

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 5, 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. Council members absent: Adri Benitez (student council member). City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Lloyd DeKay, Lorrie DeKay, Rick McComas and John Newman.

Public Comment

John Newman, Bingen

John Newman said he owns the Bingen School and is looking at what would be the procedure to vacate that part of Elm Street shown on plat maps that is not being used. He said the plat maps show Elm Street running through the school property although the street does not exist in that location.

Jan Brending said she believes that part of Elm Street was vacated in the past. She said if it has not been vacated the city can consider vacating the street through the adoption of an ordinance.

Laura Mann said she is interested in the issue coming before the council.

Betty Barnes said she is instructing Jan Brending to research the issue and bring back a plat map and draft ordinance if necessary for consideration by the council.

Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2011

Clinton Bryan moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2011 regular city council meeting. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proclamation – Arts & Culture Month, Lloyd DeKay, Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Alliance

Lloyd DeKay said he is a member of the Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Alliance which recognizes the Gorge as a destination location for arts, culture and heritage. He said the organization is also trying to raise awareness of the economic impact that arts, culture and heritage has in the gorge. DeKay said there are 30 events scheduled for the month of May and more likely to be added. He said May is a “shoulder month” – the entrance to the summer months. DeKay said the governors of Oregon and Washington have declared May as Arts and Culture Month. He said other cities are also looking at issuing proclamations.

Catherine Kiewit said she works for the Arts Center in Hood River and supports the proposed proclamation. She asked DeKay how the Alliance will measure the success of the event.

Lloyd DeKay said mainly feedback and attendance at events. He reviewed the materials that will be distributed advertising the event and noted there is a web site that provides additional information.

There was a consensus of the city council to support the mayor issuing a proclamation declaring May as Arts and Culture Month.

Betty Barnes thanked Lloyd DeKay for his efforts and said she will be signing the proclamation.

Interlocal Agreement with Klickitat County, EDA Community Grant

Jan Brending said the interlocal agreement is the standard language used for the EDA grants.

Clinton Bryan moved to authorize signing the interlocal agreement with Klickitat County for the 2011 EDA Community Grant. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Draft Park Usage Policy – Review and Adoption

The city council discussed the proposed language in the park usage policy and agreement.

Betty Barnes said the policy is written to leave some flexibility.

The council made the following changes to the policy language and asked they be reflected in the agreement:

Bullet #4 should read: “The park will be cleaned immediately by the permit holder after each use (garbage and all debris cleaned up and removed from the park) – no later than noon the day following the event.”

Bullet #11 should read: “Barrel cones obtained from the city must be placed over ground faucets to prevent breaking and tripping hazards.”

Bullet #13 should read: “Restroom maintenance (including providing supplies) will be determined by the duration and size of the event and coordinated with and approved by the City Public Works department.”

Staff was directed to check and make sure that all electrical boxes when in use can be closed.

Council asked that the terminology in the “Application and Permit” be consistent – using “I” instead of “applicant.”

Council asked that the second #13 on the “Application and Permit” reflect the same language in the policy.

Clinton Bryan asked if the park usage policy is something that could have gone before the park committee.

Betty Barnes said yes.

Clinton Bryan noted that the last weekend a lot of people were using the skatepark and it was covered with litter. He suggested adding an additional garbage can, anchored on a concrete slab, at the park and providing signage about not littering.

Laura Mann said she was also at the park this last weekend and was concerned about the profanity being used.

Betty Barnes said she will talk to Tony Domish about doing some public relations work on Friday nights. She said she feels it is important to establish the reward of pizza before it can be taken away.

John Newman said he feels the skatepark is a wonderful facility and is an attribute of the city.

Catherine Kiewit moved to adopt the “Daubenspeck Park Usage Policy” and “Application and Permit” with corrections. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Draft Snow Plow Policy – Review and Adoption

Council members said they like the layout of the snow plow policy.

Laura Mann moved to adopt the snow plow policy. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Betty Barnes said the policy will be included in the fall newsletter.

Jan Brending said information can also be provided through public ads on the radio and newspaper.

Mayor’s Update and Council Comments

Civil Service Commission

Betty Barnes noted the city is looking for a volunteer to serve as Bingen’s representative on the Civil Service Commission. She asked John Newman if he might be interested in the position. She said the commission meets once a month on a Thursday evening at 6 p.m.

Steuben Street Landscape Maintenance

Betty Barnes reported that Kaitlin Cray has started working on the landscape beds and expects to come back a couple more weekends.

Sandi Dickey asked if the city is going to place any bark on the beds.

Betty Barnes said possibly.

Community Service

The city council discussed involving the high school students in community service in Bingen including mentoring kids at the skatepark.

Betty Barnes said she can let Scott Kasenga know there are opportunities for community service in Bingen.

Park Committee Meeting

Clinton Bryan said he would like to hold a park committee meeting.

Betty Barnes asked that Clinton Bryan and Catherine Kiewit come up with a date for the meeting and let her know.

Skatepark Funding

Betty Barnes said the city received notification by e-mail that the Firstenburg Family Foundation is providing a \$5,000 grant for the skatepark. She said she has talked to Dale Connell at Riverview Community Bank and it is possible the city will get a grant from them also. Barnes said she has also talked to Rick McComas, Klickitat County Sheriff about funding for the skatepark.

Rick McComas said it might be possible to use monies from the drug investigation fund for such things as lighting or fencing which would help deter crime. He said he is looking at approximately \$1,000.

Betty Barnes said the city will not be fencing the site and that lighting would be the preference.

Laura Mann asked if it was possible to receive \$1,000 for 2011 and an additional \$1,000 for 2012.

Rick McComas said it might be possible. He said he is also researching parks and recreation grants through the state for possible funding.

Rick McComas said the sheriff's office will have a presence at the Port on the 4th of July. He said there will be 12 officers on duty that night.

Laura Mann said she was not aware that the county had a dog program. She asked if McComas could describe program.

Rick McComas said the county has had drug canines since the late 1980's. He said the county spends approximately \$40,000 per year for the dog, training and maintenance. McComas said the county dog has been involved with the school in locker searches and education programs. He said the dog program can provide support to the city if requested. McComas said the county has six different dogs serving since the late 1980's. He said the county does not have a 2-phase dog – the county's dog only serves as a drug dog. McComas said he was sorry that the Bingen-White Salmon program was disbanded. He said the county's dog, a black lab, is named "Jet" and is 3 years old.

Association of Washington Cities Small City Advisory Committee

Betty Barnes noted that Jan Brending has been appointed to serve on the Association of Washington Cities Small City Advisory Committee.

Crosswalk Installation

Guillermo Fisch said he would like to see a pedestrian crossing installed between McDonalds and Dickey Farms at approximately milepost 66.

Jan Brending said the issue has been raised with the Washington Department of Transportation in the past but it doesn't hurt to make the request again.

The council agreed to send a letter to the Washington Department of Transportation requesting authorization to install a sidewalk at approximately milepost 66.

New Restaurant

Betty Barnes said a new restaurant serving breakfast sandwiches and lunch may be opening up at the old Bingen Station location.

Severance Package Costs

Betty Barnes reviewed her e-mail to the Dave Poucher expressing concerns that the City of Bingen should not be incurring any law enforcement costs related to the severance package provided to Lori

Kreps or costs associated with consultants that are hired to help White Salmon out. Barnes said she does not believe those are Bingen issues.

Catherine Kiewit asked Tad Connors if there are any legal issues.

Tad Connors said that if the costs require a budget amendment then Bingen would address it at that time.

Guillermo Fisch said he feels that it is part of doing business and therefore Bingen should pay its share.

Betty Barnes said the severance package was not part of a contract.

Tad Connors said that if White Salmon can stay within the budget okayed by Bingen then it would not be Bingen's business.

Fire Department Request for Barbecue Grill

Clinton Bryan said the fire department would like to purchase a nice fire grill for their use.

Betty Barnes said she would not like to see the funds from Fire District 3 used to purchase a grill. She suggested that the firefighters volunteer for the Spring Festival pancake breakfast and see if funds from the breakfast could be used to purchase the grill. Barnes said she would like to see the funds from Fire District 3 saved for big equipment purchases.

Guillermo Fisch said he will donate \$100 towards the purchase of a grill.

Council members discussed the purchase of a grill and suggested looking into obtaining donations for the purchase.

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 April 5, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 13031-13065 totaling \$90201.92. Current – \$72551.45; Street - \$6977.92; Water - \$4917.52; Sewer - \$1196.26; Treatment Plant - \$2848.77; Sewer Construction & Maintenance - \$1710.00.

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 April 5, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (3/31/2011) 13029-13030 totaling \$807.77. Current – \$807.77.

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 April 5, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (03/31/2011) EFT, 13026-13028, totaling \$19,674.85. Current – \$8175.46; Street - \$2788.14; Water - \$2708.74; Sewer - \$410.53; Treatment Plant - \$5591.98.

At 9:15 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor