

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 21, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Laura Mann, Sandi Dickey, Isolde Schroder, Catherine Kiewit, Maria Perez, Monica Lizama. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Tad Connors were present. Audience: Tracy Wyckoff, Pam and Kenneth Moore, Ben Mitchell.

Approval of Minutes – May 7, 2013

Corrections to the meeting minutes of the May 7, 2013 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 6th paragraph, 8th sentence should read: “He said 94 loads were picked up and 386 vehicles went through the gate.”

Page 3, 5th paragraph should read: “Sandi Dickey noted that she attended White Salmon’s meetings for 3 to 4 years.”

Laura Man moved to approve the meeting minutes of the May 7, 2013 regular council meeting as corrected. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department

Tracy Wyckoff said calls have increased a little bit. He said that he is working with the Spring Fest committee to make sure everything is covered. Wyckoff noted the department will also be working with Kids in Motion and the 4th of July event. He said these events are new to him because he was not here last year. Wyckoff reported that all officers are now certified on Access so they don’t have to go through dispatch to access information. He said the department has applied for a COPS grant which will pay 70% of an officer’s salaries and benefits for 3 years and then the department has to keep the officer for an additional year after that. Wyckoff noted that most agencies who receive a COPS grant have a high volume of criminal activity.

Betty Barnes asked if the department is at 3 officers and 1 chief. Wyckoff said that is correct.

Tracy Wyckoff said he is reviewing entry-level applicants and has asked for some additional names. He said that he hopes to see some lateral-level interest.

Wyckoff said there has been some increase in vandalism, domestic violence and disorderly conduct which typically increases in the summer.

Izzy Schroder asked if vandalism increases around graduation time.

Wyckoff said he does not think so. He said education in the school does make an impact.

Laura Mann said there has been a police presence, along with a firefighter presence, at the 4th of July event at the Port.

Maria Perez noted that last year there were middle-school kids without parental supervision shooting off fireworks irresponsibly.

Laura Mann suggested that brochures regarding the 4th of July event should address that children need to be supervised.

Tracy Wyckoff said he will make sure there is coverage in Bingen and there will be a presence at the port.

Proposed Short Plat 2013-001, Thomas Hilb

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing on proposed Short Plat 2013-001 submitted by Thomas Hilb.

Jan Brending said the city has received a proposed short plat application from Thomas Hilb, represented by Mike Hilb, to divide a 3.26-acre parcel located at 455 N. Oak in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 29, Township 3 North, Range 11 East, W.M., City of Binge, Klickitat County, Washington (Tax Parcel No. 03112982000200) into 2 parcels of 1.05 acres and 2.21 acres.

Jan Brending reviewed the rules of procedure as identified in Bingen Municipal Code 16.16.020.

Betty Barnes asked council members if they had any ex parte contact or conflict of interest regarding the matter before the council. None was reported.

Betty Barnes asked those in attendance if there were any concerns about any of the members of the city council being able to hear and make an unbiased decision on the proposed application. None was indicated.

Jan Brending said Pam and Kenneth Moore submitted written comment which was labeled as Exhibit A.

Pam Moore said she did not have anything to add to her written comments. She noted there is a recorded maintenance agreement for the existing road. Moore said she believes that the property owner at the entrance of the road has given up rights to use the private road.

Jan Brending reviewed the staff report and additional information provided by David Spratt, Assistant Fire Chief. The information provided by David Spratt was labeled as Exhibit B.

Jan Brending noted that Mike Hilb was not at the hearing tonight. She said there might have been some miscommunication because they did have a discussion about possibly moving the hearing to the next council meeting. Brending said she thought it was her understanding that Hilb wished to proceed with the hearing tonight.

Jan Brending recommended to the council that they continue the hearing to June 4th to obtain additional information including: a copy of the existing maintenance agreement, a revised short plat showing that a proposed road that meets the requirements of Bingen Municipal Code 16.32 – Improvements: Land Divisions; and addressing the issues raised in the comments addressed in Exhibit B.

Maria Perez moved to continue the public hearing to June 4th to obtain additional information as recommended by Jan Brending. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

2012 Annual Financial Report Review

Jan Brending presented the 2012 annual financial report to the city council. She noted that the budget committee also completed a more in-depth review of the annual report.

Laura Mann noted that the city's financial system captures the financial data and filters into the report.

Catherine Kiewit noted that when the budget committee reviewed the document they found one error that was date related.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept the 2012 annual financial report. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Steuben Street Crosswalks – Short-Term Installation Options

Betty Barnes said the council has been provided with additional information related to the cost to either install thermoplastic markings or painting the crosswalks on Steuben. She said she does not know when the city will be able to address a permanent solution to the crosswalks but noted the council will be getting information regarding different permanent options in the future.

Catherine Kiewit said she feels the thermoplastic marking option is the obvious one.

A council member asked if the current product used on the crosswalks is thermoplastic. Jan Brending said no it is a different product.

Izzy Schroder said she feels that having to redo the crosswalks less often frees up the public works employees to be doing other things.

Catherine Kiewit moved to pursue using thermoplastic markings on the Steuben Street crosswalks. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

White Salmon Pool – Providing Free Admission to Bingen Citizens

Jan Brending said the City of White Salmon is providing punch cards good for 11 entrances into the pool. She said because Bingen is outside of White Salmon city limits the cost will be \$35 per card. Brending said the punch cards are transferrable and can be punched more than once at a time. She said is recommending the purchase of 50 cards initially to see how they are used. Brending said she also recommend one punch card per family to be issued at a time.

Sandi Dickey moved to purchase 50 punch cards for \$35 each. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Laura Mann asked if the city wants to provide free swim lessons again this summer.

The council asked staff to bring addition information about providing swim lessons to the next council meeting.

Establishment of a Regional Fire Authority – Draft Letter in Response to Meeting

Betty Barnes said that she, Jan Brending and David Spratt recently attended a meeting with Fire District 3 and the City of White Salmon regarding consolidating the fire departments. She also reviewed a meeting that was held between the 3 entities approximately 18 months ago regarding the same issue. Barnes described the process for creating a Regional Fire Authority – one of the mechanisms for creating a consolidated fire department among different entities.

Betty Barnes said Fire District 3's consultant, Bob Merritt had recommended discussing the idea with the fire department's members because if the members don't support the idea then it would be unlikely that the community would support it. Barnes said she met with the Bingen volunteer firefighters who unanimously felt that it was not in the best interest of Bingen's residents to participate in the establishment of a Regional Fire Authority at this time.

Sandi Dickey moved to authorize the mayor and fire chief to send a letter to Klickitat County Fire District 3 that at this time the city does not feel it is in the best interest of Bingen's residents to pursue establishing the Regional Fire Authority and to indicate in the letter that the city wants to continue working cooperatively with Fire District 3 and the White Salmon Volunteer Fire Department. Maria Perez seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report – April 2013

Jan Brending presented the treasurer's report for April 2013.

Sandi Dickey moved to accept the treasurer's report for April 2013. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Water Committee Meeting

Betty Barnes said the City of White Salmon has requested a joint meeting with the two cities water committees to discuss the interlocal agreement, amount of water purchased and water rates for purchasing water from White Salmon. She said Bingen's committee will meet prior to the joint meeting.

AWC Scholarship

Betty Barnes said the city was notified that Jace Schroder was not awarded a scholarship.

Skatepark Donations

Betty Barnes said the city has received two donations: \$10,000 each from the Mary Hoyt Stevenson Foundation and John & Laura Cheney.

The council and staff discussed the possibility of breaking ground this summer or fall on Phase 2 of the skatepark.

Jan Brending noted that she hopes to provide a proposal for updating the design of Phase 2 at the next council meeting.

Council Resignations

Maria Perez asked when Laura Mann's last day with the council will be. Laura Mann said she intends to resign at the end of the year.

Maria Perez said she is considering the possibility of also resigning due to some health issues. She noted that she has to make some decisions although she is not resigning at this time.

Gorge Heritage Museum

Betty Barnes noted the council has received a letter from the Gorge Heritage Museum letting the city know that they are seeking new space and are in process of fundraising for that space.

Staff and Committee Updates

Requests for Proposals

Jan Brending said the council will be reviewing draft requests for proposals for building official services and attorney services at its next council meeting.

Voucher

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 May 21, 2013. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 15946-15961 (dated 05/21/2013), totaling \$25562.44: Current – \$3276.19; Street – \$3151.08; Water - \$72075.41; Sewer - \$540.84; Treatment Plant - \$4736.62; Water Construction & Maintenance - \$631.40; Sewer Construction & Maintenance - \$5448.61; Treatment Plant Improvement Fund - \$5,702.19.

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 May 21, 2013. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll checks EFT (dated 05/15/2013), 15942-15945 (dated 05/15/2013), totaling \$11767.11. Current – \$4862.97; Street - \$1615.84; Water - \$1427.11; Sewer - \$261.05; Treatment Plant - \$3600.14.

Executive Session

At 9:10 p.m. Betty Barnes announced the city council will go into executive session to discussion potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.100(1)(i) for 15 minutes.

The city council resumed regular session at 9:25 p.m. and announced will continue executive session for 15 minutes.

The council resumed regular session at 9:38 p.m.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept Six Rivers Mediation for mediating the law enforcement interlocal agreement issues and directed Tad Connors to write a letter to Ken Woodrich asking that three issues be mediated: dividing police equipment; nature and extent of contractual changes for providing law enforcement services to Bingen in the future; and the recent police car purchase. Laura Mann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

At 9:40 p.m. the city council adjourned.

City Clerk

Mayor