

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Laura Mann, Sandi Dickey, Maria Perez, Catherine Kiewit. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: David Spratt, Jay Hicks, Laurie Hicks, Stephanie Porter, Jace Schroder, Isolde Schroder.

Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2013

Changes to the minutes of the March 5, 2013 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 4, 3rd paragraph should read as follows: Betty Barnes said she and Jan Brending met with David Reeploeg of Senator Maria Cantwell's office this week and discussed housing, railroad overpass and other infrastructure issues.

Laura Mann moved to approve the meeting minutes of the March 5, 2013 regular council meeting as corrected. Maria Perez seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Certificate of Achievement – Jay Hicks

Betty Barnes presented Jay Hicks with a Certificate of Achievement for obtaining his commercial driver's license. Barnes thanked Hicks for all the work he does for the city.

ADA Ramp and Accessible Parking – 115 N. Ash

Jan Brending said the property owners at 115 N. Ash would like to install a ramp that would access the entrance on Ash Street. She said the entrance is above grade and is accessed by a small step that does not meet American with Disability Act (ADA) requirements. Brending said Dean Nygaard has reviewed the plans for the proposed ramp and they meet ADA requirements.

Jan Brending said an accessible parking space is also needed for the facility. She said she is recommending the first space on the south side of Humboldt immediately west of Ash. Brending said the facility has no off-street parking.

Betty Barnes asked David Spratt if the yellow curb marking at the southwest corner of Ash and Humboldt meets requirements.

David Spratt said yes – he noted there is a stop sign there and a stop bar prior to the crosswalk.

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize the sidewalk modification as proposed by Red Carpet Maintenance at 115 W. Ash. Maria Perez seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

There was a consensus of the council to move forward with an ordinance amendment establishing an accessible parking space on the south side of Humboldt immediately west of Ash.

Treasurer's Report – February 2013

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2013. She noted the report does not reflect the budget amendments which were adopted at the March 5 council meeting.

Laura Mann moved to accept the treasurer's report for February 2013. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Chinese Lanterns

Maria Perez asked if there are any regulations regarding Chinese lanterns. She said these are the lanterns that are lit with a small flame and then let loose to float up into the sky. Perez said she is concerned they could be a fire hazard.

Betty Barnes said that under the city's ordinance they are probably not allowed and that the fire department might have an issue with them.

Jace Schroder – AWC Scholarship

Betty Barnes noted that Jace Schroder who applied for the AWC scholarship is in the audience. The council let Schroder know that his application was forward to the Association of Washington Cities.

Laura Mann said she loved Jace Schroder's essay and felt the statements were all something that everyone could live by.

Police Vehicle

Sandi Dickey said she is confused by the letter from White Salmon regarding the purchase of a police vehicle. She said the City of Bingen has always said it would pay its share of the vehicle.

Staff and Committee Reports

Association of Washington Cities Board of Directors

Jan Brending said the council has information regarding vacant positions on the Association of Washington Cities Board of Directors. She said the position must be filled by an elected official.

Vacant Homes

Jan Brending said two letters have been sent to property owners asking them to secure vacant residences. She noted that in addition she sent a list of vacant properties to the police department so they could be watched.

Catherine Kiewit asked how the city handles abandoned homes.

Jan Brending said that currently there are no "abandoned" homes however some may be "neglected." She said that property owners are notified if the properties are not secured, i.e. open windows or doors, and if the property is overgrown with vegetation. Brending said she and David Spratt intend to do a drive through Bingen and then write letters to all property owners with overgrown vegetation.

Betty Barnes said there is a process that can be used to address properties that are falling into disrepair but the city will need to establish a Board of Review which has not been done.

Old Business

Gorge Out Fundraiser

The council discussed the Gorge Out fundraiser event scheduled for March 23.

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 March 19, 2013. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks EFT, 15827 - 15848 (dated 03/19/2013) totaling \$21301.95. Current – \$2809.70; Street – \$1519.49; Park Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$180.03; Water - \$3098.78; Sewer - \$413.50; Treatment Plant - \$3926.80; Water Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$4126.10; Sewer Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$1785.04; Treatment Plant Improvement Fund - \$3442.51.

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 March 19, 2013. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks EFT (dated 3/15/2013), 15823-15826 (dated 3/15/2013), totaling \$10151.96. Current – \$4435.78; Street - \$1323.56; Water - \$1169.01; Sewer - \$213.86; Treatment Plant - \$3009.75.

Executive Session

At 9:25 p.m. Betty Barnes announced the city council will go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 9:35 p.m. the city council resumed regular session and announced it will resume executive session for an additional 5 minutes.

At 9:40 p.m. the city council resumed regular session and announced it will resume executive session for an additional 10 minutes.

At 9:50 p.m. the city council resumed regular session.

Interlocal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services – Purchase of Police Vehicle

Betty Barnes said she recommends the city write a letter to the City of White Salmon in response to White Salmon's letter regarding the purchase of a police vehicle.

Laura Mann moved to authorize Tad Connors, Bingen city attorney to write a letter to White Salmon regarding the purchase of a police vehicle. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

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

City Clerk

Mayor