

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Betty Barnes, Catherine Kiewit, Sandi Dickey, Stephanie Porter. Council Member Izzy Schroder and Student Council Member Monica Lizama absent. Maria Perez left the council meeting at 8:15 p.m. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Craig Trummel were present. Audience: Tracy Wyckoff, Amber Marra, John Barthlomew, Dean Nygaard, Clinton Bryan, Pixie Bryan, David Spratt, Karla Spratt, Will Altig.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2014

Corrections to the meeting minutes of the April 1, 2014 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 5th paragraph, 1st sentence should read: “Betty Barnes suggested Catherine Kiewit draft a letter to the appropriate people voicing the City of Bingen’s concerns about not having GED and ESL courses locally and that Bingen is a low-income community.”

Page 2, 2nd paragraph, 5th sentence should read: “Lockman said the labor would be free but some funding from the city would be helpful.”

Page 2, 7th paragraph should read: “Lockman said other options would be to add a layer of concrete, use muriatic acid, or concrete sanding.”

Page 2, 12th paragraph, 1st sentence should read: Catherine Kiewit suggested because the court is in good shape she would be more inclined to approve resealing the cracks, striping the court and painting the backboards.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 1, 2014 as corrected. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Recognition of Dean Nygaard

Betty Barnes presented Dean Nygaard with an award recognizing him for his years of service to the City of Bingen as building official.

Dean Nygaard said it has been a pleasure to work with the City of Bingen.

Steuben Street Landscaping, John Barthlomew

Betty Barnes said she has been working with Miriam Knowles, Sandi Dickey, and David Spratt regarding the maintenance of the Steuben Street landscaping. She said several businesses have volunteered to help maintain certain landscaping beds: Insitu, Chips, Los Reyes, Eagles, Hatts and Beneventi’s. She said she has contacted other businesses and is waiting to hear back from them. Barnes said volunteer maintenance will not relieve city employees of all their responsibilities related to landscape maintenance.

John Barthlomew said he is concerned about the recent decision of the city council to redo the landscaping on Steuben Street. He said that landscape fabric and rock will not work. Barthlomew said he believes the beds look beautiful with the tulips and daffodils in bloom. He said bulbs should not be transplanted until they are dormant. Barthlomew said he does not like the idea of river rock and does not want downtown Bingen to look like a desert.

Sandi Dickey said that most of the irises need to come out and that the tulips and daffodils will not be moved until after they go dormant. She said that she would like to see something flowering in the beds year round and likes the idea of using bark but using the thicker bark that can be purchased from SDS Lumber. Dickey said the idea was to make things easier for the city to maintain.

Catherine Kiewit said that what is being seen is not the finished look. She noted that she was originally concerned about the rock due to someone picking them up and throwing them. Kiewit said she is open to revisiting the idea. She said that not only was the decision made for maintenance issues but it would help reduce water usage.

Sandi Dickey said the city also wants to put in some nice shaped landscape rocks in a couple of areas.

Catherine Kiewit said another goal is to make sure the landscaping is cohesive.

Betty Barnes said Sandi Dickey and Miriam Knowles will be designing the landscape beds except for the one in front of Chips.

Catherine Kiewit said the council has approved the expenditure of \$2,000 for Steuben Street landscaping and feels there is flexibility to work with Miriam Knowles on what will be planted and how they will look.

There was a consensus of the council to move ahead with the landscaping work without the use of landscape fabric and using bark chips instead of river rock.

John Bartholomew thanked the council for listening.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Tracy Wyckoff said he currently has no updates. He said he is available for questions or concerns.

Betty Barnes asked Wyckoff if he got stuck on the Port side of the railroad tracks because the train was blocking the Maple Street intersection.

Wyckoff said yes.

Barnes noted that the train was blocking the tracks from 7:00 a.m. to approximately 10:40 a.m. due to a signaling malfunction on the line. She said Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) did not notify an emergency response that the intersections were blocked. Barnes said she will be discussing the issue with BNSF.

Sewer Connection Exception Request Decision, Guillermo and Jeri Fisch – Review and Approval

Jan Brending presented the draft decision for the sewer connection exception request made by Guillermo and Jeri Fish which was approved with conditions at the last council meeting.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the decision as presented. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 2014-04-631 Adopting Bingen Municipal Code 10.40, Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing regarding proposed Ordinance 2014-04-631, adopting Bingen Municipal 10.40, Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles.

Clinton Bryan said he supports the proposed ordinance. He said this is the first step for ATV owners to be able to drive in Klickitat County.

Pixie Bryan said she also supports the ordinance. She said she has not heard of any opposition to proposal.

David Spratt said he also supports the ordinance.

Jan Brending reviewed the changes to the ordinance. She said passengers are required to wear motorcycle helmets. Brending said this is noted in two locations in the ordinance. Brending said the language regarding the prohibition of wheeled all-terrain vehicles riding side-by-side in one lane of traffic has been amended to read “No operator may operate a wheeled all-terrain vehicle parallel to another wheeled all-terrain vehicle in a single lane of traffic.” She said these changes were recommended by Tracy Wyckoff. Brending said the RCW reference in section 10.40.50 was changes from 49.06 to 46.09.

Catherine Kiewit asked if tracks would be allowed on the ATVs in the winter and still qualify. There was discussion about this.

Craig Trummel noted the ordinance is specific to the use of “four tires.”

Catherine Kiewit asked if the vehicles have speedometers.

Will Altig said yes but the law does not require one.

Catherine Kiewit asked if a license plate is required.

Altig said yes.

Catherine Kiewit said she has had a lot of questions about allowing wheeled all-terrain vehicles in Bingen. She said her main concern is thinking about what will benefit the whole community and not just a handful of people. Kiewit said she knows that explanations have been provided to try and show that it will not adversely impact the community.

Sandi Dickey said she knows several retired people who go to Arizona for the winter and come back wondering why the use of ATVs is not allowed here.

Clinton Bryan said he doesn't believe all ATV riders should be punished or held accountable for the actions of what one person might do wrong.

Will Altig said there are currently over 150 names on a petition to Klickitat County to allow ATVs on county roads and that at least half of them live in Bingen. He noted that the law is not being changed – all the city is doing is accepting the state law.

Catherine Kiewit noted that the city must adopt a law before wheeled all-terrain vehicles are allowed on city streets.

Betty Barnes noted that the city has passed laws in the past that only benefit a few and not all residents.

Catherine Kiewit said she feels she needs to look at the proposed law to see if it will have any adverse impacts. She said she is concerned about how the vehicles will be used in the city limits.

Sandi Dickey said the vehicles are designed so that they cannot go fast. She said it would be nice to use them on the road.

Tracy Wyckoff said if the city passes the ordinance, the police department will be attentive and watching things closely. He said that he doesn't want to see it abused and that it should be considered a privilege to use the vehicles on city streets.

Clinton Bryan said he agrees that it will be a privilege.

Tracy Wyckoff said he hopes the adults of the community will step up to the plate and make sure things are done correctly.

Will Altig noted that the proposed ordinance has been noticed and that no one has come to the council meetings to oppose the idea.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Proposed Ordinance 2014-004-631, Adopting Bingen Municipal Code 10.40, Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles

Stephanie Porter moved to adopt Ordinance 2014-004-631, Adopting Bingen Municipal Code 10.40, Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote: Dickey – Aye, Kiewit – Abstain, Perez – Aye, Porter – Aye, Schroder – Absent.

Public Hearing – 2014 Budget Amendments

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing regarding amendments to the 2014 budget.

Jan Brending provided a review of the proposed amendments. She reviewed how the overhead cost allocation works and why it is necessary to amend it as budget amendments are considered.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Proposed Ordinance 2014-003-630, Amending the 2014 Budget

Sandi Dickey moved to adopt Ordinance 2014-003-630, Amending the 2014 Budget. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

April 2014 Newsletter – Review and Authorization to Go to Print

The draft April 2014 newsletter was reviewed with several corrections noted. Jan Brending will contact Maria Perez to see if it can be translated into Spanish.

There was a consensus of the council to send the newsletter to print.

Skatepark Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting – Discussion

The council discussed when the skatepark will be open and when a ribbon cutting should take place. Jan Brending said Bob Roe will be checking the grass on April 25. She said she anticipates the fencing coming down on April 28. Brending said low orange construction fencing will be placed around the steep slopes to prevent people from walking in those areas.

The council agreed to have an informal ribbon cutting on May 6 at 6:00 p.m. before the regular council meeting.

Betty Barnes noted that Carl Warren will be doing a photo shoot in the skatepark approximately a week before it opens.

Old Business

Small Works Roster, Tree Removal Contract – Action

Betty Barnes said Jan Brending attended the workshop held by the Underwood Conservation District and asked specifically about the tree removal in the city park. Barnes said Brending was told that as long as the tree is removed immediately included all branches, etc. then it should be fine.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept the small works roster bid of Columbia Tree Service in the amount of \$2,875.63 including taxes. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Yard and Garden Debris, Paper Lawn & Leaf Bags

The council discussed the use of paper lawn and leaf bags for the yard and garden debris pickup for Community Pride week. Jan Brending said the cost to purchase 250 bags from Ace Hardware would be \$106.96 including taxes.

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize the purchase of 250 paper lawn and leaf bags for \$106.96 and to limit the number provided to Bingen residents to 5. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor's Update

Washington Tourism Alliance

Betty Barnes said she received an e-mail from Norm Johnson saying that he has written a letter to the Washington Tourism Alliance supporting the requested changes on the Experience Washington website. She said she sent him a thank you.

Columbia Gorge Economic Development Coalition

Betty Barnes said she is not sure how many council members have heard anything about a proposed "Columbia Gorge Economic Development Coalition." She said a brown-bag lunch presentation sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce will be held on Wednesday, May 16 at noon. Barnes said she and Jan Brending have been attending presentations regarding the proposed coalition and will be attending the meeting on Wednesday. She said Mid-Columbia Economic Development District is the economic development resource agency in the Gorge and serves both Oregon and Washington. Barnes said she feels there are agencies in place already that address the issues and concerns that would be addressed by the proposed organization. She said she feels the role of the proposed organization has changed as different presentations have been made. Barnes said it doesn't make sense to duplicate services. She said that if there is something that is not be addressed then let's discuss that with the existing agencies to see what can be done.

Barnes noted that Senator King will also be attending the Wednesday presentation and will meet with her prior to the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Clark College Letter

Catherine Kiewit said she has not prepared the letter to Clark College yet but will be working on it.

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 April 15, 2014. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: EFT, checks 16664-16683 (dated 4/15/2014) totaling \$45965.80. General Fund – \$1731.80; Street - \$527.32; Water - \$13774.89; Sewer - \$726.03; Treatment Plant - \$1270.72; Water Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$23549.18; Sewer Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$2919.54; Treatment Plant Improvement Fund - \$1466.32.

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 April 15, 2014. The council by unanimous vote

does approve for payment the following list: EFT, payroll checks 16658-16663 (dated 4/15/2014) totaling \$13504.05. General Fund – \$5438.41; Street - \$2006.07; Water - \$1466.84; Sewer - \$453.68; Treatment Plant - \$4139.05.

The council adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor