

# BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 4, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Sandi Dickey, Laura Mann, Clinton Bryan. Council members absent: Guillermo Fisch. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Jim Herman, Carl Warren, Jim Andring, Bill Clack, Jesse Burkhardt.

## **Public Comment**

### ***Jim Andring, Bingen-White Salmon Police Department***

Jim Andring introduced Bill Clack as a new part-time officer for the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department. Andring said Bill Clack was with the Washington State Patrol for 25 years before retiring.

Betty Barnes noted that civil service testing for the lateral position is scheduled for Saturday.

Jim Andring said he believes the testing has been cancelled.

Andring said Clack will be working 30 hours per week and hopes to get him to 40 hours per week.

Betty Barnes said it is her understanding that Bill Clack is applying of the permanent lateral position. Barnes noted that the department may have an interim police chief starting next week. She said is very delighted with the individual that has been selected and thinks he will fit in well.

### ***Carl Warren, Bingen Washington***

Carl Warren said he lives down the street and is here to observe.

## **Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2010**

Changes to the minutes of the December 21, 2010 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, insert the following paragraph after the last paragraph: “It was noted that White Salmon has agreed to ERU rate of \$12.50 and that the 2011 budget reflects that increase.”

Page 3, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph should read: “Laura Mann suggested that it might be possible for SDS to provide some assistance for the removal of the tree and installing a drainage system.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2010 council meeting as amended. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

## **Port of Klickitat, Jim Herman – Access to Bingen Point**

Jim Herman introduced himself as port commissioner for the Port of Klickitat. He said that Insitu has narrowed down the sites for a campus to Bingen and Dallesport. Herman said that the railroad crossing is a stumbling block with 700 employees possibly using it every day. He said emergency response could be difficult if a train was blocking the crossing. Herman said he feels it is necessary to start a letter writing campaign to the federal legislators to elevate the issue. He said that Jan Brending sent him information on the previous access study. Herman said the letter drafted by Brending is great and covers all the points. He said the Port appreciates any efforts that can be made by the city. Herman said the Port hopes to keep Insitu here and has been working with them for quite awhile.

Catherine Kiewit asked if Insitu moving to Bingen Point is conditional upon getting a new overpass or underpass.

Jim Herman said he can't say that is but Insitu would like to see some movement on the issue. He said the Port hopes to hear from Insitu next month.

Betty Barnes noted that Jan Brending will be putting together a stakeholders' meeting to begin discussing the issue.

Jim Herman said that he thinks that would be beneficial. He said the Port is here to provide jobs.

Laura Mann proposed some changes to the draft letter to be sent to the federal legislators.

Clinton Bryan moved to authorize the sending of the draft letter with Laura Mann's additions to the federal legislators requesting support for a new overpass or underpass. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Jim Andring suggested that the fire chiefs could write a joint letter addressing the issue.

Betty Barnes said she thinks that is a good idea.

### **Street Tree Maintenance**

Jan Brending said that she and the mayor are recommending that the city contract for the maintenance of the street trees. She said John Bartholomew has agreed to donate \$1,500 towards the cost. Brending said she and the mayor feels the city contracting for the maintenance is in the best interest of the city and the business owner. She said because the city has to pay prevailing wages the cost is quite a bit more than what a private citizen would pay. Brending said Columbia Tree Service has provided an estimate of \$2,917.28 including tax. She said that provides for up to 10 hours of service. Brending said she is recommending that the existing contract with Columbia Tree Service be amended to include the tree maintenance.

Betty Barnes reviewed the tree maintenance plan that was written several years ago.

Guillermo Fisch moved to accept the \$1,500 donation towards street maintenance and to amend the contract with Columbia Tree Service to include street maintenance in the amount of \$2,917.28. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

### **Tony Hawk Foundation Grant Agreement – Request for Authorization to Sign Agreement**

Sandi Dickey moved to authorize signing the grant agreement with the Tony Hawk Foundation. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Catherine Kiewit said it will be important to make sure all reports are filed in a timely manner with the Tony Hawk Foundation.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Volunteers and Klickitat County Juvenile Community Service Work Crew***

Betty Barnes said Jan Brending has provided a memorandum to the county regarding city volunteers and the Klickitat County Juvenile Community Service Work Crew.

#### ***Utility Billing Reduction Information***

Betty Barnes said Jan Brending has provided a memorandum regarding utility billing reductions authorized by the council in 2010.

#### ***Skatepark Update***

Jan Brending provided an update on skatepark funding. She noted that two additional donations have been made -- \$500 from Iron Mike Heating and \$1,082 from Chips Bar & Grill.

Laura Mann asked if the water issue is being addressed at the skatepark.

Jan Brending said she is going to contact a couple of local engineers to see if they will donate their services to design a drainage system so water is not entering the park.

Betty Barnes noted that the first "Pizza in the Park" event took place on December 31. She said there were approximately 20 kids in attendance. Barnes said it was a very positive thing.

Carl Warren said he likes the park and sees lots of positive things for the park.

Jim Andring said he has not seen a reduction of malicious mischief since the park has gone in. He noted the recent event of toilet paper being strung throughout the women's restroom.

### **Mayor's Update and Council Comments**

#### ***Klickitat County Solid Waste Committee***

Betty Barnes said she received a phone call from Don Struck about establishing a Solid Waste Committee for the county. She said the county is requesting an appointment from the City of Bingen preferably an elected official. Barnes noted that Struck will be present at the council's first meeting in February to discuss the Solid Waste Committee.

Guillermo Fisch and Laura Mann said they might possibly be interested in serving on the committee.

***Parking – N. Ash and Oak (Hwy. 141)***

Sandi Dickey said there is still a problem with the parking at the top of N. Ash where it intersects with Hwy. 141. She noted that the curb has not been painted yellow.

Betty Barnes said that is correct. She said staff has held off due to paint not being available and weather. Barnes noted however that where the city authorized the curb to be painted is not where cars are parking.

***Property at Pine and Humboldt***

Catherine Kiewit noted that the property at Pine and Humboldt is accumulating garbage again.

Jan Brending said she can write another letter to the Yakama tribe.

***Park Vandalism***

Betty Barnes asked Jim Andring if the police officers actually enter the restrooms when they are patrolling the area.

Jim Andring said not usually but will see if that can be done.

The council discussed possible options to address the park vandalism.

**Executive Session**

Betty Barnes announced at 8:05 p.m. that the city council will go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss potential litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 8:15 p.m. the city council resumed regular session.

Sandi Dickey moved to direct the city attorney to write a letter to Shirley Morat rejecting the tort claim. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

**Anthony Connors, Attorney at Law**

Tad Connors announced that he has taken on a partner in his law firm – Christopher R. Lanz and that the name of the firm will be changing to Connors and Lanz. Connors said Lanz was most recently the chief prosecuting attorney in Skamania County.

The council agreed that the contract with Anthony Connors will need to be redone.

**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 4, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (01/04/2011) 12849-12857 totaling \$69459.44. Current – \$65963.65; Street - \$572.31; Water - \$1175.59; Sewer - \$1175.58; Treatment Plant - \$572.31.

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 4, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (12/30/2010) EFT, 12829-12831 totaling \$10706.86. Current – \$4551.02; Street - \$1316.37; Water - \$1571.89; Sewer - \$250.78; Treatment Plant - \$3016.80.

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 4, 2010. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (01/04/2011) 12832 totaling \$8939.86. Current – \$4115.26; Street - \$1258.15; Water - \$1170.06; Sewer - \$172.79; Treatment Plant - \$2223.60.

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 4, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (12/30/2010) 12833-12848 totaling \$9744.04. Current – \$1329.43; Street - \$859.88; Water - \$5701.33; Sewer - \$281.91; Treatment Plant - \$1571.49.

At 8:20 p.m. the city council adjourned.