

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 15, 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, Catherine Kiewit. Council members absent: Sandi Dickey. City Administrator Jan Brending and Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Bruce Brending, Tom Wooding, Bill Ward, Dana Scheffler, Kabe Grant, Meghann Dallin, Jesse Burkhardt.

Approval of Minutes – December 1, 2009

Changes to the minutes of the December 1, 2009 city council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 3, 14th paragraph, last sentence should read as follows: “The new wording will read: ‘On January 1st of each year beginning in 2011, the rates shall be adjusted to reflect an additional 5% increase in the rate for the previous year.’”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2009 city council meetings as corrected. Betty Barnes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Creation of park and Recreation District, Proposed Resolution 2009-007

Tom Wooding, Dana Scheffler, and Meghann Dallin provided information to the city council regarding a proposal to create a park and recreation district that could include the City of Bingen.

Jan Brending said she has prepared a memorandum and draft resolution related to the creation of a park and recreation district. She said the RCW that governs creation of park and recreation districts has also been provided to city council members.

Brian Prigel asked Tad Connors if it would be possible for the city to get out of the district once it had been created.

Tad Connors said the city should not count on being able to get out of the district once it has chosen to be part of the district.

Brian Prigel asked how much money is needed the first year. He said his personal opinion is that he would not want to have a levy on the first ballot.

Dana Scheffler said that if a levy is included on the first ballot it would be for a minimal amount.

Brian Prigel said he feels it is important in how the initial ballot is portrayed. He said it is not currently known whether or not there will be a new swimming pool. Prigel said the new board of directors will set the tone for the newly created district.

Catherine Kiewit noted that the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners can revise the proposed boundary for a park and recreation district if it feels an area would not benefit from the district.

Dana Scheffler agreed. He said it is done at the time the petition comes to the county to be placed on the election ballot.

Betty Barnes said that if the levy is on the ballot at the time of the creation of the district she said she feels it is more upfront with the citizens and the committee will know that the public supports it. She said she would be supportive of putting the creation of the district on the ballot if it includes the tax levy. Barnes said she feels the citizen would have the opportunity to vote on the entire package at that time.

Catherine Kiewit noted that the citizens of Bingen could all vote against the creation of a district but the ballot could still pass if there was a majority affirmative vote in the rest of the proposed district.

Dana Scheffler said he feels that although the communities are different he feels they are more alike than they are different.

Kabe Grant asked if the issue is should the citizens of Bingen be given a choice to vote for the district. He said he would vote yes if it was on the ballot.

Brian Prigel noted that Bingen once was not part of the library district and then overwhelming voted to be part of it at a later date.

Betty Barnes said that she thinks the citizens of Bingen would vote yes.

Dana Scheffler suggested adding the words “or Skamania County” to resolution in case the petition goes to Skamania County instead of Klickitat County.

The council agreed the wording in the resolution should read “The City of Bingen requests Klickitat County or Skamania County, as applicable, to include the City of Bingen within the boundaries of the proposed park and recreation district, the formation of which will be placed on a future election ballot.”

Laura Mann moved to approved Resolution 2009-007, Regarding the Establishment of a Park and Recreation District, as amended. Betty Barnes seconded the motion which passed with the following vote: Barnes – Aye, Bryan – Aye, Dickey – Absent, Kiewit – Aye, Mann – Aye.

Public Hearing – Proposed Amendments to 2009 Budget

Jan Brending reviewed the proposed amendments to the 2009 budget.

Laura Mann moved to approve ordinance 09-20-574, amending the 2009 budget. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 09-19-573, Amending BMC 6.08, Livestock

Jan Brending said the proposed ordinance is the simplified process which amends Bingen Municipal Code 6.08 renaming it “Animals” and providing for an exception for certain types of animals to be allowed as pets.

Betty Barnes noted that the ordinance allows pigeons and she does not remember discussing whether or not to allow them.

It was noted that an individual can only have 3 pigeons.

Betty Barnes moved to approve ordinance 09-19-573, amending BMC 6.08, Livestock. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Personal Services Contract Amendments, 2009-003 and 2009-004, Bell Design Company

Jan Brending said the city has two contracts with Bell Design for surveying Maple Street and for engineering services for the basketball court. She said the amendments only extend the length of the contracts.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the amendments to contracts 2009-003 and 2009-004 with Bell Design Company extending the length of the contract to March 31, 2010 and June 30, 2010 respectively. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Lion’s Club Request – Chipping Christmas Trees at Recycling Center – January 9 and 10

Jan Brending said the Lion’s Club is requesting the use of the city’s property (recycling center location) to chip Christmas trees on January 9 and 10. She said she is not aware of any problems that occurred last year when the site was used by the Lion’s Club.

Betty Barnes moved to allow the Lion’s Club to use the city’s property (recycling center location) to offer a community service in chipping Christmas trees on January 9 and 10. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Treasurer’s Report – November 2009

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer’s Report for November 2009.

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

Old Business

Joint Letter to Huckleberry Festival and Spring Festival Committees

Jan Brending said it is the recommendation of the Joint Police Committee that the two cities write a letter to the Huckleberry Festival and Spring Festival Committees notifying them that the city would like any event that involves alcohol to hire private security services or to reimburse the city for police services.

Betty Barnes moved to authorize the mayor to sign a joint letter from Bingen and White Salmon to the Huckleberry Festival and Spring Festival Committees that discussions are underway about requiring security services or reimbursement for police services for any event that serves alcohol and is located on public property. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Police Equipment Purchase

Jan Brending reported the police department chose to use grant funds to purchase two laptop computers and two portable printers. She said the equipment has arrived and delivered to the police department.

Variance Request

Jan Brending said the city council will hear a variance request on January 5.

Gorge Heritage Museum

Jan Brending said the city is contracting with Betz Construction to replace the doors at the museum. She noted that the museum has alarmed the entire building. Brending said the cost of replacing the doors is approximately \$2000.

Critical Areas Ordinance Update

Jan Brending said the city council had previously authorized the city to contract with Dotty Devaney to assist in updating the city's critical areas ordinance as required by the state. She said some of the contract costs were going to be covered by a grant from the Department of Commerce. Brending said she recently learned that all grant funding for Growth Management planning activities has been suspended by the governor. She said legislation is being developed that will extend the deadlines for a variety of update requirements including the critical areas ordinance. Brending said the city had not yet signed the contract with Devaney and no work has been done on the update. She said that everything is on hold until additional information is provided by the Department of Commerce.

Snow Removal Ordinance

Laura Mann said she would like to renew discussion about a snow removal ordinance particularly one that would require individuals to park on one side of the street only when a certain amount of snow fall is expected.

Recycling Center Hours

Catherine Kiewit said Everybody's Brewing has asked if it is possible to open the recycling center on the weekends.

Jan Brending noted that the center is open from 7 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. She noted that the dumpsters fill up quickly due to the amount of cardboard from commercial businesses and that it might be necessary to see if the county can have the recycling picked up more frequently to avoid overflow. Brending said she intends to put a small works roster bid for the lighting and camera at the recycling center in January.

The council noted that once the lighting and camera is installed then opening the facility on weekends for a test period would be possible.

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 December 15, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11844-11869 totaling \$33121.41. Current – \$16468.70; Street - \$374.52; Fire Equipment Reserve - \$231.12; Water - \$666.55; Sewer - \$396.33; Treatment Plant - \$2284.19; 73/95 Water/Sewer Bond Redemption - \$12700.00.

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 December 15, 2009. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 11810-11842 totaling \$14595.94. Current - \$8099.194; Street - \$1108.09; Water – \$1604.92; Sewer - \$424.52; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$3359.22.

At 8:45 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor