

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 7, 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, Rosi Salguero. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Ben Mitchell, Tony Domish, Peter Cornelius, Don McDermott, Mike Rockwell, Jeanette Fentie, John Newman, Gary and Kathy Pierce, Jim McKee, David Hupp, Lori King, Helga Burkhardt, John Nelson, Caleb Hayes, Chelsea Watson, Dan Miller, Barbara Miller, Rebekah Luhey.

Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2012

Changes to the minutes of the January 17, 2012 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 6th paragraph should read as follows: “Page 3, last paragraph should read: ‘Jan Brending said the mayors and staff will be meeting with representatives of Tribal Fishco and their consultant in January to discuss the fish processing plant.’”

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2012 regular council meeting as corrected. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2012-Special Meeting

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2012 special council meeting. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Approval of Minutes – January 31, 2012-Special Meeting

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2012 special council meeting. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Coal Train Presentation – Mike Rockwell and Don McDermott

Don McDermott said he and Mike and Rockwell are presenting information about the possible increase in coal train traffic in the Columbia Gorge. He said that the Dallesport Community Council has written a letter to the Enterprise and to public officials. McDermott said he is concerned about the impacts coal dust will have on his vineyard. He said he believes the Bingen City Council has to look out for the public.

Mike Rockwell said he is a resident of the Columbia Gorge that is concerned with the impacts on quality of life including coal dust from the trains and the aesthetic impacts of more trains coming through the Gorge and blocking views. He said he believes the increase in coal trains will reduce visual quality and have an impact on tourism. Rockwell said there are no jobs in the Gorge associated with the increase in trains. He said there will also be an increase in the amount of noise due to the trains.

Mike Rockwell said he would like the city council to write letters to the newspaper editor and to the governor opposing the increase in coal trains.

Don McDermott said he would like to see the coal cars covered.

Comments from the audience were provided.

John Newman said that for every train that goes through town the noise increases. He said the train noise was identified as a livability issue when the city’s comprehensive plan was completed.

Betty Barnes asked if the preference would be for the coal to be transported by barge.

Mike Rockwell said it wouldn’t be as noisy or have the visual impacts if transported by barge.

Betty Barnes asked why the coal cars are not covered. She said the city had heard that the coal could ignite.

Don McDermott said there is nothing ignitable within the coal cars. He said coal is transported within closed trucks.

Audience members in attendance asked the council to pass a resolution and speak out against the proposed increase in coal trains. A petition with 25 to 30 names of individuals who do not support the transport of coal through the Gorge was submitted.

Catherine Kiewit said she feels like this is a valid issue and that something should be done but what should be specifically done is the question. She said she sees it as an air quality issue. Kiewit said that passing a resolution may not have much of an impact.

Laura Mann said she would like to confirm some facts and obtain some additional information. She said she can agree that increase train traffic could be detrimental to Bingen.

Kathy Fitzpatrick, City of Mosier Council Member, said the City of Mosier is writing a letter to the Governor and state agencies asking that an analysis of impacts be provided. She said that without information no one can make a decision. Fitzpatrick said she feels the citizens are being left out of the process.

A Bingen resident said the city council should do more fact checking. He said that if what was shown in the video is true then he will move out of Bingen and is concerned with health impacts.

Laura Mann said she appreciates everyone who came to the city council meeting.

Proposed Resolution 2012-001, Travel and Meal Reimbursement

Betty Barnes said the state auditor’s suggested that the city adopt a travel policy. She said the proposed policy has been reviewed by Tad Connors.

The city council and staff discussed the policy. The council agreed to the following changes:

Section 3.1.d should read as follows:

- d. **Not Reimbursable Expenses:** Certain travel expenses are considered personal and not essential to the conduct of official City business and are not reimbursable. Examples of such expenses may include but are not limited to laundry or valet service, entertainment expenses (television or movie rentals and theater or show tickets), cost of transportation to and from places of entertainment, alcohol or tobacco purchases, room service charges except as identified in Section 3.2.a.1, cost of personal reading material, barber or beauty expenses, personal toiletry articles, postage, medical or dental expenses and theft, loss or damage of personal property.

Section 3.2.a.1 should read as follows:

a. **Meals with Overnight Stay:**

- 1. Any city council member or city employee shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of meals including taxes and tip not to exceed the following schedule based on vendor receipt, if meals are paid by the council member or employee.

Breakfast: \$11.00 (not including taxes and tip)

Lunch: \$14.00 (not including taxes and tips)

Dinner: \$21.00 (not including taxes and tips)

City council members and city employees may use a city credit card to pay for eligible meal expenses up to the above amounts plus taxes and tips.

Section 3.2.a.6 should read as follows:

- 6. If a city employee or city council member has a special diet need due to a documented condition and necessary meals or accommodations can not be met by the conference, meals paid for during the conference or training session will be reimbursable per above. Documentation that the special diet is required must be signed by a physician or similar medical provider and shall be provided on the Request for Travel Form and Conference/Travel Accounting Form.

Laura Mann moved to adopt Resolution 2012-001, Travel and Meal Reimbursement as amended. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Resolution 2012-002, Amending 2012 Salary Schedule

Betty Barnes said that she hired Darrell Armstrong as a seasonal snow plow operator due to the emergency situation. She said she is asking the city council to amend the salary schedule to provide for a Seasonal Snow Plow Operator at Range 22 through Range 30.

Jan Brending said the range was determined by looking at the AWC salary survey for a heavy equipment operator which includes operating a snow plow and grader.

Laura Mann said it was more economical to hire Darrell Armstrong at \$25.22 then to pay other employees overtime. She said she would like to see the city's employees trained on using the grader.

Clinton Bryan moved to adopt Resolution 2012-002, Amending 2012 Salary Schedule. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Retroactive Authorization to Hire Seasonal Snow Plow Operator Due to Emergency

Betty Barnes said she is asking for retroactive authorization to hire a seasonal snow plow operator at \$25.22 per hour due to the snow emergency in January.

Laura Mann moved to retroactively authorize the mayor to hire a seasonal snow plow operator at \$25.22 per hour. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Retroactive Authorization to Hire SDS for Snow Removal Due to Emergency

Betty Barnes said as snow was being removed from the city's streets it was placed on railroad property on Depot Street. She said it was necessary to have the snow removed because it was not city property and would have an impact on the parking on Depot Street. Barnes said she decided to hire SDS Lumber for snow removal because it was more cost effective.

Jan Brending said SDS will need to complete a small works roster application and complete the appropriate prevailing wage paperwork with the state.

Clinton Bryan moved to retroactively authorize the mayor to hire SDS Lumber for snow removal due to the snow emergency in January. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Snow Policy – Review and Discussion

Betty Barnes said she thought it was a good idea to review and discuss the snow policy in light of the recent snow storm in January.

The city council discussed the policy and agreed to the following changes:

2nd bullet of policy shall read: "Park on the North or West Side of the Street – If it is an odd day, please park on the west side of the street (for north/south streets) or on the north side of the street (for west/east streets). If it is an even day, please park on the east side of the street (for north/south streets) or on the south side of the street (for west/east streets).

3rd bullet of policy shall read: "Please move vehicles to the opposite side of the street on second day and continue to move vehicles on subsequent days until snow is gone."

Catherine Kiewit said she would like to give credit to the arborist and tree contractor who trimmed the city's trees. She said she feels their work helped save the city's trees for damage during the storm.

Old Business – Skatepark Fundraising

The city council discussed the work being done for the March 24th fundraising event. Craig Spaeth will be helping the city, along with a high school senior, to develop a flyer for the event.

Betty Barnes reported \$300 has been donated from Columbia Bank for printing purposes.

Jan Brending said she thought the tickets could be easily printed in black and white by the city staff.

The council discussed how many tickets could be sold.

Catherine Kiewit agreed to develop a press release for the event.

Betty Barnes noted that Henni's, Subway, Beneventi's and Katina's will all be participating in the event.

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 February 7, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 2/7/2012) 14973-15009 totaling \$27969.55. Current – \$7062.16; Street - \$3669.62; Water - \$10420.32; Sewer - \$917.33; Treatment Plant - \$5900.12.

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 February 7, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 1/18/12 and 1/31/12) 14963, 14965, 17971, 14972 totaling \$57522.21. Current – \$57522.21.

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 February 7, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 12/31/2011) EFT, 14964 totaling \$34339.87. Current – \$32810.56; Street - \$1.27; Water - \$179.41; Sewer - \$1.27, Treatment Plant - \$1,347.36.

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 February 7, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (dated 01/24/2012 and 1/31/2012) EFT, 14966-14970, totaling \$22806.69. Current – \$10964.01; Street - \$3302.23; Water - \$2436.83; Sewer - \$350.86; Treatment Plant - \$5752.76.

Executive Session

At 9:38 p.m. Betty Barnes announced the city council will meet for 30 minutes in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(f) to discuss a personnel issue. At 10:08 p.m. the council resumed regular session and announced the executive session will continue for another 15 minutes. At 10:23 p.m. the council resumed regular session.

At 10:23 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor