

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Sandi Dickey, Laura Mann, Guillermo Fisch, Clinton Bryan, Catherine Kiewit, Adri Benitez (student council member). City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Tony Domish, Rosi Salguero, Dan Richardson.

Approval of Minutes – March 1, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the March 15, 2011 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 1st paragraph, Audience should read as follows: “Tony Domish, Maria Rosa “Rosi” Salguero.”

Page 1, 4th paragraph should read as follows: “Page 3, Adding following after the 6th paragraph: “Student Council Members Oath of Office, Student council members Adri Benitez and Rosi Salguero were sworn in by Mayor Betty Barnes.”

Page 1, 9th paragraph, 3rd sentence should read as follows: “Clinton Bryan said he will step down from the council for the duration of the discussion and not vote on the proposed ordinance.”

Page 1, 10th paragraph, 3rd sentence should read as follows: “Brending noted there is a correction of page 2 of the proposed ordinance – the word “do” in the proposed language should say “does.””

Page 2, 2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence should read as follows: “Brending said the committee narrowed the proposals down to Sterling and Riverview and asked her to interview both banks asking questions to clarify several points in the proposals and to make a recommendation to the council.”

Page 4, 2nd paragraph should read as follows: “Domish said a background check is being done on a lateral police officer candidate and hopes to have that wrapped up in the next couple of weeks.”

Page 4, 4th paragraph, 1st sentence should read as follows: “Domish noted that recently the Klickitat County Sheriff’s office stepped in when an officer was not available to provide coverage in Bingen and White Salmon.”

Page 4, 5th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read as follows: “He said there are 2 officers on duty on Friday and Saturday nights.”

Page 4, 8th paragraph should read as follows: “Betty Barnes said the time at the elementary school was very fun and that Tony Domish did a great job.”

Page 4, 12th paragraph should read as follows: “Betty Barnes noted members of the joint police committee meeting will meet following the committee meeting to discuss the upcoming interviews for police chief.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the meeting minutes of the March 1, 2011 regular council meeting as amended. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dan Richardson, Underwood Conservation District – Marking Storm Drains

Dan Richardson said he is an intern with the Underwood Conservation District. He said the district’s mission is to increase stewardship of natural resources with willing property owners. Richardson said he is working with Streamkeepers in marking storm drains. He said a grant has been submitted to Fish and Wildlife for the purchase of markers that will be installed at storm drains. Richardson said the markers say “No Dumping – Drains to Stream.” He said the markers are semi-permanent. Richardson said the majority of the markers will be installed in White Salmon but would also like to install some in Bingen.

Guillermo Fisch asked where the markers would be installed.

Dan Richardson said next to storm drains.

Betty Barnes said she is happy that Dan Richardson requested to come before the Bingen city council. She said she has seen storm drains marked in the past in White Salmon.

Catherine Kiewit asked if there will be enough funding to mark all the storm drains.

Dan Richardson said that if there is not enough funding or the grant is not awarded then stenciling would likely be used.

Catherine Kiewit asked if Richardson has a recommendation for a policy for people who wash their cars.

Dan Richardson said that ecologically the residue from car washing going into storm drains is not a good idea.

Catherine Kiewit said she likes the idea of labeling all the storm drains.

Dan Richardson said the grant applications requests funding for approximately 100 markers which would not allow all storm drains to be labeled.

Catherine Kiewit said she would like a report about how many storm drains and the cost for the markers.

Dan Richardson said the markers are approximately \$4 each. He said there are about 50 drains along the highway. Richardson said the idea is to hit high visibility areas as an educational and outreach opportunity.

Betty Barnes said she would like to see an up or down vote to allow either markers or stenciling installed in Bingen.

Clinton Bryan said he prefers the markers to using stencils for marking the storm drains.

Laura Mann asked Clinton Bryan if he is suggesting that the city might pay for some of the markers so that all the storm drains in Bingen would be marked.

Clinton Bryan said he thinks the markers would look so much better in the downtown area. He said he would like to see what can be done with the grant and then possibly look at the city partnering with the district.

Betty Barnes said the city can wait to see if the grant is awarded and then get a report back at that time about how many markers will be funded in Bingen and then determine how the city wants to proceed.

Clinton Bryan moved to support the marking of storm drains by Underwood Conservation District with the city possibly partnering with the District to mark all storm drains in Bingen. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Catherine Kiewit suggested that it would be good to include information in a newsletter about what not to dump in storm drains.

Park Usage Policy – Draft – Discussion

Betty Barnes said David Spratt and Jan Brending have drafted a park usage policy.

The city council discussed the proposed park usage policy including whether the policy should apply to events or more. The council agreed that the wording for no alcoholic beverages will be changed to allow alcoholic beverages upon approval by the council and with a license from the Washington State Liquor Board. The council also agreed to include state information regarding amusement rides.

Clinton Bryan moved to authorize the development of a usage policy and application form to be brought back to city council for final approval. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

The council agreed that when the policy is adopted it will be put on the web site and information provided in an upcoming newsletter.

Snow Policy – Discussion

Betty Barnes reviewed the city's snow policy with the city council.

Council members recommended several corrections to the snow policy.

Laura Mann noted unless the council adopts an ordinance vehicles cannot be towed. She feels the policy is a stepping stone.

Catherine Kiewit said she would like the city to give its residents a chance to follow the policy.

The policy will be reviewed and adopted by the council at the next council meeting.

Treasurer's Reports – January and February 2011

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's reports for January and February 2011.

Laura Mann moved to accept the treasurer's reports for January and February 2011. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Water Meter Update

Betty Barnes said council members have received information on the status of installing radio read meters. She showed the council an example of piping that needed to be replaced when the new radio read meter was installed. Barnes said that city crew is down to the meters that are more difficult to replace due to the age of the meters and pipes.

Skatepark Fundraising Update

Betty Barnes noted that Insitu has provided the entire \$5,000 match for the skatepark.

Community Pride Weekend

Betty Barnes said the Community Pride Weekend is scheduled for April 29 through May 1st. She said the city will do their part for the event including picking up yard and garden debris and if a volunteer is supplied by the Chamber of Commerce city staff will pick up junk in Bingen to be delivered to the event site.

Betty Barnes said David Spratt attended the meeting and addressed concerns with the condition of the site after the event. She said the chamber intends to have two cleanup crews – one on Sunday and one after the chipper is removed.

Downtown Landscape Maintenance

Betty Barnes reported that the Master Gardeners have volunteered to work with high school students and clean the downtown landscape beds with a regular schedule. She said this is a great opportunity for Bingen and for high school students to earn community service hours.

Delivery of Information to Council Members

Betty Barnes asked if council members would like to get information that comes by e-mail forwarded to them by e-mail. Council members agreed. Jan Brending will continue to print the information for Clinton Bryan.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway

Betty Barnes said she met with a representative of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway regarding the SDS gate at Walnut Street. She said BNSF feels there are some safety issues and that the city has some liability. Barnes said she did not agree with the solutions that were offered including vacating the crossing. She said she is taking steps to address safety concerns and has met with Jason Spadero. She said SDS will put reflective markings on the grate and Bingen will install signage that says "No Stopping on Tracks" and indicating a detour when the gate is closed.

Depot Street Parking

Betty Barnes said she, Jan Brending and Guillermo Fisch met with Jenny Taylor and Scott Pimley of Insitu to discuss parking on Depot Street. Barnes said some cars were towed because they were parked in the restricted BNSF parking areas. She said one of the vehicles towed belonged to an individual who was an Amtrak rider.

Betty Barnes said that BNSF has indicated that they intend to close the south side of Depot Street to parking. She said however, that she has spoken with Scott Frederick, BNSF Roadmaster for Bingen and a couple of suggestions have been made including the possibility of leasing property on the south side of Depot Street from Ash to Maple Street for parking. Barnes said it appears the lease might be \$200 to \$300 for a 10-year lease. She said Scott Frederick will get back to the city with some additional information.

Betty Barnes said that another suggestion is to develop a numbering system with the businesses for individuals who park on Depot Street. She said the idea is that the city would know who the vehicle belongs to and where the individual works in case there is an issue with parking.

The council discussed the idea of issuing numbers for employees parking on Depot Street.

Catherine Kiewit said she feels that if someone is parked somewhere they are not supposed to be parked then they should be towed.

Treatment Plant Tour

Laura Mann said she, Guillermo Fisch and Adrian Bradford from White Salmon took a tour of the treatment plant. She said she felt they learned a lot. Mann said that she learned that it is important that as new businesses are hooked up to the system it is important to know what they do and what kind of waste is being sent through the system. She said Tom Hons is extremely knowledgeable and presented the information well.

Civil Service Commission

Betty Barnes said she has been informed by Charles Long that he is resigning from the civil service commission. She said Charles Long will serve until the city can find a replacement. Barnes said the position is being advertised.

Police Chief Interviewing

Betty Barnes noted that there is a meeting to discuss the police chief interviewing on Friday at 7:00 p.m. at Bingen city hall.

Jan Brending – Consulting Services

Betty Barnes noted that Jan Brending may be entering into an agreement with the City of White Salmon to provide financial assistance to them on her own time.

Committee and Staff Reports

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Tony Domish said he does not have a lot to report. He said the department is very busy including handling several sexual assault cases.

2010 Census Information

Jan Brending said the 2010 census shows that Bingen has 712 residents. She said she will e-mail the link and information to 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 March 15, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT, 13005-13025 totaling \$12636.01. Current – \$1268.46; Street - \$2187.62; Fire Equipment Reserve - \$45.68; Water - \$8325.91; Sewer - \$278.46; Treatment Plant - \$529.88.

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 March 15, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (03/15/2011) EFT, 12998-13000, 13002-13003-13004, totaling \$9936.06. Current – \$4230.32; Street - \$1314.09; Water - \$1265.32; Sewer - \$195.56; Treatment Plant - \$2930.77.

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

City Clerk

Mayor