

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 15, 2010

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

Public Comment

Tom “Wally” Inouye, IPS Skate and Snow Shop/IPS Academy

Catherine Kiewit introduced Wally Inouye who owns a skate shop in Hood River.

Wally Inouye said he has been skating for 43 years. He provided information to the council on his background. Inouye said he has worked to get skateparks in all communities and thinks it is good that Bingen wants to build one. He said Hood River has one of the best skateparks around and that professional teams have come out to film videos at the park. Inouye said a skatepark is a great place for parents and non-skaters to hang out. He said parents will know where their kids are at with a skatepark. Inouye said most graffiti is not done by skaters and he was worked with skaters to keep parks clean and to police them. He said that building a park in stages is good because changes are happening in the sport all the time. Inouye said he believes the park will generate business for the community.

Catherine Kiewit asked Inouye if he has any suggestions for other people to approach for assistance in funding the skatepark.

Wally Inouye suggested the Tony Hawk Foundation and contacting other cities who have built skateparks in Washington. He said Grindline will also be a good avenue. Inouye said that fundraisers are a good way to get kids involved.

Laura Mann asked what kind of fundraisers have been successful events.

Wally Inouye suggested a skateboard art show might be a possibility. He said there is a group of artists in Portland who hold art shows to raise money for Portland public parks.

Betty Barnes noted the city met with the kids in the community who designed the skatepark. She said she thought it was interesting that the kids of the community have visited a lot of skateparks around the state.

Wally Inouye mentioned that June 21 is National “Go Skateboarding” Day. He said skateboarders travel to visit parks. Inouye mentioned that he will be hosting an event at 1st Friday in Hood River on July 2 if the city wanted to have a table for getting word out about the skatepark and fundraising.

The city council thanked Wally Inouye for coming to the council meeting.

Rick McComas, Klickitat County Sheriff

Rick McComas said he will have 2 officers assigned to the Bingen-White Salmon area for the 4th of July. He said he will have a total of 4 officers on duty at that time.

Rick McComas asked if the siren issue has been resolved.

Jan Brending said it appears to be – it was a battery issue. She noted that the Klickitat County dispatch office does not do anything special to set off the siren – it is supposed to go off automatically when the fire department is paged out.

Rick McComas asked if the city has been able to install the security cameras at the recycling center.

Betty Barnes said the city has decided not to put in the security cameras. She said the site is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Barnes said that appears to be working for now and has addressed the biggest part of the problem.

Rick McComas said that if problems do come up he can direct his deputies to watch the site as they patrol in the area.

Rick McComas said he feels it is important to keep communication open and would like to bring his administrative staff down and introduce them to the council in the future. He said he feels it is important to share what services are provided in each department and build a good relationship.

Guillermo Fisch asked if the White Salmon sheriff's office will be opened again anytime soon.

Rick McComas said it depends on the county's budget but hopes that by 2012 it will be open.

Rick McComas said he feels the relationship with Chief Brending is good and the city can relay any requests through him.

Approval of Minutes – June 1, 2010

Changes to the minutes of the June 1, 2010 city council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 4, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: "She said that she and Laura Mann have both spoken with Jason Spadero about moving the flume to the property next to the museum."

Page 4, 2nd paragraph should read: "There was a consensus of the council to write a letter to the Gorge Heritage Museum letting them know that the flume will be moved to the property adjacent to the museum."

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2010 city council meeting as amended. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Amendments to Bingen Municipal Code 10.14 – Stopping, Standing or Parking

Betty Barnes said the proposed ordinance includes amendments as previously agreed upon by the council and includes changing the 2-hour parking to Monday through Friday and changing the penalty from \$100 to \$25 minimum and \$40 maximum.

Catherine Kiewit asked why Section 10.14.110(C) provides that a violation of section 10.14.050 which is related to angled parking is a \$75.00 violation.

Tad Connors said he is not aware of any legal reason.

The council discussed providing for a penalty of \$25 minimum and \$40 maximum for a violation of section 10.14.050. The council agreed that if Tad Connors saw a legal reason why it should not be moved out of the \$75.00 penalty then it would remain there.

Guillermo Fisch moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-07-581 as amended amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.14 – Stopping, Standing and Parking. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program

Betty Barnes said the Street Committee (Sandi Dickey and Catherine Kiewit) met to review the proposed 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program and are recommending adoption of the proposed program.

Jan Brending said she did receive a phone call from one citizen who recommends that paving the 200 block of North Cedar be added to the program. Brending said priority number 5 can be amended to include the 200 block of North Cedar which is from Humboldt to Franklin.

Guillermo Fisch said he has looked at the sidewalks on the east side of the 100 block of North Alder. He said he feels that repairs instead of complete replacement are all that is needed. Fisch noted that to install a sidewalk on the west side of the 100 block of North Alder two trees would have to be removed.

Jan Brending said that the majority of the sidewalk on the east side needs to be repaired and is crumbling from underneath. She said that when cars run over the sidewalk it tends to break off. Brending said it is her opinion that the entire sidewalk be replaced instead of continually making repairs.

Catherine Kiewit said that she knows after having done some concrete repair around her home that concrete patching does not last long.

Catherine Kiewit moved to adopt Resolution 2010-06, adopting the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program as amended to include the 200 block of North Cedar in priority #5. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Laura Mann asked how projects such as pedestrian and bicycle lanes on SR 141 fit into the transportation program.

Jan Brending said that preliminary planning and engineering is needed first to determine the feasibility of the project and estimated cost. She noted that later this summer she will be presenting a list of projects that needs planning and design which will involve hiring an engineering firm. Brending said the council will then need to prioritize projects as they cannot all be accomplished at one time nor does the city have the funding to plan for the projects all at once.

Proposal for Building Official Services – Recommendation to Hire Temporary Employee

Betty Barnes reviewed the memorandum dated June 9 recommending hiring a temporary employee to fill building official duties until December 31, 2010. She said the position would be paid on an hourly basis at \$29.98 and would not be eligible for sick or vacation leave and would not be paid for holidays. Barnes said in addition the employee would not receive any insurance benefits.

The council and staff discussed how to provide for building official services in the short-term and long-term. There was a consensus of the council to develop a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals for building official services from individuals, governmental agencies, and businesses.

Guillermo Fisch moved to authorize the mayor to hire an emergency temporary hourly employee to provide building official services through December 31, 2010 and to adopt the proposed job description and salary rate of \$29.98 eliminating the phrase “is scheduled a minimum of ____ hours per week and” from the last sentence of the first paragraph of the job description. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Review of 2010 Goals and Priorities

Betty Barnes said that Catherine Kiewit asked for an overview of the 2010 goals and priorities. She said that Jan Brending has provided that information and also provided information on accomplishments that have been made since the beginning of the year.

Jan Brending said that she is suggesting that a temporary committee be put together to help review the city’s zoning ordinance. She said she feels the zoning ordinance is one of the city’s most important documents as it guides all development in the city. Brending said she has provided a copy of the zoning ordinance to council members and suggested that each council member read it and provide input on proposed amendments.

The council and staff discussed the amount of work needed to amend the ordinance and the process for developing amendments. There was consensus to hold a workshop at a meeting in August to begin discussion of the zoning ordinance.

Jan Brending noted that she will present information on water loss and self-sufficiency at the first meeting in August.

City of White Salmon Request for Joint Council Meeting

Betty Barnes said the City of White Salmon had previously requested a joint council meeting to discuss the interlocal agreement. She said Bingen responded asking for a more detailed agenda which it has not received. Barnes said White Salmon is now requesting a joint council meeting to discuss all of the interlocal agreements. She noted that everything done jointly is through an interlocal agreement. Barnes said she does not disagree that issues need to be addressed with White Salmon. She said it is a matter of how to go about that discussion. Barnes said the law enforcement agreement is complicated enough and then adding all the other agreements in can make it more complicated.

Betty Barnes said she would like to provide some options to the city council for responding to White Salmon’s request:

1. Hold a meeting to establish an agenda or agendas for joint council meetings using the 2 mayors, 2 city attorneys and one member from each council. The goal would be to break up the issues into reasonable agenda items and establish priorities.
2. Establish an interlocal agreement committee which would include 2 members from each council, both mayors, city staff, and possibly the 2 city attorneys.

3. Agree to a joint council meeting with a very general agenda.

Betty Barnes said she would prefer the first option and that her experience is that the two cities would not get very far establishing an interlocal agreement committee.

Guillermo Fisch said he feels that having only one council member may be difficult as it might be hard on them. He suggested using 2 council members.

Tad Connors said there has been no formal proposition to the City of Bingen from White Salmon. He said he has discussed the issue with Ken Woodrich, White Salmon's city attorney.

Betty Barnes said that she thought by having an informal meeting to discuss the issues and try to develop agenda items would be better as there seems to be a reluctance to identify the issues at a public meeting. She said the idea would then be to schedule a joint council meeting with a specific agenda to discuss the identified items. Barnes noted that meeting minutes will be taken by a neutral party and provided to the full councils.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the appointed council member would be someone who would just listen to White Salmon.

Laura Mann said she sees the individual as someone who can relay Bingen's point of view and be a spokesperson for Bingen.

Betty Barnes said she would like to appoint Laura Mann if Bingen supports option 1 because of her experience on the council and the committees she currently sits on.

Laura Mann said she can remember holding a joint council meeting with White Salmon that was an update on fire watch and police issues. She said there are a lot of things the two cities can discuss but feels there should be an agenda.

Catherine Kiewit said she feels the Bingen council is busy and does not want to sit at another meeting without accomplishing something.

Laura Mann said she feels that White Salmon has some things they want to discuss. She said quite a few things were brought up to her by Bob Landgren and Mark Peppel when she was working the pool yard sale. Mann said she would like to hear from the Bingen council members about things Bingen would like to discuss with White Salmon. She noted that there is currently a venue to discuss the interlocal agreement – the joint police committee.

Catherine Kiewit said she gets the sense that White Salmon has some issues but Bingen really doesn't. She said she would like to know what White Salmon's plans are for the police department in the future.

Sandi Dickey said she would be interested in knowing what White Salmon is planning on doing related to providing building official services.

Guillermo Fisch said he thinks the law enforcement issue is a priority.

Jan Brending said that the funding of the police department and how the funding is split between the two cities is an issue and has been for a number of years.

Jan Brending said another issue is wastewater funding. She said that she knows White Salmon has some concerns regarding the funding of the treatment plant. Brending said she believes some of the concerns come out of the fact that they may not understand how the treatment plant is funded. She said she would be willing to provide White Salmon information on how the plant is funded.

There was a consensus of the city council to recommend to White Salmon holding a meeting with the 2 mayors, 2 city attorneys, and a representative from each council to determine the issues and establish an agenda(s) for a future joint council meeting(s) with Laura Mann being the City of Bingen's representative.

Laura Mann asked that Bingen pay White Salmon the funds for the pool as soon as possible.

Treasurer's Report – May 2010

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for May 2010.

Sandi Dickey moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for May 2010. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Children at Play Prohibited Signs – Fire Department Parking Lot

Betty Barnes said signs have been installed in the fire department parking lot stating that children at play are prohibited. She noted that the city may be calling the police department to enforce the prohibition.

Daubenspeck Park – Rose Bushes

Sandi Dickey asked what is happening with the maintenance of the rose bushes at the park.

Betty Barnes said she called Etta Hepner and reminded her that the museum had said the master gardeners would maintain the rose bushes.

Betty Barnes noted that she has had a lot of family visiting and has gotten really good compliments about the park.

Community Garden

Council members asked about the status of the community garden.

Jan Brending said she will check with Bruce Bolme and recommend that some cleanup is needed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Stop Sign – Ash and Franklin

Betty Barnes said she has been approached by several neighbors who would like to see an additional stop sign added on Ash Street. She said they are concerned about children playing in the area and the speed of vehicles using Ash Street as an alternate to Highway 141. Barnes said she believes that a stop sign will help get the traffic pattern back to where it should be – on Highway 141.

Laura Mann said she would like more time to think about the proposal.

Bruce Brending said he does not typically see speeds at more than 6-8 miles above the speed limit in the area. He said that enforcement of speed on Ash Street is difficult.

Jan Brending said she can develop a proposed ordinance with a public hearing scheduled at the next council meeting. She said the council can either adopt the ordinance or vote it down.

Poison Oak – Elm and Steuben

Catherine Kiewit reported there is poison oak growing in the sidewalk at Elm and Steuben.

Huckleberry Festival Committee

Catherine Kiewit said she would like to get a status report on the Huckleberry Festival.

It was noted that the city does not participate on the Huckleberry Festival committee and is not a sponsor of the festival.

The council and staff discussed the issue of providing security for the festival. Bruce Brending noted that Klickitat County provided reserve officers to work the Spring Festival in White Salmon. He said overtime was still scheduled for the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department.

Catherine Kiewit said she would like the Huckleberry Festival committee to make a presentation to the council.

Jan Brending said she will contact Sally Tallman about coming to a future council meeting to discuss the Huckleberry Festival.

Budget Conference – Leavenworth

Betty Barnes said she is recommending the budget committee (Laura Mann and Guillermo Fisch) along with Jan Brending and herself attend the AWC budget conference in Leavenworth August 5 & 6.

City of White Salmon Survey

Jan Brending said she provided copies of a City of White Salmon survey to council members for their information.

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 June 15, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 12339, 12347-12375 totaling \$119531.53. Current – \$2662.05; Street - \$1257.56; Fire Equipment Reserve - \$2142.03; Water - \$2195.73; Sewer - \$162.69; Treatment Plant - \$968.61; 73/95 W/S Bond Redemption - \$3,000.00; Public Works Trust Fund Loan - \$107,142.86.

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 June 15, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks EFT, 12340-12346 totaling \$12666.76. Current - \$5249.43; Street - \$1480.15; Water – \$1766.56; Sewer - \$281.65; Bingen Treatment Plant - \$3888.97.

At 9:40 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor