

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 19, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Clinton Bryan, Sandi Dickey, Laura Mann, Catherine Kiewit. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney were present. Audience: Bruce Brending, Jesse Burkhardt, Scott Kasenga, Sandra Guzman, Dustin Smith, Sarah Hawkinson, Adriana Benitez, Noe Salazar.

Approval of Minutes – January 5, 2010

Changes to the minutes of the January 5, 2010 city council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 3, 10th paragraph, 3rd sentence should read “Barnes said that in speaking with the high school councilor that it seems appropriate for each term to be ½ of the school year.”

Page 4, 4th paragraph should read “Jan Brending noted that a right-of-way maintenance ordinance could be addressed in late winter/early spring.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2010 city council meeting as corrected. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2010-01-575, Amending BMC 3.01.030, Designation of Officers Authorized or Required to Sign Checks

Jan Brending said the proposed amendment adds the deputy clerk to those who are authorized as signers for checks. She noted that the ordinance requires to 2 signers and that as policy that both signers cannot be the mayor and mayor pro tem or the clerk and deputy clerk but a combination of the mayor and clerk offices.

Sandi Dickey moved to approve Ordinance 2010-01-575, Amending BMC 3.01.030, Designation of Officers Authorized or Required to Sign Checks. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Ordinance 2010-02-576, Amending BMC 17.60, Use Requirements

Jan Brending said the proposed ordinance is for discussion purposes only. She said if the council is satisfied with the language then it can be moved to the public hearing process at the next council meeting. Brending said the proposed ordinance authorizes accessory structures 300 square feet or less to be located in the rear yard as long as they are 5 feet off the back property line and 5 feet of the side yard property line. She noted that language needs to be added to the proposed ordinance that requires a 15 foot side yard setback on the flanking street for corner lots. Brending said that David Spratt, Fire Chief, has provided information to the council that he supports the requirement of a 5 foot setback for the rear yard for small accessory structures.

Laura Mann asked if an accessory structure that is 300 square feet or less requires a building permit.

Jan Brending said it depends on the size and that it is addressed in the city’s building code.

Council members asked if there is a restriction on the height of an accessory structure.

Jan Brending said no but there is a restriction of 300-square feet or less.

There was a consensus of the council to hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance at the next council meeting.

Variance Request 2009-001, Kabe and Roberta Grant – Decision

Jan Brending said the proposed decision puts into the place the action the council took on the variance request at the last meeting. She noted that Tad Connors has reviewed the language.

Catherine Kiewit asked if there are any complications placed by proposing to revise the city’s ordinance.

Tad Connors said no.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the decision in Variance Request 2009-001, Kabe and Roberta Grant. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Laura Mann said she would like to compliment Jan Brending for how she dealt with Kabe and Roberta Grant. She suggested that in the future it might be helpful to provide documents such as ordinances that may provide additional assistance.

Betty Barnes said that she appreciates Laura Mann calling Kabe Grant and for the compliment.

Student Council Member Appointment

Potential student council members provided a brief introduction to the council and expressed a desire to serve as a student council member: Sandra Guzman, Dustin Smith, Sarah Hawkinson, Adriana Benitez, and Noe Salazar.

All five candidates said they would be able to attend the council meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Laura Mann said she would like to give the first opportunity to the two seniors, Dustin Smith and Sandra Guzman since they would not have an opportunity to serve next year.

Laura Mann moved to nominate Dustin Smith as the first student council member with Sandra Guzman serving as the second. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

It was agreed that Dustin Smith will serve February and March as the primary student council member with Sandra Guzman serving as the alternate. For April and May Smith and Guzman will switch positions.

Betty Barnes asked Smith and Guzman to provide Jan Brending with their addresses so they can receive council packets.

2010 Goals – Prioritization

City council members and staff discussed the memorandum providing 2010 goals. There was consensus of the council that the following 2010 goals would be priorities:

1. Zoning Ordinance Update
2. Water Loss and Self-Sufficiency
3. Sewer and Water Agreements with Sewer as the highest priority
4. Sewer Infrastructure Planning
5. Sign Ordinance Update

The remainder of the 2010 goals are items that will be worked on throughout the year.

Agreement – Klickitat County, Provision of Construction or Maintenance Work on Reimbursable Basis

Jan Brending said the agreement provides the method in which Bingen can request work to be done by Klickitat County for road construction or maintenance work. She said the agreement also covers what costs are covered by the reimbursable agreement.

Clinton Bryan moved to approve the agreement with Klickitat County for the provision of construction or maintenance work on a reimbursable basis. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Direct Deposit/Direct Pay

Betty Barnes noted that several employees have inquired about the ability to have direct deposit for their pay checks. She said she has asked Jan Brending to check into the process.

Jan Brending said she has spoken with 1st Independent Bank and found that except for a setup fee there would be no charges. She said she will be working with the bank and the city's financial software provider to get things set up. Brending said the city will then offer direct pay for its utility customers.

Dry Creek Pump

Betty Barnes reported that the city's Dry Creek pump has gone down and that David Spratt is working to have a new pump installed.

Letter of Support – Klickitat County Health Department

Betty Barnes said that she has sent a letter of support to Klickitat County Health Department in their efforts to obtain funding.

Klickitat County EDA Meeting

Betty Barnes said she and Sandi Dickey attended the Klickitat County EDA meeting and that Dickey made the presentation for the city's grant request.

Potholes

Betty Barnes said the public works is working to get things addressed and has recently filled potholes throughout the city.

Landscape Maintenance

Betty Barnes said that she has developed a plan whereby city staff, including treatment plant and office staff, will be working to do maintenance on assigned landscape beds once a month. She said staff has suggested that it might be easier for them to get together to do the maintenance on the same day. Barnes said that she feels if the public sees the city staff working then maybe businesses and residents will step in to help.

Recycling Center

Betty Barnes said Jan Brending is working on getting out the bid for installing lighting and a camera at the recycling center. She said the city will be writing a letter to the newspaper outlining the steps it is taking to reopen the city in the evenings and on weekends.

Certificate of Election

Betty Barnes asked council members to provide a copy of their certificate of election to Jan Brending for city records.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Bruce Brending said that the purchase of police vehicles will be addressed at the White Salmon's council meeting tomorrow evening.

Brending stated that Josh Gines has tentatively accepted a position with Skamania County. He said there appears to be some discussion about slowing down the process of hiring to fill the position or not to fill it at all. Brending said there is also the notion that if 24/7 coverage is reduced then there might be a reduction in overtime. Brending said interviews have been set for an entry level position and he is proceeding with them. He said the officer will be in the academy for 4-1/2 to 5 months. Brending said that for most of 2010 the department will be at 5 officers instead of 6 because of the length of training.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the department has contracts with the officers.

Brending said yes – the contract commits officers to 3 years which has been the length of time determined to recoup training costs. He said he has asked Gines to submit a letter to both mayors stating his reasons for resignation. Brending said Gines will be making more money in Skamania County. He noted that there have been negative comments about the department's need for new vehicles and the department's policy allowing vehicles to be taken home.

Tad Connors noted that the contract with the officers is not likely enforceable.

Bruce Brending said he would like to have the Bingen council's support for filling Gines position if the support becomes necessary

Clinton Bryan said discussion of 24/7 coverage is not a question and should not be on the table.

Catherine Kiewit asked if it is possible to attract someone who has training.

Bruce Brending said lateral applications are accepted but there has not been any.

Catherine Kiewit asked for an outline of the ideal situation for the police department including standard pay, equipment needs, technology, etc. so that it can be considered in future budgets.

Parking Enforcement

Betty Barnes said parking enforcement will begin soon. She said several businesses have inquired about a system for handling special events. Barnes said she will present information about setting up a pass system for special events that would be available to all businesses.

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 January 19, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11915, 11947-11967 totaling \$13313.67. Current – \$4989.40; Street - \$1264.62; Community Development – \$3165.00; Water - \$1864.41; Sewer - \$136.76; Treatment Plant - \$1893.48.

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 January 19, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 11916-11931 totaling \$11039.53. Current - \$4845.22; Street - \$1329.03; Water – \$1587.53; Sewer - \$253.60; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$3024.15.

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 January 19, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 11932-11933 totaling \$1856.68. Current - \$369.53; Street - \$279.65; Water – \$393.07; Sewer - \$104.44; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$709.99.

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 January 19, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 11934-11946 totaling \$33124.98. Current – \$908.08; Street - \$271.76; Street Construction and Maintenance - \$27226.38; Water - \$2882.42; Sewer - \$733.73; Treatment Plant - \$1102.61.

At 9:30 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor