

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 16, 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, Guillermo Fisch, Dustin Smith. Council members absent: Sandra Guzman. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Anthony Connors were present. Audience: Jesse Burkhardt, John Newman, Bruce Bolme, Bruce Brending.

## **Oath of Office – Guillermo Fisch**

Betty Barnes swore in new council member Guillermo Fisch.

## **Public Comment**

### ***Bruce Bolme, Common Grounds Community Garden***

Bruce Bolme said that the Common Grounds Community Garden produce more than 2000 pounds of food for the food bank and in 2009 produced more than 4000 pounds of food with a total expense of \$260. He said services are being delivered to the community, the appearance of the property has been improved, and they have had international guests look at the garden. Bolme said that because of the new water rates the costs in running the garden are increasing while the garden is trying to continue using the remainder of existing funds. He said that he hopes the city wants the garden to stay and is asking for some relieve regarding the water rates.

Tad Connors said that the city is not allowed by the state constitution to gift funds. He said the city could shorten the lease but the garden's property would still be on site.

Catherine Kiewit asked why if the city pays for water and that it is part of the lease.

Tad Connors said the amount of the lease does not cover the amount of the water billing. He said that it might be possible to shorten the lease if community garden's property is removed at the end of the lease.

Clinton Bryan moved to amend the current lease for the Common Grounds Community Garden from January through December 2010 to January through October 2010. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### ***John Newman, Bingen School Inn***

John Newman said that he is glad to see that the city has gone to a more use basis for the water rates. He said that he feels the Bingen School Inn is in a unique situation because it has 2 meters that serve the 2 buildings. He said the main building is served by a 1-1/2 inch line and although he may be able to down size the meter he also has a fire suppression system. Newman said oversized lines are sometimes required for fire suppression. He said the water rates may have an impact on future development.

Jan Brending explained that Newman has applied to downsize the meter. She said Newman may have several options including combining the 2 meters. Brending said that she is aware that full fire suppression systems may require oversized lines. She noted that most new systems are plumbed separately from the main lines and are usually metered separately by other cities. Brending said the city will probably need to address water rates for fire suppression systems in the future.

Betty Barnes thanked Newman for his comments and asked the council to reflect on Newman's comments.

## **Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2010-03-577, Amending BMC 13.04.120, Service Classifications and Charges Designated for Water Service**

Jan Brending said the proposed ordinance changes the water charges for fire hydrant from monthly to yearly.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approved Ordinance 2010-03-677, amending BMC 13.04.120, Service Classifications and Charges Designated for Water Service. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2010-04-578, Amending BMC 10.14.030, Commercial Area Parking**

Betty Barnes said that the proposed ordinance changes the time limitation of the 100 block of North Oak between Steuben and Humboldt from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.

Laura Mann moved to approve Ordinance 2010-04-578, Amending BMC 10.14.030, Commercial Area Parking. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Guillermo Fisch asked if the time limitation of 2 hour parking from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. is seven days a week.

Betty Barnes said yes.

Guillermo Fisch asked if the city can look at the ordinance.

The council agreed to schedule a discussion of the city's parking ordinance at the next council meeting.

Catherine Kiewit asked if a map showing parking limitations could be provided. Jan Brending said she would provide one along with the current ordinance.

### **Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2010-05-579, Amending the 2010 Budget**

Jan Brending reviewed the proposed changes to the 2010 budget. She noted there are several corrections/additions that have been made since the proposed budget changes were mailed out:

Page 4 of the line item budget, add item 514 50 41 Professional Services in the amount of \$800 for museum appraisal

Page 7 of the line item budget, change Ending Net Cash & Investments to \$207,682

Page 9 of the line item budget, change 542 30 41 00 Professional Services to \$2,257 to accommodate engineering costs for completing the Steuben Stormwater project

Page 9 of the line item budget, change Ending Net Cash & Investments to \$46,062

Page 2 of the ordinance, Current Expense – Appropriations now reads 656,961

Page 2 of the ordinance, Current Expense – Ending Cash Balance now reads 207,682

Page 2 of the ordinance, Street Fund – Appropriations now reads 79,895

Page 2 of the ordinance, Street Fund – Ending Cash Balance now reads 46,062

Laura Mann moved to approve Ordinance 2010-05-579, Amending the 2010 budget as changed.

Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Proposed Change Order – Basketball Court, BCE**

Jan Brending said she is expecting a change order from BCE related to electrical work. She said that she has requested additional information to justify the request but it has not been received. Brending said she will reschedule the request for the next council meeting.

### **Committee Appointments**

Betty Barnes said she attempted to place council members on committees they had requested. She said the appointments for 2010 are as follows:

Finance – Laura Mann and Guillermo Fisch

Water and Sewer – Laura Mann and Guillermo Fisch

Street – Catherine Kiewit and Sandi Dickey

Fire and Police – Sandi Dickey and Clinton Bryan

Park and Recreation – Catherine Kiewit and Clinton Bryan

### **Treasurer's Report – January 2010**

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's report for January 2010.

Laura Mann moved to accept the January 2010 treasurer's report. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Small Works Roster Bid – Recycling Center Area Lighting and Security Camera***

Jan Brending said she requested revised quotes for lighting from both companies but only received a new quote from Hire Electric. She said Hire Electric can install a 400 w light on the side of the shop building for \$1,190 which includes prevailing wages and taxes. Brending said the total costs are now at \$4,050. She said she has not heard from the county or White Salmon if they are willing to contribute towards the project.

Betty Barnes said she spoke with Dave Poucher who will discuss this issue with his council tomorrow evening. She said she will also raise the issue with county commissioners at the EDA board meeting on Thursday evening.

Catherine Kiewit noted that Hire Electric provided a cost of \$1,591 for a 60w LED light. She asked if a LED light would be better.

Clinton Bryan and Guillermo Fisch said they believe the LED light would provide adequate lighting and would last longer.

The council agreed to using an LED light but delayed action on the item until council members could investigate options for the security camera and to determine if funding is coming from the county or White Salmon.

### **Mayor's Update**

#### ***Bingen-White Salmon Police Department***

Bruce Brending reported that residential burglaries are still occurring – mostly in White Salmon but a couple have happened in Bingen. He said an individual was arrested in Bingen with several items recovered in a search warrant. Brending said it is important that citizens be on the watch and report any suspicious behavior as most of the burglaries are happening during the day.

Brending said a juvenile stabbing took place in White Salmon. He said no one was seriously injured but a juvenile was arrested and lodged in NORCOR in The Dalles.

Brending said that he is concerned with recent discussions about the police budget, overtime costs and personnel levels. He said with the increase of activity it is not the time to reduce coverage. Brending said he feels his 2010 budget is in good shape.

Brending said parking enforcement is ongoing. He noted that Judi Culp is currently on leave handling some personal business in California. Brending said the public parking lot is being used more than it has been in the past. He said he has spoken with the mayor regarding items of concern. Brending said Judi Culp is doing a good job.

Laura Mann asked if Bruce Brending has any information regarding a missing youth from our area.

Bruce Brending said there are 2 missing youths who are classified as runaways which is why there is no “amber alert.” He said the department is trying to assist the parents in locating the youth. Brending noted that the police department has joined NIXLE which allows public information bulletins to be e-mailed or text messaged. He said the City of Gresham uses the system. Brending said he has spoken to the city administrator about adding a message to the utility billing statement that would alert residents to service.

Tad Connors said he wants to get a sense from the council if they are interested in having the police department provide a weekly rundown of activity in the newspaper. Connors said it has come to his attention that there is some interest in having this type of report. He said it raises some issues that he has concerns about.

Betty Barnes said it was done in the newspaper where she grew up.

Catherine Kiewit said she prefers the way the police department currently provides monthly activity reports. She said it is more generic and likes the context better than a gossip format.

Clinton Bryan said he feels the police department has more important things to do.

Betty Barnes said such a report can take up a lot of space in the newspaper.

Jesse Burkhardt said there is not a lot of room in the newspaper for such a report.

Bruce Brending said if the intent is to provide more information to the public he thinks he could find a happy middle ground.

Laura Mann said she likes the current reporting that is provided.

The council said they like informative reporting that is helpful to the public when it is needed such as burglary activity alerts that are in a generic format.

Dustin Smith said he likes how the burglary information has been presented in the newspaper.

***Jake Brakes***

Laura Mann asked Jan Brending if Jon Cole had contacted her regarding jake brakes. She said SDS is concerned about the prohibition on jake brakes due to the detour that will occur because of construction on Highway 14.

Jan Brending noted that the city's ordinance prohibiting the use of "jake brakes" was rescinded several months ago at the request of SDS and several other businesses. She said Jon Cole might not have been made aware of that.

The council discussed the state statute regarding unmuffled brake systems on trucks.

Bruce Brending said it may be necessary to have Washington State Patrol do an enforcement emphasis on over loaded trucks and use of unmuffled brake systems.

***Neglected Vehicle***

Clinton Bryan reported there is a vehicle that has expired tags parked on the north side of Humboldt near the Bingen School Inn.

***Student Council Member***

Betty Barnes said that Sandra Guzman had expressed an interest in fire fighting and paramedic services on her resume. She said that the Bingen Fire Department still has a cadet program and that Sandra Guzman attended her first fire meeting last night. Barnes suggested to Bruce Brending that he might be able to provide Sandra Guzman some information about being a paramedic.

***Sewer Line***

Betty Barnes said an incident occurred regarding a homeowner's sewer line. She said there was some question about whether the homeowner was responsible for the line to the edge of his property or to where the line connected with the main line. Barnes said that the city's ordinances speak to the matter in two different places but that according to Tad Connors the ordinance that was adopted later providing that a homeowner is responsible for the sewer line to where the line connects with the main line is the governing ordinance.

Council members and staff discussed the need to update the water and sewer ordinances.

***Code Books***

Several council members asked that their code books be updated to the 8-1/2 x 11 version provided to newly appointed council members.

***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 February 16, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 12033-12060 totaling \$13338.59. Current - \$3821.90; Street - \$2635.26; Water - \$4462.21; Sewer - \$242.12; Treatment Plant - \$2177.10.

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 February 16, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 12016-12032 totaling \$12338.07. Current - \$5248.74; Street - \$1483.91; Water - \$1773.01; Sewer - \$283.06; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$3549.35.

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 February 16, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 12013-12015 totaling \$11753.29. Current - \$506.99; Community Development - \$11246.30.

At 9:05 p.m. the city council adjourned.

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City Clerk

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Mayor