

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 16, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Laura Mann, Sandi Dickey, Catherine Kiewit, Clinton Bryan, Maria Perez. City Administrator and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Tony Domish, Sverre Bakke

Oath of Office – Maria Perez

Maria Perez was sworn in as a city council member by Betty Barnes, Mayor.

Approval of Minutes – August 2, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the August 2, 2011 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 4, 13th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read as follows: “She said both the police and fire departments showed up to participate in the activities.”

Page 5, 1st paragraph, 3rd sentence should read as follows: “Barnes said that after a conversation with Jason Spadero of SDS Lumber that to secure the future of the crossing it was in the best interest to remove the gate.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2011 regular council meeting as corrected. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Betty Barnes and Sandi Dickey said they wanted to clarify the discussion regarding the police clerk position. When the police clerk position was first created there was no stipulation that it was a part-time position. However, Bingen was told the police clerk position would not count as the 7th officer. Bingen was also told that the 2011 budget provided for billing 20% of the clerk position to the police budget and the remainder (80%) would be billed to other departments.

Reduction in Utility Billing – Wyers Haskel Davies & Dunn PC

Jan Brending said that the business office of Wyers Haskel Davies & Dunn PC located at 218 E. Steuben had a water leak on June 27. She said Tunis Wyers has requested a reduction in the utility due to the leak. Brending said the leak has been repaired. She noted that the water usage in July, after the leak was repaired, remains similar to the usage in June. Brending said the facility does irrigate in the summer. Brending recommended reducing the utility bill for June by a total of \$54.00 (\$24.00 for water usage and \$30.00 for sewer overage).

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize a reduction in the utility billing for 218 E. Steuben for the month of June in the amount of \$54.00 (\$24.00 for water usage and \$30.00 for sewer overage). Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously.

The city council asked staff to present options for an ordinance addressing water leak and utility billing reductions at the first meeting in October.

Small Works Roster – Street Trees, Irrigation and Electrical

Jan Brending said the city sent out bid information to four companies for the small works roster bid for replacing the street trees and repairing the irrigation and electrical for the damage that occurred on the south side of the 400 block of West Steuben. She said the city received one bid: Roe’s Landscape Service in the amount of \$2,633.75. Brending recommended awarding the contract to Roe’s Landscape Service. She noted that the costs for the repairs are covered by funds received by an insurance claim and that the costs will budgeted in the street fund.

Clinton Bryan moved to award the small works roster contract for replacement of trees and repair of irrigation and electrical to Roe’s Landscape Service in the amount of \$2,633.75. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Small Works Roster – Variable Frequency Drive, Dry Creek

Jan Brending said the city sent out bid information to five companies for the small works roster bid for installing variable frequency drive on the Dry Creek pump. She said the city received one bid: Coburn Electric in the amount of \$4,332.20. Brending recommended awarding the contract to Coburn Electric. She noted the fund should come from the Water Construction and Maintenance Fund.

Laura Mann moved to award the small works roster contract for installing a variable frequency drive on the Dry Creek pump to Coburn Electric in the amount of \$4,332.20. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the size of the projects was the reason why the city was not receiving more bids.

Jan Brending said most likely. She said that larger projects should receive more attention. Brending said several companies did get more information for the bid for installing the variable frequency drive.

Proposed White Salmon Budget Amendment – Discussion and Action

Betty Barnes provided an overview of a meeting to discuss the White Salmon budget with Catherine Kiewit, Mark Peppel, Dave Poucher, Pat Munyan, Jan Brending and herself in attendance. She said she also attended the White Salmon budget committee meeting on Monday evening. Barnes said members of the White Salmon budget committee had concerns similar to Bingen's. She said the committee does not feel that the budget amendment should be rushed. Barnes said White Salmon has union negotiations scheduled for tomorrow which may help resolve questions about the budget. She said it was recommended that the two city budget committees meet jointly and then advise the two city councils. Barnes said the two cities have an interlocal agreement that spells out how the budget process works. She said she is recommending approving an extension to the contract requirement as to when the budget amendment should be approved.

Laura Mann asked if the tone of the White Salmon budget committee meeting was that the budget should be reduced.

Betty Barnes said yes.

Catherine Kiewit said that she came out of the budget meeting she attended feeling that Dave Poucher felt the budget could not be smaller but that Pat Munyan felt it could be. She said it seems likely that White Salmon will not have settled the union contract when Bingen needs to make a decision on the proposed budget amendment. Kiewit said she wants to make sure the budget process for 2012 stays on track.

Laura Mann moved to send a letter to the City of White Salmon approving an extension of the requirements of the interlocal agreement regarding both city council's approval of budget amendments to September 21. Maria Perez seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Water/Sewer Committee Report and Recommendations

Betty Barnes said the Bingen Water/Sewer Committee met on August 8th. She said Bingen's committee will meet jointly with White Salmon's committee on August 22 at 6:00 p.m. in Bingen. Barnes said the Bingen's committee members discussed White Salmon's suggestion that Bingen take over the sewer system for both cities and that White Salmon take over the water system for both cities.

Laura Mann said she had the impression that the suggestion by White Salmon included Bingen's water rights. She said she believes Bingen has no intention of giving up its water rights. Mann said the committee identified 3 topics for discussion at the joint committee meeting: the fish plant, developing a wastewater plan, and the ERU rate for 2012. She said that the committee is recommending Bingen send a letter to White Salmon saying that discussing separating the systems out between the two cities is not of importance to Bingen as this time.

City council members discussed the status of interlocal agreements between the two cities related to water and wastewater. It was noted that the interlocal agreement establishing a rate for purchasing water has expired and that the interlocal agreement establishing an ERU rate will expire at the end of the year.

Laura Mann suggested talking to White Salmon about getting the interlocal agreements extended.

Laura Mann said she spoke to Adrian Bradford regarding White Salmon's proposal for the water and wastewater systems. She said that Bradford said there has been no discussion of water rights and does not think that Bingen would give them up.

Betty Barnes said she recommends the City of Bingen send the city of White Salmon a letter saying they are not interested in discussing White Salmon's water and wastewater proposal at this time due to more pressing matters.

Laura Mann moved to send a letter to the City of White Salmon stating that Bingen is not interested in pursuing discussion, at this time, of the proposal provided by White Salmon to have Bingen operate and maintain the wastewater system for both cities and White Salmon operate and maintain the water systems for both cities due to more pending issues and that the City of Bingen would like to review expiration dates for current interlocal agreements related to water and wastewater and make sure they are extended appropriately. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Reports – June and July 2011

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2011.

Laura Mann moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for June 2011. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for July 2011.

Laura Mann moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for July 2011. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

Water Use – Discussion

Betty Barnes reviewed a memorandum prepared by David Spratt regarding the status of investigating the distribution system leakage (DSL) issue. She said the city may need to bring in a professional to provide a higher level of technical advice.

The council asked that the communications problem on the Highway 141 PRV be made a priority along with checking all meters and the math related to calculating the leakage numbers.

Laura Mann moved to authorize spending up to \$10,000 to address the distribution system leakage (DSL) issue. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update

Concert in the Park

Betty Barnes said the recent Concert in the Park went well. She said Fire District 3 and the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department also participated in the activities and that she was able to do a little bit more fundraising for the skatepark.

Skatepark Fundraising – Huckleberry Festival

Betty Barnes suggested council members could volunteer to man a booth at the Huck Fest and to put out "tip" cans or the city could have its own booth.

The council discussed fundraising opportunities at Huckleberry Festival. The council agreed to have its own booth selling bottled water, holding a 50/50 raffle, and a duck derby.

Greg Colt Thank You Letter

Catherine Kiewit asked that Greg Colt be sent a thank you letter for donating two benches to the city.

Poison Oak – Elm & Steuben

Catherine Kiewit noted that there is a poison oak bush growing in the sidewalk at Elm and Steuben.

Shrubbery Growth – First Baptist Church

Catherine Kiewit noted that the shrubbery at the First Baptist Church is growing over the sidewalk and prevents pedestrians from walking on the sidewalks.

Committee and Staff Reports

Budget Committee

A budget committee meeting to review proposed amendments to the 2011 budget and to discuss the 2012 budget process will be held on August 26 at 12:30 p.m.

The budget committee agreed it would prefer to meet jointly with White Salmon's budget committee meeting on August 31.

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 August 16, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT, 14607-14632 totaling \$80047.26. Current –

\$72850.55; Street - \$743.34; Community Development - \$910.65; Water - \$82535.84 Sewer - \$286.08; Treatment Plant - \$2720.80.

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 August 16, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (08/15/2011) EFT, 14601-14604, 14605, totaling \$12722.07. Current – \$5172.40; Street - \$1710.74; Water - \$1718.26; Sewer - \$265.32; Treatment Plant - \$3855.34.

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 August 16, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 13328-13329 (7/31/2011) totaling \$1067.71. Current –\$1067.71.

At 8:45 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor