

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Laura Mann, Clinton Bryan, Catherine Kiewit, Sandi Dickey. Council members absent: Guillermo Fisch. Deputy Clerk Dena Riggelman and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Charlie and Joan Long, Tony Domish, Rosi Salguero and Sverre Bakke.

Recognition of Charles Long, Civil Service Commissioner

Betty Barnes said she would like to thank Charlie Long for his service to the city and provided him a certificate of appreciation. Barnes said the city appreciates all the time Charlie Long has put into the Civil Service position.

Recognition of Student Council Members

Betty Barnes said that Adri Benitez, one of the student council members, started a new job and was not able to attend the meeting tonight. Barnes provided a certificate of appreciation to Rosi Salguero and thanked her for her service to the city. Barnes said that maybe Rosi could be a student council member next year since she will still be in high school.

Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the June 7, 2011 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 2, 5th paragraph, 1st sentence should read as follows: “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.”

Page 2, 8th paragraph, should read as follows: “Catherine Kiewit asked if the District would benefit for increasing its size.

Page 2, 9th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read as follows: “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.”

Page 2, 13th paragraph, should read as follows: “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.”

Page 3, 16th paragraph should read as follows: “Jim Smith provided an extensive overview of the activities of Klickitat PUD. Jim discussed the economic and climate factors that are causing the PUD to consider a rate increase between 6 to 10 percent.”

Page 3, 17th paragraph should read as follows: “Catherine Kiewit asked if the PUD ever lowers its rates.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the meeting minutes of the June 7, 2011 regular council meeting as corrected. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Outdoor Burning Ban Ordinance – Review and Discussion

Betty Barnes said the City of Bingen’s burn ban is up for review to decide if the language should be changed regarding the use of patio fire pits in the city limits. Barnes said when the city adopted the burn ban it was because the state does not allow fires within 50 feet of a structure and that there are very few places in Bingen where a fire would be allowed.

Catherine Kiewit said she does not see anything about the burning of wood in the burn ban.

Betty Barnes said that the ordinance states what can be burned-- charcoal, natural gas and propane.

Laura Mann said she understands the burn ban to say that outdoor patio pits can not be used in Bingen.

Clinton Bryan said that if charcoal is used in the patio pits, then they could be used.

Tad Connors said the 50 foot radius is in the general permit section of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) so the burn ban does not apply to BBQ’s.

There was a consensus of the council to keep the burn ban as is.

Water Use Efficiency Report – Review and Discussion

Betty Barnes said the city is required to put out an annual water quality report. Barnes said that unfortunately the amount of water leakage has increased even though the city has taken measures to fix leaks that were found last year. She said she is taking full responsibility for not finding out about the increase in leakage earlier but that actions are being taken to try to find where the loss is occurring, including having White Salmon test the meter at Highway 14, getting assistance from Evergreen Rural and installing master meters at certain key focal points on the water system. Barnes said the individual with Evergreen is currently on vacation but will make contact with David Spratt when he returns.

Clinton Bryan said that we need to aggressively attack this issue now and that the water loss is totally unacceptable.

Laura Mann said she is not sure of the accuracy of the data. She said some of the loss could be due to errors in the data.

Betty Barnes said that Jan Brending has made a new spreadsheet and asked if council members would like to receive it monthly in their council packets. The consensus was yes.

Catherine Kiewit said she likes the focus of the four sections on the water report. She said it is a good use of our resources and she would like to get to the bottom of the issue before the end of the year.

Betty Barnes said the city should have more answers by the next meeting.

State of WA Intergovernmental Agreement for Purchasing Cooperative – Authorization to Sign

Betty Barnes said this is on the P-cards through the state of Washington and would be used like a VISA card to buy things for the city. She said the cards could be used to buy things at places like Napa so that only people who are authorized a card could be buying supplies.

Catherine Kiewit said she had a question on the 2-year period but likes how it would help to purchase the new radios that needed to be ordered. She said that if the city could save the \$400 that it would cost to become a member than the city should do it but if not then the city should wait till January to apply for the card.

Catherine Kiewit said that in reading the contract, it says that for first time cooperative members joining after June 30th the fee may be prorated based on 6 month intervals, January – June, June – December.

Tony Domish said that he believes this program is for being able to purchase items from state contracts to get a discount by buying in bulk. He said he did not believe it had a credit card involved with the program. Domish said the City of White Salmon saved 60% by going to the State Department of Printing to get all their printing done.

Catherine Kiewit made a motion to table this item until the July 5th council meeting so that Jan Brending could answer some questions. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

The council would like to know what kinds of items can be purchased, the benefits of being in the program, where you can use it, how long before the cards could be used, would it be done before it was time to order the radios, is there any interest associated with using the card and would the pro-rate for first time users apply to the city.

New Assessed Valuations and Impacts

Betty Barnes said that Jan Brending has written out some information on what the Klickitat County Assessors Office valuation for 2012 will be and how it might affect the City of Bingen.

Laura Mann said that Jan's information is an estimate of what might happen.

There was a discussion on how the levy rate will go up to keep the levy dollar amount the same.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Budget

Betty Barnes said a budget meeting was held with Dave Poucher, Leanna Johnson, Jan Brending and herself. She said the meeting went pretty good but that White Salmon could not agree on the contract services for the consultant to be taken out of the budget. Barnes said she does not believe that the City of Bingen should have to pay for that service. She said that the White Salmon budget includes all the cost

for software in the general fund which makes the overhead for the police budget more. Barnes said the utilities and building permit portion of the software should be separated out into the proper funds and then the rest should be placed in the general budget. She said that they talked about the budget providing for 90% of Judi Culp's wages in the police budget. Barnes said she would like to see Judi doing other duties that were promised to Bingen.

Barnes said that after the meeting she got a call from Dave Poucher who said that White Salmon would remove the consulting costs out of the police budget.

4th of July

Betty Barnes said that there was a meeting about July 4th that included representatives from White Salmon, Bingen, Port of Klickitat, Bingen-White Salmon Police and the Klickitat County Sherriff's Office. She said everyone is happy that there will be a safe place to set of fireworks again.

Laura Mann asked about the cities ordinance because she had questions on the fact that no fireworks are allowed to be set off in Bingen but yet she can still hear them being set off.

Tony Domish said that Betty Barnes and he drove through Bingen and he believes that where most of the fireworks are being set off is on tribal land and that there is nothing that can be done about it. He said the noise ordinance could come into play.

Clinton Bryan asked where the city right-of-way was at Pine Street because he thought maybe some of the fireworks were being set off in the right-of-way instead of on tribal land.

Laura Mann said that where the pine tree was cut down was on the right-of-way.

Tad Connors said that it could also be an easement instead of a right-of-way.

Betty Barnes asked if maybe the city should post "fireworks prohibited" signs on the city's road signs.

Catherine Kiewit said that maybe the signage could say that the public is welcome to go to the Port on the 4th of July to set off the fireworks.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the city could go talk to the tribal people and see if the city could post signs on their property about fireworks prohibited in the City of Bingen and details on using the Port for lighting off fireworks on July 4th.

Betty Barnes said that we should put the "fireworks prohibited" signs out and issue a press release reminding the public that fireworks are not allowed in the city of Bingen.

Tad Connors said that if the city puts out signs then they must be placed on city road signs, not on state signs or PUD poles.

Public Hearing – 6-Year Street Program

Betty Barnes said that there will be a public hearing on July 5th for the 6-Year Street Program. She suggested that instead of having a committee meeting, that maybe the committee email any comments to the City of Bingen.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the updated version could then be emailed to Sandi Dickey and herself for review before the meeting.

Police Incident

Betty Barnes said that Tony Domish was sworn in as the new police chief on June 20th.

Tony Domish said the police department responded to a suspicious package that was delivered to a local business. He said the responding officers decided to close the building and re-route traffic and waited for the Portland bomb squad to arrive. Domish said the suspicious package turned out to be just correspondence.

Domish said that there would be a debriefing of everyone involved on Thursday, June 23rd at 1p.m. at the White Salmon fire hall.

Clinton Bryan said he would like to have an emergency management meeting for plans to be in place for any future incidents.

Tony Domish said that probably due to the high police presence because of the jail fundraiser, there was not one call about Springfest. He said that the jail raised \$1600.

Catherine Kiewit asked Tony Domish if the time officers worked the fundraiser counted as overtime. Domish said two of the officers were reserves and that he and Judi Culp also covered the booth. Domish said it is a good point and would need to be considered for future fundraising events.

Laura Mann said she would like the City of Bingen to send thank you letters to all the businesses that donated water for the skate park fundraiser and a thank you letter to the Springfest Committee for donating the booth fee.

Betty Barnes said that this Friday, June 24th, there would be free pizza in the park for children at 4p.m. for keeping the park clean and free from vandalism.

Tony Domish said he would be on his yearly family vacation from June 24th to July 9th.

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 21, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 13208-13235 totaling \$11321.07. Current – \$5338.04; Street - \$1094.70; Water - \$2168.67; Sewer - \$345.48; Treatment Plant - \$2374.18.

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 21, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (06/15/2011) EFT, 13163, 13204-13209, totaling \$14826.16. Current – \$6770.32; Street - \$1735.99; Water - \$1688.33; Sewer - \$260.87; Treatment Plant - \$4370.65.

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

City Clerk

Mayor