

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 7, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Laura Mann, Guillermo Fisch, Clinton Bryan, Catherine Kiewit, Sandi Dickey. Council members absent: Rosi Salguero (student council member). City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Tova Cochrane, Dan Richardson, Ron Schultz, Randy Knowles, Jim Smith, Linda Schneider

Public Comment

Linda Schneider, Washington Gorge Action Programs

Linda Schneider provided a brief overview of the Guided Path facility located in Bingen. She said the facility contains six units of transitional housing and an emergency shelter. Schneider said two the transitional housing units are an old trailer and dilapidated house. She said Gorge Action Programs has received a grant from the Housing Trust Fund for \$235,000 in addition to funding of \$100,000 from Klickitat County to replace the two units with two new duplex units which will be considered permanent housing not transitional housing.

Jan Brending noted that the property is zoned Multi-Family Residential and the proposal is allowed within the zoning.

Catherine Kiewit asked if Gorge Action Programs could provide some information on available resources that could be given to individuals.

Linda Schneider said she will provide the information to city hall.

Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the May 17, 2011 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 2, 10th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read as follows: “ He said however that he does not want to put the city in a hardship to build it.”

Page 3, 3rd paragraph should read as follows: “Tony Domish reviewed his recommendations for no parking and paint striping of N. Ash Street including installing a center line from Steuben to Oak, marking the corner from Oak to the first driveway on the west side with yellow paint (no parking), marking the area where the fire hydrant is located on the east side with yellow paint (from fire hydrant to driveway), and marking the area between the 2nd and 3rd driveways on the west side with yellow paint (no parking).”

Page 3, 9th paragraph, 1st sentence should read as follows: “Betty Barnes said the civil service commissioners are drafting a letter to be sent about what was an unreasonable event.”

Page 4, 8th paragraph, 1st sentence should read as follows: “Domish said he was recently at the park where a full court basketball game was taking place.”

Page 4, 9th paragraph should read as follows: “Domish thanked the mayor and council members for acknowledging the work of Officer Harvey.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the meeting minutes of the May 3, 2011 regular council meeting as corrected. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Underwood Conservation District

Annexation into Underwood Conservation District – Tova Cochrane

Tova Cochrane provided an overview of the Underwood Conservation District’s mission and goals. She said she is asking the city if it would like to annex into the Underwood Conservation District. Cochrane said the District includes White Salmon but that the City of Stevenson and most of Bingen is not included. She said the District has worked in Bingen with elementary students at Jewett Creek.

Betty Barnes asked if the district has taxing powers.

Cochrane said yes but the District has not used the taxing power in its 70 years of history. She said the current board does not want to pursue establishing a tax and that it does not make sense financially.

Jan Brending noted that the area of Bingen not in the District appears to be overlaid on the map incorrectly because none of SDS Lumber was in the city limits of Bingen as of 1941. She said the area also shows that part of the Port of Klickitat would be in the city limits and that it is entirely located in the county. Brending noted that the Washington State Conservation Commission would be the agency to establish the boundary to be annexed.

Laura Mann asked if a landowner was building on a hillside and had questions about water runoff could they come to the District for advice.

Cochrane said yes. She said the District has no regulatory authority and can not mandate requirements. She said that in the past a landowner may be referred to the District by a regulatory agency.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the District would benefit for increasing its size.

Cochrane said no. She said the desire to have Bingen and Stevenson come into the District was mainly related to managing its boundary and developing a broader base of support.

Catherine Kiewit thanked Cochrane for the information. She said she is not ready to make a decision

Betty Barnes suggested it might be appropriate to hold a public hearing at the first meeting on July on the issue.

Laura Mann said she would like to know what the public has to say.

There was a consensus of the council to hold a public hearing on July 19th regarding a proposal to annex Bingen into the Underwood Conservation District.

Marking Stormwater Drains – Dan Richardson

Dan Richardson reviewed the information provided to the city council regarding marking stormwater drains in Bingen. He said the state denied the District's application but he is still willing to do the project if funding can be provided. Richardson said he has provided cost information for marking 20 "high profile" drains and for marking all the drains on Steuben. He said the cost for 20 drains is approximately \$260 and marking all the drains would cost \$746.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the District would resubmit the grant application next year.

Richardson said he does not know.

Guillermo Fisch asked if there is experience or evidence that marking stormwater drains helps people stop throwing things down the drains.

Dan Richardson said he is not aware of any information.

Betty Barnes asked if the project could be done with volunteers.

Dan Richardson said yes.

Jan Brending said that if the project is done in the fall it might be possible to get high school students to volunteer.

Catherine Kiewit said she is supportive of the idea but is not sure that all the drains should be marked. She said the city should consider doing some of the drains.

