

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 19, 2012

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

Public Comment

Randy Porter representing The House Church said they would like to help in some way support fundraising for the skatepark. He said they have several ideas and have talked to C's Market about working with them. Porter said he has not gone too far with any ideas because he wanted to get permission from the city.

Betty Barnes noted that it might be possible to do something in conjunction with one of the Concerts in the Park or Huckleberry Festival. She said the Concerts in the Park are August 4th and 17th and September 3rd with Huckleberry Festival scheduled for September 7th through the 9th. She said that anything that can be done to raise funds for the skatepark would be positive and helpful.

Randy Porter said he will let the city know about their plans as they move forward.

Certificate of Appreciation – Rosi Salguero, Student Council Member

Betty Barnes presented a certificate of appreciation to Rosi Salguero for serving as Student Council Member for 2012.

Approval of Minutes – June 5, 2012

Changes to the minutes of the June 5, 2012 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 8th paragraph, add the following sentence: "There was a consensus of the council to remove the 10 miles per hour signage on Humboldt and Franklin."

Page 1, 11th paragraph, 1st sentence should read: "Betty Barnes said it has been suggested that parking in the two parking spaces east of Steuben and Walnut on the south side of Steuben be changed to "compact car parking only" to address sight line problems."

Page 2, 10th paragraph, 1st sentence should read: "Laura Mann said the Solid Waste Committee made changes to the 2000 plan updating it but did not make any substantial changes."

Page 2, 10th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: "She said that future additional work related to solid waste does need to be done as outlined in the implementation plan contained in the document."

Page 3, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: "She said she has appointed Kevin Kelly as acting fire chief who will serve at least one month."

Page 3, 4th paragraph, last sentence should read: "Barnes said she feels that if the meetings are important enough to White Salmon the City of Bingen will be contacted."

Laura Mann moved to approve the minutes of the June 5 regular council meeting as corrected. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2012-04-601, Amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.14.030, Commercial Area Parking

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing for proposed ordinance 2012-04-601, amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.14.030, Commercial Area Parking.

Betty Barnes said the proposed ordinance will add four "compact car parking only" spaces on the south side of Steuben Street – two west of Walnut and two east of Walnut. She said the proposed ordinance also adds three motorcycle parking spaces on the south side of Steuben Street – one west of Ash Street, one east of the crosswalk at Alder and one west of the crosswalk at Alder.

There was no public comment on the proposed ordinance.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Clinton Bryan moved to pass Ordinance 2012-04-601, Amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.14.030, Commercial Area Parking. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2012-05-602, Amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.12, Speed Limits

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing for proposed ordinance 2012-05-602, amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.12, Speed Limits.

Jan Brending said the proposed amendments put into place the speed limits established by Washington Department of Transportation on State Route 14 and State Route 141 within the city limits of Bingen.

Clinton Bryan asked what it would cost to conduct an engineering study for speed limits.

Jan Brending said it could cost at least \$3000 or more.

There was no public comment.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Laura Mann moved to pass Ordinance 2012-05-602, Amending Bingen Municipal Code 10.12, Speed Limits. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2012-06-603, Adopting Bingen Municipal Code 15.40.300, Leak Adjustment Policy

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing for proposed ordinance 2012-06-603, adopting Bingen Municipal Code 15.40.300, Leak Adjustment Policy.

Corrections to the proposed ordinance were noted as follows:

Section A, 1st sentence should read: “The property owner, or their agent, may request an adjustment to a utility billing in writing by completing a request form, obtained from City Hall.”

Section C, last sentence should read: “Non-residential accounts, where the customer’s sewer bill is based on water consumption, will be allowed an adjustment to water usage and sewer usage costs provided it can be confirmed to the satisfaction of the Mayor or the Mayor’s designee that the additional water volume was due to a leak and did not enter the wastewater system.”

Section H, last sentence should read: “Upon the written decision of the City council, if an account has been incorrectly charged, the account will be adjusted accordingly.”

Section J, 1st sentence should read: “The public works department is authorized to shut off a customer’s water when the property owner or tenant cannot be notified of a large leak which could damage the property or the City of Bingen’s property or jeopardize water service to other customers.”

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Catherine Kiewit moved to pass Ordinance 2012-06-603, Adopting Bingen Municipal code 13.40.300, Leak Adjustment Policy as corrected. Clinton Bryan seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Draft June Newsletter – Review

The city council reviewed the draft June newsletter. Jan Brending said the June newsletter is used to provide information to the public and water customers about the City’s water quality and water use efficiency reports.

Laura Mann asked that the fireworks information on the back of the newsletter be moved to the top.

Treasurer’s Reports – March (modified), April and May, 2012

Jan Brending presented treasurer’s reports for March, April and May 2012. She said the March report was modified due to a check that was voided per council resolution. Brending noted that she can provide copies of bank statements showing ending balances if the council desires. She said the mayor does review the monthly reconciliations.

There was a consensus of the council not to add bank statements to the treasurer's reports.

Catherine Kiewit asked when Bingen will see the costs related to the severance package for the police chief.

Jan Brending said the City of White Salmon may need to do a budget amendment and if so, it will be presented to the City of Bingen before White Salmon adopts it.

Laura Mann moved to accept the Treasurer's Reports for March (modified), April and May 2012. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Pig Roast

Betty Barnes said the Pig Roast in White Salmon went very well and raised about \$12,000 after expenses which will be matched by the Stevenson family. She said the Backyard Half run also raised approximately \$3000 for the high school cross country team.

Governor's Visit – June 21st

Betty Barnes said Governor Gregoire will be visiting White Salmon on June 21st meeting with Insitu and then getting together with local officials in the White Salmon park at 2:30 p.m. She said the governor will be planting a tree. Barnes said she will be in attendance.

City Official E-mail Accounts

The city council discussed city e-mail accounts and the problems they have been experiencing.

Jan Brending said she will begin discussions with several individuals to see what different options are available to the city in order to provide separate e-mail accounts for council members but maintain the e-mail on the city's server.

Gorge Commission Assessment

Betty Barnes said that Jan Brending participated in an interview with the Gorge Commission.

Jan Brending said the Gorge Commission is working through a consensus building process that originated out of cities' desire to amend urban area boundaries. She said that in the interview she focused on maintaining the economic viability of the urban area.

Coal Dust

Catherine Kiewit said Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Southwest Clean Air Agency has provided information to the city. She suggested the council may want to discuss the coal dust issue at the next meeting and decide whether or not to make a statement. Kiewit said the information has been very helpful to her.

Betty Barnes said representatives with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) would like to meet with her on June 28th at 9:00 a.m. She said she has asked Jan Brending and Catherine Kiewit to attend the meeting since she will be out of town.

Laura Mann said the information Kiewit has collected is phenomenal. She said her question is how many coal trains are there currently and what is the proposed increase.

Betty Barnes said she did tell BNSF when she previously met with them that access and safety is the city's top concern.

4th of July

Staff was asked to place "Fireworks Prohibited" signs around town.

Last Friday Pizza

The council discussed using the Last Friday Pizza scheduled for June 29th as an opportunity to educate the kids that fireworks are prohibited in Bingen. Betty Barnes noted that she will not be present. Maria Perez volunteered to handle the event.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Clinton Bryan asked if there are any updates on the police department.

Betty Barnes said there are three officers on duty: Jim Andring, Steve Shields and Tony Warren. She said Skamania County has agreed to allow off-duty deputies to help fill shifts. Barnes said she hopes to have more information soon.

Bingen Fire Department

Betty Barnes said Kevin Kelly has agreed to fill the position of Acting Fire Chief for a month and will then make a determination as to whether or not he is interested in the position of Fire Chief for the long term. Barnes said she has spoken with the fire department and asked them for their input. She said the firefighters seem comfortable with Kevin Kelly as fire chief. Barnes said he lives in the Husum area and currently is the firefighter with the most experience.

Clinton Bryan said Kevin Kelly was the assistant fire chief.

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 19, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 06/07/2012 and 06/19/2012) 15255, 15261-15277 totaling \$136823.40. Current – \$1206.01; Street - \$2432.55; Water - \$2204.17; Sewer - \$224.75; Treatment Plant - \$2418.38; 1995 Bond Redemption - \$17100.00; Public Works Trust Fund Loan - \$107142.85; Sewer Construction and Maintenance – 1061.17; Treatment Plant Replacement - \$3033.52.

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 19, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (dated 06/15/2012) EFT, 115256-15260, totaling \$11072.49. Current – \$4806.88; Street - \$1384.57; Water - \$1213.74; Sewer - \$191.03; Treatment Plant - \$3476.27.

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

City Clerk

Mayor