

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 6, 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.

Approval of Minutes – August 16, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the August 16, 2011 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 8th paragraph, 3rd sentence should read as follows: “Brening said the leak has been repaired.”

Page 2, 7th paragraph, 6th sentence should read as follows: “She said it was recommended that the two city council budget committees meet jointly and then advise the two city councils.”

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

Gorge Heritage Museum – Request for Partial Closure of Maple Street

Betty Barnes said the Gorge Heritage Museum has requested permission to close a portion of the 200 block of North Maple Street on Saturday, September 24. She said that in 2010 the museum made a similar request where the council approved allowing the closure of the north bound lane of North Maple Street adjacent to the museum property. Barnes said September 24 is National Museum Day and the museum will be hosting a variety of activities including a small classic car show.

Clinton Bryan moved to authorize the closure of the north bound lane of North Maple Street adjacent to the museum property on Saturday, September 24. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2011-04-591, Amending the 2011 Budget

Jan Brening presented a proposed amendment to the 2011 budget. She said the budget committee has reviewed the proposed amendments.

The city council and staff discussed the funding included in the Park Construction and Maintenance Fund.

Laura Mann moved to pass proposed Ordinance 2011-04-591 amending the 2011 budget. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2011-003, Adopting Administrative Policy and Procedures for Purchasing Cards

Jan Brening provided an overview of the proposed administrative policies and procedures for purchasing cards. The council and staff discussed the policy including the section providing for certain merchant category restrictions.

Betty Barnes said the policy and procedures can be amended if necessary in the future.

There was a consensus of the council to make the following changes:

Section 3.3.1, eliminate the last sentence “Supervisors may establish lower limits.” as this is provided for in Section 3.3.2.

Eliminate #9 in the “Agreement to Accept U.S. Bank One Card.”

Laura Mann moved to adopt Resolution 2011-003, Adopting Administrative Policy and Procedure for Purchasing Cards as corrected. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed White Salmon Budget Amendment – Review, Discussion and Action

Betty Barnes provided an overview of the White Salmon budget information provided to the Bingen city council. She said the information includes several scenarios for the law enforcement budget including a budget with no cuts and a series of budgets providing for different levels of reductions.

Laura Mann provided a review of the discussion that took place at the joint budget committee meeting. She noted that White Salmon's union agreement for uniformed employees has not been signed. Mann said White Salmon knew that the two budget committees could not come to an agreement with the union agreement not being signed. She said it was frustrating because no decision could be made. Mann noted that the police department has received a letter of resignation from an officer effective December 1. She said it was stated that the officer could leave earlier and there may be some cost savings to the department.

Betty Barnes said she is concerned that if the officer leaves that officer overtime costs will go up so there will not be any cost savings.

Catherine Kiewit said White Salmon is resistant to the police clerk position being eliminated. She said the police chief provided a list of responsibilities that the clerk does.

Laura Mann said Mark Peppel did not make any comments at the meeting.

Catherine Kiewit said she did inquire about the "Personally Assigned Vehicle" policy and could monies be saved if officers weren't driving the vehicles home. She said the committee was told that question could not be answered because it is tied to the union contract. Kiewit said the committee was told that settling the union contract could take until the end of the year.

Betty Barnes noted that further discussion of the White Salmon law enforcement budget might take place after the executive session later in the evening.

Request to Dispose of Stored Belongings

Betty Barnes said the city is storing belongings that were removed from the city's right-of-way when a tenant was evicted from a property in Bingen. She said she is requesting that the belongings be disposed of by contacting Second Hand Rose to see if they are interested in any of the belongings and then hauling what is not usable to the transfer site.

Clinton Bryan moved to authorize disposal of belongings stored by the city by contacting Second Hand Rose to see if they are interested in any of the items and then hauling what is not usable to the transfer site. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Request to Dispose of Lost and Found Items

Betty Barnes said she is requesting that items that have been found at the park as of August 29 be donated to Second Hand Rose.

Council members discussed the lost and found items and suggested that something be put in the next utility billing to provide a last chance to claim the items before they are donated to Second Hand Rose.

Clinton Bryan moved to direct staff to include a notice in the next utility billing that items lost at the park can be claimed at City Hall or they will be donated to Second Hand Rose. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

The council agreed that a policy of handling lost and found items should be adopted by the council.

Skatepark Fundraising Discussion

Betty Barnes reviewed the status of the fundraising events for the skatepark that will take place at the Huckleberry Festival. She said the events include a 50/50 Raffle and Pluck-A-Duck for a prize.

Sandi Dickey reviewed the donations and sponsors that have come forward to assist with fundraising for the skatepark.

Klickitat County Solid Waste Grant Proposal

Laura Mann said she received notice from the Klickitat County Solid Waste department that they were submitting a grant proposal for the 2012-13 Coordinated Prevent Grant. She reviewed the five tasks included in the grant proposal.

There was a consensus of the council to request that the grant proposal include publishing the survey results and providing public outreach documents to the cities for distribution.

Old Business

Water Usage Update

Betty Barnes reviewed the memorandum dated September 1, 2011 providing an update on the water usage issue. She said she has spoken with Jason Spadero, SDS Lumber, about the utility billing error. She said he feels it would be reasonable for SDS to pay for water that was used. Barnes said staff has provided council the information regarding what was billed and what should have been billed for 2010 and 2011. She said that for staff to go back and calculate the billing back to 2004 could cost as much as the city would recoup.

Jan Brending noted that the city might be limited to recovering only 3 years worth of billing.

Catherine Kiewit said it was the city's error and does not feel that the city could charge SDS for the back fees.

The council and staff discussed the billing issue.

Tad Connors said the city council should not be concerned with the issue of "gifting" or setting a precedent in this case. He said whatever the council decides he would like a hold harmless statement for both sides written up by SDS's attorney.

Clinton Bryan said he is a little disappointed that the problem was not caught sooner. He said that anything SDS agrees to pay would be great. Bryan said it is the city's responsibility to read the meters correctly.

Sandi Dickey said she feels that recovering 1 ½ years of billing is fair.

Clinton Bryan moved to request repayment for 1 ½ years of back billing in the amount of \$21,658. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update

Washington Department of Transportation – New Crosswalk

Betty Barnes said the Washington Department of Transportation has responded to the city's request for a new crosswalk in the area of Dickey Farms and McDonalds by finding that a new crosswalk is not warranted in the area.

Letter to Regina Ciarfella

Laura Mann noted that an error has been made in the letter to Regina Ciarfella regarding the sewer issue at the Solstice Restaurant. She said that the total amount to be covered should be \$900 for a 24-month period -- \$450 per year.

A letter noting the error will be sent to Regina Ciarfella.

Committee and Staff Reports

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Tony Domish said the department has been very busy. He said he is concerned about the weather as it is predicted to be very warm for the weekend. Domish said the Huckleberry Festival committee has agreed to pay a for a little bit of overtime for staffing the festival in addition to paying for a security individual for both Friday and Saturday.

Tony Domish reported that Alan Brandt was home for the weekend from the Washington Academy. He said Brandt will graduate in December. Domish said Brandt is doing well and should be commended for finding and pursuing the program on his own.

The city council adjourned at 9:05 p.m. for a short break and resumed at 9:10 p.m.

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 September 6, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 14637-14677 totaling \$28018.54: Current – \$6873.74; Street - \$4267.22; Fire Equipment Reserve – 318.91; Water - \$8649.97; Sewer - \$810.97; Treatment Plant - \$5576.82; Treatment Plant Replacement - \$1,520.91.

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 September 6, 2011. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (08/31/2011) EFT, 14633-14636,

totaling \$20660.06. Current – \$8713.56; Street - \$2904.50; Water - \$2842.96; Sewer - \$432.72; Treatment Plant - \$5766.32.

Executive Session

At 9:10 p.m., Betty Barnes announced the city council will meet for 20 minutes in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation.

At 9:30 p.m., the city council resumed regular session and announced the executive session will continue for an additional 35 minutes.

At 10:05 p.m., the city council resumed regular session and announced the executive session will continue for an additional 25 minutes.

At 10:30 p.m., the city council resumed regular sessions.

Proposed White Salmon Budget Amendment

Laura Mann moved to notify the City of White Salmon, in writing, that it is willing to contribute \$279,234 including overhead towards the law enforcement budget for 2011. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Betty Barnes reviewed a proposal by White Salmon to have White Salmon officers patrol Buck Creek and to have the water department pay for those costs.

Pool Bucks

The city council discussed the issue of the pool being closed for a number of days this summer and whether or not Bingen should request a refund for the pool bucks that have not been used.

There was a consensus of the council to request that the pool bucks be carried over to next year or if that is not possible to request a refund.

At 10:35 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor