

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 3, 2012

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

Oath of Office

Maria Perez and Clinton Bryan were sworn in as city council members by Betty Barnes, Mayor.

Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2011

Changes to the minutes of the December 20, 2011 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 8th paragraph, 1st sentence should read as follows: “Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2011 regular council meeting as corrected.”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2011 regular council meeting as corrected. Maria Perez seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2012-01-598, Amending Bingen Municipal Code 5.10 – Utility Taxes

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing.

Betty Barnes provided an overview of the proposed changes to Bingen Municipal Code 5.10 – Utility Taxes. She said the proposed changes are in response to a request by NW Natural that was presented at the last council meeting.

Betty Barnes closed the hearing.

Sandi Dickey moved to approve Ordinance 2012-01-598, amending Bingen Municipal Code 5.10, Utility Taxes. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

2011 Law Enforcement Budget

The city council discussed the 2011 law enforcement budget noting that White Salmon has budgeted to receive revenue from the city of Bingen in the amount of \$279,234 which matches Bingen’s 2011 budget. The council discussed writing a letter asking for clarification on the 2011 law enforcement budget and asking White Salmon to respond in writing that it is accepting the amount that Bingen has agreed to pay for 2011.

Catherine Kiewit moved that a letter be written to the City of White Salmon asking whether the City of White Salmon is accepting or rejecting Bingen’s offer to pay \$279,234 as its share of the 2011 law enforcement budget; requesting that the response be in writing by January 19; and stating that if a response is not received by January 19th then the City of Bingen will assume the City of White Salmon is rejecting the proposal and that the two cities will go into mediation per the interlocal agreement. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

2012 Law Enforcement Budget

Betty Barnes said the City of White Salmon has not adopted a 2012 budget. She said it is scheduled on White Salmon’s agenda for tomorrow evening.

Jan Brending noted that the budget included in White Salmon’s council packet shows the \$4,500 for an impound facility moved out of the law enforcement budget.

There was a consensus of the council to wait to take action on the proposed 2012 law enforcement budget until after the City of White Salmon has adopted its 2012 budget.

Catherine Kiewit said to Tony Domish that it was her understanding that he said if \$100,000 was cut from the police budget that there would be a cut in services and that White Salmon would be in breach of contract with Bingen. Kiewit said White Salmon is technically in breach of contract already. She said the City of Bingen is open to amending the contract to provide services at a more reasonable price. Kiewit said the City of Bingen understands that services would change if there is a cut in the budget.

Betty Barnes noted that agreements to the number of officers that have been different than in the interlocal agreement are reached on a year-by-year basis. She said Bingen is open to working with those conditions if necessary.

Tony Domish said he has not been given any direction to reduce the law enforcement budget.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Fire Truck Parade and Santa Claus Visit

Betty Barnes said the turnout for the fire truck parade and Santa Claus visit at the park was great. She said about 150 people attended.

Clinton Bryan said he was pleasantly surprised by the turnout and thought the hot chocolate and pizza that was provided was great.

Betty Barnes said that several citizens have contacted her to put together a committee for next year. She said the event was a great success.

Sandi Dickey said Beneventi's did a great job at the event.

Betty Barnes noted that Officer Jim Andring also helped and that the fire fighters were awesome.

Clinton Bryan noted that Pixie Bryan and Ashley Heck decorated the fire trucks.

2012 Goals and Priorities

Betty Barnes said it is time to look at goals and priorities for next year.

Clinton Bryan said he would like to see water and wastewater as priorities.

Betty Barnes said that she and Jan Brending would like to see the council address the sign ordinance. She said that with anticipated future growth in the community now is the time to look at the ordinance.

Betty Barnes asked council members to come to the next council meeting with their priority list.

Committees

Betty Barnes said she would like a committee to work on the city's personnel policy. She said a new committee could be set up for the review or possibly use the budget committee.

Catherine Kiewit said she has looked into the personnel policy and said she believes it makes sense for the budget committee to review the policy as it deals with benefit packages such as vacation, sick leave, leave buyouts, etc. that have budgetary impacts.

Clinton Bryan said he is curious about the personnel policy. Jan Brending will provide Bryan a copy of the current policy.

Betty Barnes said she will start the review of the personnel with the budget committee and then schedule a workshop with the council.

Special Meeting

Betty Barnes said she would like to schedule a special meeting in January to discuss fundraising for the skatepark.

The city council agreed to hold a fundraising workshop on January 17 at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled council meeting.

Yard and Garden Debris Pickup

Laura Mann asked if all the yard and garden debris that was picked up fit into one container.

Jan Brending said yes.

The council discussed the possibility of manning the site so that individuals could deliver debris themselves.

The council discussed getting the kids involved in the 2012 Community Pride event. Betty Barnes said she would also like to participate in the "Turn Off Your Lights" event that occurs on Earth Day which is around the same time as Community Pride.

Basketball Hoops in Right-of-Way

Clinton Bryan noted that there are two basketball hoops in the right-of-way at the corner of Maple and Humboldt Street. He said when the kids are playing basketball they are impeding traffic.

Railroad Overpass

Catherine Kiewit said that with the Insitu announcement she feels it is time to follow-up with the governor about the railroad overpass.

2011 Employee of the Year

Betty Barnes said she will present the 2011 Employee of the Year award at the next council meeting.

Committee and Staff Reports

Fish Plant

Jan Brending said the mayors and staff will be meeting with representatives of Tribal Fishco and their consultant in January to discuss the fish plant.

2012 Budget Documents

Jan Brending said she has provided final 2012 budget documents for the council.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Tony Domish said there were no major incidents during Christmas or New Years. He noted that January 12 is Bill Clack's final day.

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 January 3, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 12/29/2011) 14904-14921 totaling \$13669.63. Current – \$3863.02; Street - \$1097.30; Water - \$568.90; Sewer - \$196.88; Treatment Plant - \$6813.48; Treatment Plant Replacement - \$1130.05.

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 January 3, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 14922-14926 totaling \$5823.30. Current – \$2046.58; Street - \$593.50; Water - \$1253.86; Sewer - \$1253.86; Treatment Plant - \$675.50.

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 January 3, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (12/30/2011) EFT, 14898-14899, totaling \$13641.04. Current – \$5236.04; Street - \$1940.72; Water - \$2005.24; Sewer - \$296.27; Treatment Plant - \$4162.77.

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 January 3, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks 14900 totaling \$9014.37. Current – \$4423.42; Street - \$1278.51; Water - \$927.80; Sewer - \$143.34; Treatment Plant - \$2241.30.

At 7:55 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor