been discussing establishing a drop off site for brush and yard/garden debris. She said fencing would likely be required at that time so it might be appropriate to look at fencing the site now.

It was suggested that blocking access to the site by a chain or barrier in the evenings and weekends might stop some of the problems because people who want to use the site during those times will have to climb a bank or over the barrier to get to the containers.

The council suggested that White Salmon be contacted to see if they would like to participate in adding addition security measures such as fencing, lighting and cameras to keep the center open.

The council asked that staff install barriers at all access points to prevent entrance to the site during the evening and on weekends and to pursue investigating the costs of installing lighting and cameras.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Insitu Request for Information – Letter of Cooperation***

Jan Brending reported the city has received a request from Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) to sign a “Letter of Cooperation” regarding the Insitu Request for Information. She said the timing of the letter is a little awkward due to the fact that most of the entities are actually competing against each other for siting the campus. Brending said however it might be more awkward if an entity did not sign the letter and it was to go to Insitu without the city’s signature.

Laura Mann moved to authorize Brian Prigel to sign the MCEDD Letter of Cooperation. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Brian Prigel reported that he and Jan Brending attended a strategy session with Klickitat County. He said the pros and cons of Klickitat County were discussed along with potential sites.

Jan Brending reported there may be up to 4 private sites.

The city council discussed the Request for Information (RFI) process and asked for copies of the RFI.

#### ***Dry Creek Sewer Line***

Jan Brending provided information to the city council on engineer’s estimate for the Dry Creek sewer line. She said Pioneer Engineering has also provided a cost estimate for the portion of the line that would go under Dry Creek as an alternative bid item. Brending said that if the city can ride on the Reser hydraulic permit approval (HPA) without getting a separate HPA then she would recommend including the portion that goes under Dry Creek as an alternative bid item.

There was consensus of the city council to include the portion of the line under Dry Creek as alternative bid item in the bid package.

#### ***Sport Court – Daubenspeck Park***

Jan Brending reported that Bell Design has identified two different sizes of sport court at the park. She said the plans originally called for a 40’ x 70’ sport court which is less than a regulation size court. Brending said Bell Design identified an option of 48’ x 86’. She said that size is also less than regulation size. Brending noted that the existing court is 57’ x 33’. She said the city has never received any complaints about the size of the existing court.

Jan Brending said in discussions with Bell Design it is recommend the court be moved slightly to the north and west to avoid getting into the slope area.

Council members discussed the size of the sport court noting that the larger size seemed really large.

There was consensus of the council to continue with the 40’ x 70’ sport court.

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

***Watering***

Laura Mann asked if the watering issue had been resolved.

Jan Brending said adjustments have been made to the irrigation in the park but it will take a little time for it to green up. She said the trees on South Maple are now being watered everyday instead of every other day.

Betty Barnes said she toured the city facilities with David Spratt. She said he has worked to make sure the sprinklers are working correctly.

***Public Works***

Betty Barnes said she is very impressed with David Spratt and the work he has done in the public works shop. She said everything is organized and labeled. Barnes said she feels he is very safety conscious.

Jan Brending noted that David Spratt did some research on changing over the chlorination system from gas to liquid. She said that he came to her with a proposal to build and install the new system himself. Brending said that she told Spratt as long as the Department of Health approved it that he could go ahead. She said the system will cost approximately \$600 compared to the \$25,000 to \$30,000 that was estimated. Brending said she believes the system is online with David Spratt making some small adjustments.

Betty Barnes said the gas system is still in place until David Spratt determines that the new system is fully operational.

***Absentees***

Laura Mann noted that she will be absent at the next city council meeting. Betty Barnes said she may be absent unless she is absolutely needed.

***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 August 4, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11438-11456 totaling \$5242.45. Current – \$2129.43; Street - \$1024.79; Water - \$1024.29; Sewer - \$79.40; Treatment Plant - \$984.54.

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 August 4, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11435-11437 totaling \$3341.96. Current – \$3341.96.

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 August 4, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 11424-11434 totaling \$17531.81. Current - \$7656.40; Street - \$1818.10; Water – \$2549.18; Sewer - \$670.54; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$4837.59.

At 8:20 p.m. the city council adjourned.

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City Clerk

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Mayor