Laura Mann said she agrees with Catherine.

Dan Richardson said the placards come in bundles of 20.

Laura Mann asked if the city could purchase more if needed.

Richardson said yes. He said he believes it is a worthwhile education project.

Laura Mann said she thinks involving the students is a good idea.

Catherine Kiewit moved to mark 40 stormwater drains with funds to come from Community Development. Guillermo Fisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Klickitat PUD – Update and Rate Discussion

Randy Knowles, Klickitat PUD Commissioner, introduced Jim Smith and Ron Schultz.

Jim Smith provided an extensive overview of the activities of Klickitat PUD. Smith discussed the economic and climate factors that are causing the PUD to consider a rate increase between 6 to 10 percent. He said that if the rate increase is authorized it would be implemented in October 1st at the same time the BPA will implement its rate increase.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the PUD ever lowers its rates.

Jim Smith said no because the BPA does not lower its rates.

Randy Knowles said the PUD has the authority to lower rates.

Ron Schultz said the PUD continues to evaluate energy efficient street lighting. He said they are still evaluating how good they are noting they do save energy but want to see what the failure rate might be. Schultz noted that LEDs are more complicated and cost more.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2011-03-590, Amending the 2011 Budget

Jan Brending provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the 2011 budget. She said unanticipated revenues have been added. Brending said that one of the biggest changes is to the law enforcement budget. She noted there may be additional changes to the law enforcement budget. Brending also noted the city is purchasing more water from White Salmon than was anticipated when the budget was originally adopted.

Laura Mann said that the drop in ending cash from approximately \$165,000 to \$107,000 is significant. She said the Budget Committee is discussing additional revenue generating measures.

Laura Mann said the proposed budget amendments are recommended by the budget committee.

Sandi Dickey moved to approve Ordinance 2011-03-590, Amending the 2011 Budget. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Laura Mann asked how the new assessed valuations will affect Bingen.

Jan Brending said she is aware of the changes and has asked the auditor's office for a new total for Bingen. She said she will provide talking points for the council members as how the new assessments will affect the City of Bingen and property owners.

Outdoor Burning Ban Ordinance – Review and Discussion

Catherine Kiewit moved to table the discussion of the outdoor burning ban ordinance until the June 21st meeting. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Budget

Betty Barnes reviewed the budget amendment process as outlined in the interlocal agreement. She said a memorandum from the two mayors' was sent to the city administrators/city clerk-treasurers requesting a budget amendment. Barnes said Bingen did not get a response from the City of White Salmon.

The council discussed the issue and there was a consensus that Tad Connors will write a letter to Ken Woodrich regarding the issue and that the interlocal agreement needs to be followed.

Hood River Bridge Toll Increase

Guillermo Fisch asked if the council should discuss the proposed toll increase by the Port of Hood River.

Jan Brending said the issue was reviewed at the recent Regional Transportation Policy Committee meeting. She said the Port of Hood River is proposing to increase the toll from \$0.75 to \$1.00 with the discounted price going from approximately \$0.60 to \$0.75. Brending said the Port believes the toll is needed to for ongoing maintenance of the bridge.

Brending said the new bridge was also discussed the recent committee meeting. She said there will be a review of the documents that are in current production in the fall. Brending said there is no more money to move the project forward though it is on a number of lists for future funding. She said that in the past

local communities agreed to support a toll increase that would be dedicated towards funding a new bridge. Brending said the Port of Hood River has not been in support of such a proposal.

Skatepark Fundraising

Betty Barnes reported that \$135 was raised by selling bottled water and taking donations. She said the Spring Fest committee refunded the \$25 booth fee. Barnes said the Spring Fest committee appreciated Bingen’s involvement.

Committee and Staff Reports

Pool Bucks

Jan Brending said she will be purchasing pools bucks for Bingen residents. She said that information will be included in the June newsletter. Brending said she will also post the information around town and send a news release.

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 7, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT, 13164-13203 totaling \$149820.44. Current – \$10407.63; Street - \$2460.31; Fire Equipment Reserve – \$67.34; Water - \$7478.98; Sewer - \$1061.00; Treatment Plant - \$3652.32; 1995 Bond Redemption - \$17550.00; Public Works Trust Fund Loan - \$107142.86.

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 7, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (5/18/2011, 5/24/2011, 5/31/2011) 13156-13157, 13161-13162 totaling \$1234.24. Current – \$1234.24.

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 7, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (05/31/2011) EFT, 13159-13160, totaling \$19383.04. Current – \$8046.44; Street - \$2788.29; Water - \$2709.29; Sewer - \$410.67; Treatment Plant - \$5428.35.

At 9:45 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor