

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 20, 2011

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

Public Comment

The city council and members of the audience toasted with sparkling cider to Christmas, the New Year and In situ staying in Bingen.

Approval of Minutes – November 29, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the November 29, 2011 special council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 5, 7th paragraph, last sentence should read: “If that was the intent in 2000 Bingen would have contracted with the county sheriff.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2011 special council meeting as corrected. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the December 6, 2011 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 4, add the following paragraph after the 9th paragraph: “The city council discussed limiting testimony at public hearings to 10 minutes per individual.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2011 regular council meeting as corrected. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2011-10-597, Amending the 2011 Budget

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing on proposed ordinance 2011-10-597, amending the 2011 budget.

Jan Brending reviewed the proposed amendments.

Sandi Dickey moved to adopt ordinance 2011-10-597, amending the 2011 budget. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Executive Session

Betty Barnes announced at 7:15 p.m. the city council will enter into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 7:30 p.m. the city council resumed regular session. Betty Barnes announced the executive session will continue for another 10 minutes.

At 7:40 p.m. the city council resumed regular session.

Proposed Interlocal Agreement with White Salmon – Treatment Plant ERU Rate

Jan Brending said the proposed interlocal agreement with White Salmon establishing the treatment plant ERU rate for 2012 provides for \$12.75. She said the budget for 2012 was drafted using a rate of \$13.50, an increase of \$1.00 per ERU over 2011. Brending said the White Salmon Operations Committee just recently reviewed the proposed budget and rate and asked that the rate be \$12.75. She said the proposed rate provides for all proposed expenses in the treatment plant to be covered without using beginning cash. Brending said hopefully the two cities can establish a new wastewater agreement in 2012 which will better control how the ERU rate is set in the future. She noted that it is important to provide for a capital reserve fund for the treatment plant as it is aging and equipment needs to be repaired.

Clinton Bryan moved to approve the interlocal agreement with the City of White Salmon establishing the treatment plant ERU rate of \$12.75 for the year 2012. Maria Perez seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Clinton Bryan left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Proposed 2012 Budget – Continued Discussion and Action

Jan Brending said there are several changes to the budget: removal of liquor excise taxes in the amount of \$3,607, reducing the law enforcement costs by \$1,148, decreasing operating transfers out of the sewer fund by \$4,581, decreasing White Salmon receipts in the treatment plant fund by \$12,231 and decreasing operating transfers into the treatment plant fund by \$4,581. She said the reduction in the law enforcement costs comes from White Salmon moving the costs related to the animal impound facility to the appropriate BARS code. Brending said the decreases in the sewer fund expenditures and decreases in treatment plant revenue are based on the revised ERU rate of \$12.75.

Proposed Ordinance 2011-08-595, Adopting 2012 Budget

Laura Mann moved to adopt ordinance 2011-08-593, adopting the 2012 budget with changes to the Current Expense, Sewer Fund, and Treatment Plant Fund numbers to reflect the changes recommended by Jan Brending. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Utility Tax Ordinance – NW Natural Request

Jan Brending said the city has received a letter from NW Natural requesting several changes to the city's recently adopted ordinance: (1) allowing tax payments to be made quarterly, (2) allowing the payment to be made 30 days after the close of the reporting period, and (3) allowing an officer's delegate to sign the tax return. Brending said in addition NW Natural is asking for confirmation that the city intended to no longer exclude from the utility tax those revenues earned from customers under an industrial rate and to exempt state and federal customers. She said NW Natural has indicated that those changes will need to be filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

The city council and staff discussed the request. There was a consensus of the council that it was the intent of the city to no longer exclude from the utility tax those revenues earned from customers under an industrial rate and to exempt state and federal customers. There was a consensus of the council to move forward with amendments to the ordinance allowing payments to be made quarterly 30 days after the close of the reporting period and to allow an officer's delegate to sign the tax return.

A public hearing on the proposed amendments will be held January 3, 2012.

Treasurer's Report – October 2011

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's report for October 2011.

Laura Mann moved to accept the treasurer's report for October 2011. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Office Closure

Betty Barnes said a decision on the proposal to close the city hall office on Mondays is needed. She said she spoke with Catherine Kiewit who supports the recommendation.

Maria Perez said the city can always change it if there are problems. She suggested notice be sent out to the city's customers and citizens.

Maria Perez moved to close the city hall office on Mondays. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

2011 Law Enforcement Budget

The city council discussed the current 2011 law enforcement budget.

Laura Mann suggested holding additional discussion in January after seeing White Salmon's final 2011 budget.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Christmas Parade and Santa Visit

Betty Barnes reported that the fire department will take its fire trucks through Bingen on December 23 at 6:00 p.m. ending at the park for hot chocolate and pizza. She said Mo Java has donated the hot chocolate and cups and Beneventi's is donating the pizza.

Jail Contract

Betty Barnes reported that she and Jan Brending met with the Klickitat County Sheriff. She said information was received that helped clarify the proposed contract. Barnes said the Sheriff has agreed to allow the current rates to continue for 3 months so a new contract can be negotiated. She said one of the biggest concerns about the new proposed contract was that the Sheriff's office had proposed to have

only one contract – with White Salmon. Barnes said White Salmon has no authority to sign for Bingen. She said she told the Sheriff that it was important at this time for there to be two separate contracts. Barnes said the booking fee proposed by Klickitat County only applies when an individual is booked and released with no jail time.

Betty Barnes said she also met with Skamania County Sheriff Dave Brown about their proposed contract. She said Skamania County's booking fee would apply at all times. Barnes said she told Dave Brown that it was likely Bingen would want to use the same agency as White Salmon and that there would need to be significant cost savings to use someone other than Klickitat County.

Betty Barnes said the next step is for Tad Connors to review both contracts and submit a letter to each agency.

Museum Refrigerator

Betty Barnes reported that according to Terry Trantow the refrigerator that no longer works at the museum belongs to the city. She said the refrigerator will stay at the museum until the city can conduct its surplus sale.

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 20, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 14822-14885, 14887-14897 totaling \$13047.45. Current –\$357.25; Street - \$1407.33; Water - \$2765.83; Sewer - \$134.25; Treatment Plant - \$2203.03; Water Construction and Maintenance - \$3279.76.

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 20, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 14875-14876 (dated November 30, 2011) totaling \$906.63. Current –\$906.63.

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 20, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (12/15/2011) EFT, 14877-14881, totaling \$11778.21. Current – \$5496.81; Street - \$1440.48; Water - \$1454.18; Sewer - \$225.14; Treatment Plant - \$3161.60.

At 8:35 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor