

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 7, 2012

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

Public Comment

Tracy Wycoff, Police Chief – Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Betty Barnes introduced Tracy Wycoff as the new police chief for the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department.

Tracy Wycoff said he has been on duty for 6 days and has found it to be very positive. He said he is working to make sure the department understands his direction. Wycoff said Skamania County officers are currently helping out. He said the citizens will see more traffic stops with officers reminding people that there are speed limits. Wycoff said he is working to improve, cleanup and simplify things in the department and will be working to update the policies and procedures. He said he hopes to get more officers hired. Wycoff said he appreciates the opportunity to serve Bingen and White Salmon.

Approval of Minutes – July 17, 2012

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

Page 1, 3rd paragraph title should read as follows: “Certificate of Appreciation – John Newman”

Page 1, 3rd paragraph should read as follows: “Betty Barnes presented a Certification of Appreciation to John Newman which stated the following ‘Thank you for your dedication to the City of Bingen by serving as a council member and by serving on the civil service commission. Through your generous donation of facilities at the Columbia River Gorge Hostel and the giving of your tireless time to numerous fundraisers, parties and event, you have strengthened and enriched our communities’ development as a safe and viable place to live, work and play.’”

Page 1, 5th paragraph should read as follows: “Betty Barnes thanked John and Patti Newman for helping the city with its skatepark fundraiser.”

Page 5, 3rd paragraph, 1st sentence should read as follows: “Laura Manna asked that the city write a letter regarding the tribal trust property thanking them for taking down the structures and for continued clean-up of the property.”

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

Water Discussion

Betty Barnes informed the city council that the city is on Bingen well water due to a White Salmon water emergency. She said White Salmon has had trouble keeping their reservoir full and because of fire season she did not want to risk Bingen or White Salmon’s reservoirs running low. Barnes said the city changed over to well water on Monday, August 6.

Ken Alexander, Gray & Osborne, provided a review of the final distribution system leakage study. He said the study reaffirms that the old line on Bingen hill and the line where a recent leak was repaired should be replaced. Alexander said the city may want to consider conducting a water audit on its largest water users. He said there are some self-auditing guidelines available on line. Alexander said the city may want to consider applying for a waiver that would allow the city to qualify for a distribution system leakage maximum of 20% instead of 10%.

Catherine Kiewit said that she thought with lower connections a system would have more control how much water could be lost.

Ken Alexander said that with a small leak it can be a significant problem with a smaller system while it is a much lesser problem with a larger system.

Ken Alexander said that Bingen’s distribution system leakage is not all unusual for cities the same size. He said that the distribution system leakage report will show the Department of Health that the city is

sincere in making efforts to address the problem. Alexander said that with a system the age of Bingen's leakage is inevitable.

Laura Mann asked if there are additional things the city can do to address the problem.

Ken Alexander said he would recommend calibrating the source meters. The city council discussed calibrating source meters.

The city council discussed the abandoned distribution system at the east end of town that could possibly be leaking water.

The city council discussed conducting water audits.

Betty Barnes asked Alexander if the city should be auditing usage meters.

Ken Alexander said he does not think that is necessary as there is nothing to indicate there is a problem.

The council asked staff to report back on the known leaks that were included in the distribution system leakage report.

The council discussed the hydrogen sulfide pilot test with Ken Alexander.

Jan Brending asked if additional operator certification will be required.

Ken Alexander said he did not think so but he will check.

Catherine Kiewit asked if the hydrogen sulfide issue could be addressed at the residential level.

Ken Alexander said yes with carbon filters.

Betty Barnes noted that it would not address the issue related to using showers or washing machines.

Clinton Bryan said whole house filters could be installed.

The city council discussed the information staff provided regarding the cost to produce water versus the cost to purchase water. Jan Brending noted the cost to produce water does not include any maintenance costs or any costs related to filtering water for hydrogen sulfide.

Catherine Kiewit said that it costs the city twice as much to purchase water as it does to produce water. She said she would like to see the city putting its money towards locating more potable water. Kiewit said she feels Bingen is obligated to provide water to the community that is safe.

Laura Mann said she likes the idea of conducting the \$14,000 study to see if the hydrogen sulfide issue can be addressed but is interested in obtaining more information before making the decision. She said she would also like to hear from the public related to using Bingen's water over purchasing White Salmon's water.

The council asked staff to provide additional information on rough costs to drill a new well and what it would cost to filter for hydrogen sulfide.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Depot Street Lease – Additional Discussion

Betty Barnes said that after the city notified Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway that the city was no longer interested in pursuing the Depot Street lease the railway contacted the city and suggested the city offer an amount that they would consider appropriate for the lease.

The city discussed the Depot Street lease and there was a consensus to inform Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway that the city does not want to pursue leasing the property.

Proposed Agreement, Summer/Fall Pilot Study – City of White Salmon and City of Bingen with Tribal FishCo LLC

Jan Brending said Tribal FishCo LLC has provided the city with the draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that is referenced in the draft agreement. She said she has provided the city with a copy of the QAPP along with Tom Hons comments.

Jan Brending requested the City Council authorize the mayor to sign the agreement upon approval by Tom Hons, Treatment Plant Manager and Anthony Connors, City Attorney. She said the agreement is on White Salmon's agenda for August 15 for approval.

Laura Mann moved to authorize the mayor to sign the Agreement with Tribal FishCo LLC upon approval of the Quality Assurance Project Plan by Tom Hons and Anthony Connors. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

AED Grant Application – Request for Authorization to Submit

Clinton Bryan said that Pixie Bryan is the safety officer for the fire department and she has prepared a grant application to AEDGrant.com for acquiring an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Jan Brending said she has reviewed the application. She noted that submitting the application does not commit the city to acquiring the AED. Brending said it does appear that the grant funding is only for part of the cost and that the city will have to pick up the remaining costs.

Maria Perez moved to authorize the city to submit a grant application to AEDGrant.com. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update

Concert in the Park

Betty Barnes said there was a fairly good turnout for the concert last Saturday, August 4. She said the fire department came and sprayed the kids and held a barbecue.

Betty Barnes said she has received a request from Bingen-White Salmon Business Partners to leave the bleachers in the park in between concerts. She said the city's park usage policy requires that items such as bleachers would be removed the day after the event ends. Barnes said she spoke with David Spratt who said the bleachers would not be a problem because they could be tipped up and mowed around. She said the Business Partners would need to sign a waiver holding the city harmless.

Tad Connors said the city should check with its risk management agency, Canfield & Associates to see what their opinion is and if they have particular language they would want included in the waiver.

Catherine Kiewit moved to allow the bleachers to be temporarily located in the park between concerts if the Bingen-White Salmon Business Partners provide proof of insurance, agree to sign a waiver and if Canfield & Associates has no objections. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Wildland Fire Truck

Clinton Bryan reported the fire department did not purchase the wildland fire truck because it had already been sold.

Skyline Ambulance

Jan Brending said the council has been provided with a copy of a letter to the fire districts from Skyline Hospital regarding contracting with HMS for ambulance services.

Pool Bucks

Jan Brending said that 2820 pool bucks have been given out with approximately 488 left.

Huckleberry Festival

Jan Brending noted that she provided a copy of an e-mail from Catherine Kiewit regarding raffles for the remaining wine the city has that could be done at Huckleberry Festival. The council briefly discussed fundraising efforts to be done in conjunction with Huckleberry Festival.

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 7, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks (dated 08/07/2012) 15336 – 15363 and check (dated 7/20/2012) 15332 totaling \$15927.41. Current – \$5548.26; Street - \$2730.75; Water - \$4825.14; Sewer - \$295.45; Treatment Plant - \$2353.35; 1995 Bond Redemption - \$174.46.

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 7, 2012. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks (dated 07/31/2012) EFT, 15333-15335,

totaling \$19858.59. Current – \$8833.31; Street - \$2795.87; Water - \$2263.18; Sewer - \$352.55; Treatment Plant - \$5613.68.

Executive Session

At 8:55 p.m., Betty Barnes announced the city council will enter into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 9:05 p.m., the city council resumed regular session.

Laura Mann moved to authorize Anthony Connors, city attorney, to send a letter to the West Klickitat County Historical Society in response to their letter regarding the water leak at the Gorge Heritage Museum.

At 9:07 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor