

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 3, 2009

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

## **Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2009**

Changes to the minutes of the October 20, 2009 city council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, delete “Jesse Burkhardt” from list of audience.

Page 4, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence should read “There was a consensus of the council to develop an option using the existing livestock ordinance that would simplify the language and permitting requirements to allow a pet such as a duck.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2009 city council meeting with corrections. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 09-11-565, Amending the 2009 Budget**

Jan Brending provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the 2009 budget. She said projected investment revenues and sales tax revenue have been lowered. Brending said she has added in those things approved by the city council and adjusted other line items to meet estimated expenses or revenues to the end of the year. She noted the council will see a final proposed budget amendment at the last council meeting in December.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve Ordinance 09-11-565, amending the 2009 budget. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Public Hearing – Proposed 2010 Water and Sewer Rates**

Jan Brending provided information to the city council on the proposed new water rate structure. She said that she is recommending the proposed increase in sewer rates not be adopted at this time as the increase in revenue is not needed in the sewer fund. Brending said she has sent information to a number of commercial and light/heavy industrial businesses describing how the proposed new structure would affect their water billing.

Brending said an additional public hearing on the water rates will be held at the next city council meeting.

There was no public comment on the proposed water and sewer rates.

## **Public Hearing – Proposed 2010 Revenue**

Jan Brending presented the preliminary 2010 budget including proposed 2010 revenue. She said the proposed revenue includes a 1% increase in property taxes and the proposed water rate increases. Brending noted that the current expense fund will be using beginning cash reserves to balance the budget due to revenues that are flat with increasing expenditures.

There was no public comment on the proposed 2010 revenue budget.

## **Public Hearing – Proposed 09-12-566, Determining the Amount to be Raised by Advalorem Taxes for the Year 2010 and Proposed Resolution 2009-006, Regarding Property Tax Increase**

Jan Brending said the proposed ordinance and resolution provide for a 1% increase in property tax revenue of \$1,812.64. Brending said code cities are required to adopt both an ordinance and resolution.

There was no public comment on the proposed ordinance or resolution providing for advalorem taxes for the year 2010.

Betty Barnes moved to pass Resolution 2009-006, regarding property tax increase. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Catherine Kiewit moved to pass Ordinance 09-12-566, determining the amount to be raised by advalorem taxes for the year 2010. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Small Works Roster Bid – City Hall Wood Trim**

Jan Brending said the city did receive a bid for work on the exterior wood trim at city hall. She said it was received in the mail on October 21. Brending said the bid is from Bob Sady Painting for \$3,150 plus sales tax for a total of \$3,386.25. She said the mayor authorized her to proceed with contracting with the contractor. Brending said she is asking for ratification of approval of a small works roster contract with Bob Sady Painting in the amount of \$3,386.25 for preparing and re-varnishing the exterior wood trim at city hall.

Sandi Dickey moved to approve a contract with Bob Sady Painting for \$3,386.25 for preparing and re-varnishing the exterior wood trim at city hall. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Burn Ban and Yard/Garden Debris Disposal – Discussion***

The council asked staff to keep track of yard/garden debris pickups and associated costs.

Jan Brending recommended moving ahead with ordinances that established a permanent burn ban. She said that even though most individuals could not get a permit, establishing a burn ban will assist the fire department. Brending said the amendments to the disposal regulations could include a provision that the city will conduct yard/garden debris pickups during the year.

The city council agreed to move the two draft ordinances to a public hearing at the next city council meeting.

#### ***Sidewalk and Right-of-Way Maintenance (Snow Removal and Vegetation) – Discussion***

Catherine Kiewit suggested that any ordinance related to snow removal should include provisions related to the use of salt and chemicals in order not to contaminate the river or other properties.

Further discussion of ordinances for sidewalk and right-of-way maintenance will be delayed to another council meeting.

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

#### ***SR-35 Bridge***

Brian Prigel said he and Betty Barnes attended a meeting to determine how to proceed on the SR-35 Bridge with the funds that are available at the present time. Prigel provided a brief history of the SR-35 Bridge. He said there is not enough money to finish the EIS for the project but the group feels it is important to keep the project moving forward and use the funds on things that will have a useful shelf life including economic impacts, preliminary design and cost and feasibility. Prigel said the participants at this stage are Klickitat County, Skamania County, White Salmon, Bingen, Port of Klickitat, Port of Hood River, Hood River City, Hood River County, Oregon Department of Transportation and Washington State Department of Transportation. He said the Oregon side has been reluctant about the need for a new bridge but have agreed to keep the project moving forward.

Betty Barnes said she does not feel that the Port of Hood River is behind the idea of moving forward. She said the Port knows the bridge will have to be replaced someday but does not want to help out in moving that date up.

Catherine Kiewit said it seems like some lobbyists from the communities could help in getting the project moving. She said there are people in Hood River who recognize that if a barge hit the bridge it could be in bad shape.

Brian Prigel said he hopes an economic impact study will highlight the economics associated with the bridge. He said one of the problems is that 1/3 of the revenue from the bridge goes to things other than the bridge. Prigel said the bridge is not on ODOT's or WSDOT's bridge inventory and they don't really want to take on the bridge.

#### ***Gorge Heritage Museum***

Jan Brending said the city has received a letter from West Klickitat County Historical Society stating it is interested in proceeding with the purchase of the property on which the museum currently sits. She said the city and museum have previously discussed selling/purchasing the property. Brending said the city could sell the property directly to the museum at a fair market value or put it on the market as surplus property and sell it to the highest bidder.

Betty Barnes asked Tad Connors if it would be appropriate for the museum to pay for the appraisal of the property.

Tad Connors said he has concerns about the museum paying for the appraisal – he would rather have the city hire the appraiser.

Tad Connors said the city could include a reverter clause in the sale that states if the property is no longer used as a museum it reverts back to the city or the city has the first right to purchase the property back. He noted that a reverter clause may decrease the value of the property.

The city council asked that additional information about the property be brought back at the first meeting in December.

***Mayor Retirement Party***

Betty Barnes said the open house to celebrate Brian Prigel’s achievements as mayor for the last 12 years will be held at Los Reyes on November 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. She said invitations will be mailed and posted for the public.

Clinton Bryan authorized \$600 to be spent on the open house. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

**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 November 3, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11701-11722 totaling \$9959.81. Current – \$4662.00; Street - \$1020.72; Water - \$1357.07; Sewer - \$269.69; Treatment Plant - \$2533.69; Sewer Construction & Maintenance - \$116.64.

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 November 3, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 116888-11697 totaling \$10295.07. Current - \$4258.37; Street - \$1026.36; Water – \$1493.90; Sewer - \$395.17; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$3121.07.

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 November 3, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11698-11700 totaling \$5484.79. Current – \$5484.79.

At 9:10 p.m. the city council adjourned.

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City Clerk

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Mayor