

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 5, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 6:08 p.m. Council members present: Betty Barnes, Sandi Dickey, Stephanie Porter, Izzy Schroder, Catherine Kiewit (arrived at 6:41 p.m.), Maria Perez. City Administrator Jan Brending and City Attorney Chris Lanz were present.

Executive Session

At 6:08 p.m., Betty Barnes announced the council will enter into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 6:23 p.m., the council resumed regular session and Betty Barnes announced the executive session will continue for an additional 10 minutes.

At 6:33 p.m., the council resumed regular session and Betty Barnes announced the executive session will continue for an additional 10 minutes.

At 6:43 p.m., the council resumed regular session and Betty Barnes announced the executive session will continue for an additional 10 minutes.

At 6:53 p.m. the council resumed regular session and Betty Barnes announced the council will take a break until 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Betty Barnes, Sandi Dickey, Stephanie Porter, Catherine Kiewit, Izzy Schroder and Maria Perez. City Attorney Chris Lanz were present. Audience: Tad Connors, Tracy Wyckoff, Amber Marra, Laura Mann, Tamara Kaufmann.

Public Comment

Tamara Kaufmann, Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce

Tamara Kaufmann said the chamber is still working on some tourism things including updating a county map and a wine map. She said the chamber is asking Klickitat to assist with funding for visitor centers and to create a budget for advertising.

Betty Barnes asked how county funds the chamber.

Kaufmann said through lodging tax dollars and the county funds \$15,000 for economic development that helps pay her salary. She said it pays about half of the chamber's budget but does not address advertising.

Betty Barnes said it is her understanding that the lodging tax is used to promote tourism.

Kaufmann said visitors' centers qualifies for that funding.

Jan Brending asked about the status of the packaged travel program.

Kaufmann said Earlene with the Goldendale Chamber is working on that program which is a long-term program.

Approval of Minutes – July 15, 2014

Izzy Schroder moved to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2014 regularly scheduled meeting as presented. Catherine Kiewit seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Tracy Wyckoff said he has been a little bit busy the last few weeks. He said there was a recent incident at the skatepark where an individual crashed on his bike in the deep bowl. Wyckoff said the ambulance was called but he did not think it was serious.

Izzy Schroder said traffic has been heavy through town.

Wyckoff agreed.

Maria Perez said she has had a couple of residents ask about some patrol in the area to address individuals not stopping at the four-way stop signs.

Wyckoff said he has had some patrol in the area but he has yet to have anyone blow the stop sign. Wyckoff said he will have the area patrolled more frequently.

Jan Brending said she has noticed some hotrods in the area.

Wyckoff asked why dispatch was not called.

Brending said she could not get information in time to call dispatch.

Catherine Kiewit asked Wyckoff if he has any suggestions on how to make the crosswalk that crosses Highway 141 at Humboldt safer.

Wyckoff said making compact parking from Humboldt north on the east side might help with visibility.

Catherine Kiewit said a couple of options might be a flashing pedestrian warning light and/or creating a bulb out at the crosswalk area.

Staff will look into the options for addressing pedestrian safety for the crosswalk at Highway 141 and Humboldt

Request for Street Closure for Block Party – Mandi Rae Pope

Mandi Rae Pope said she moved to Bingen in January and feels the need to get a neighborhood watch started on her neighborhood. She said that she feels it is the most productive way to address some things that are happening in the area. Pope said she wants neighbors to know who each other are.

Pope said she was thinking of September 7 as the day for a block party.

Council noted that the 7th of September is the last day of Huckleberry Festival.

Pope said she will try for September 14.

Maria Perez asked if she was going to try to promote the neighborhood watch throughout city.

Pope said she is primarily staying in the block where she lives.

Catherine Kiewit suggested Pope might want to talk to the newspaper. She said there are a lot of people that could be assisting with a neighborhood watch that might not live in the immediate block.

Maria Perez said she could help out with Spanish translations for any flyers that Pope might need.

Jan Brending said the city has directed Pope to contact the police department regarding a neighborhood watch program.

Tracy Wyckoff said there is a large group in the White Salmon area that is implementing a neighborhood watch program.

Pope said she will keep the city posted on what she hears back from individuals.

There was a consensus of the council to allow a block party (Humboldt between Maple and Cherry) on September 14. Pope will be responsible for keeping a clear area for emergency access and for picking up barricades from City Public Works.

Public Hearing, Charter Franchise Agreement

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing on the proposed Charter Communications franchise agreement.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Jan Brending reviewed the changes to the proposed agreement. She said that she had become aware of some minor changes that had previously been discussed between the city's former legal counsel and Charter. Brending said if the council is comfortable with the agreement the next step would be to put it in an ordinance format and hold a public hearing after Charter corporate has approved the agreement.

There was a consensus of council to accept the proposed charter agreement which will be sent to Charter corporate for approval. Once the city has received notification that Charter accepts the agreement than a public hearing for ordinance adoption will be scheduled.

Draft Mobile/Street Vendor Ordinance

The council reviewed and discussed the draft mobile/street vendor ordinance. The following changes to the draft ordinance were requested:

5.06.020 A, the second sentence should read: “The maximum permissible size for any vending unit shall be 144 square feet, including storage, furniture, seating, and other appurtenances.”

5.06.060 C, shall read: “Mobile vendors not remaining stationary for more than 30 minutes are allowed to park/pass through all of the city streets with the exception of Steuben and Oak.”

5.06.070 A, shall read: The number of stationary street vendor licenses to be issued per year shall be limited to four (4).

5.06.070 add: “The number of mobile vendors (not remaining stationary for more than 30 minutes) shall be limited to two (2).

5.05.080 should be 5.06.080

5.05.080 delete H. “Vendors shall not make loud noises or use mechanical audio or noise-making devices or hawk to advertise their product.”

5.06.080 N, should read “Mobile/street vendors are allowed to operate from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

5.06.110 the license fee for stationary vendors shall be \$240 per year and the license fee for a mobile vendor shall be \$100 per year.

A public hearing will be scheduled for the proposed ordinance at the next city council meeting.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Process Computer Upgrade

Jan Brending provided information to the council regarding Aurora Automation’s response to questions regarding providing a warranty for the treatment plant process computer upgrade.

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize the city to sign contract with Aurora Automation for system integration work in upgrading the wastewater treatment plant process computer for an amount not to exceed \$12,000. Sandi Dickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed Lease for Xerox Color Copier

Jan Brending presented information to the city council regarding a lease for a new Xerox color copier. She said the lease provides for a new copier with the same features as the city’s current copier plus color. She said the price will be \$315 per month plus taxes.

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve signing the lease for a new Xerox color copier. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Treasurer’s Report – June 2014

Jan Brending presented the June Treasurer’s Report.

Izzy Schroder moved to accept the June 2014 treasurer’s report. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mayor’s Update and Council Comments

Animal Control Reports

Betty Barnes said the council has been provided with animal reports through July.

Catherine Kiewit said she has read through the reports and noticed that people have been given multiple warnings. She said she feels that chronic repeaters should not be given warnings and that dogs running at large should be ticketed.

Washington State Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) – Insurance Rating

Betty Barnes said the city has received an updated insurance rating from the WSRB. She said the good news is that the rating did not go down. Barnes also noted that the Port of Klickitat at Bingen Point rating was improved.

Oil and Coal Train Forum

Betty Barnes said she attended the forum that was sponsored by Kevin Herman and that it was very interesting. She said representatives from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and the Federal Railway Administration were present. Barnes said she learned that BNSF provides training to local fire departments and that they have a training in Colorado that is all expenses paid. She said she will be working with BNSF to see if Bingen can send a couple of the firefighters.

Barnes said she also received an e-mail tonight that BNSF can provide hazmat training with Bingen. She said the county emergency management department will doing an exercise soon so she will try to coordinate with BNSF so that tank cars can be present during the exercise.

Catherine Kiewit noted that there has been some recent news regarding tank car explosions

Betty Barnes said that was discussed and it has been suggested that a quarter mile radius should be cleared mostly due to vapors. She said that BNSF asked that if a tank car begins to burn it should be left to burn and firefighters should protect the area around the site – people and property,

Betty Barnes said the Governor’s representative from Department of Ecology (DOE) was there and DOE is assessing what areas are at risk and what types of equipment are available. She said that BNSF said they are also playing catch up too in dealing with the number of tank cars moving through on their tracks.

Barnes said there were some pretty outlandish things said at the meeting including that Amtrak no longer stops in Bingen because of the oil trains and that local fireman will not respond because the chiefs have told them not to.

Interlocal Agreement for Purchase of Water

Jan Brending reported that a proposed interlocal agreement for the purchase of water from White Salmon will be presented to the council at the next meeting. She said the price will be reduced by \$0.52 due to Bingen obtaining its water right. Brending said the price increase for each year will be 3% which is the price that White Salmon’s water billing for its own customers goes up each year.

Drinking Fountain at the Park

Council members asked if there is any information on installing a drinking fountain at the park.

Jan Brending said she will provide information at the next council meeting.

Voucher Approval

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 5, 2014. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 16897-16937 (dated 08/05/2014) totaling \$52880.71. General Fund – \$16972.29; Street - \$2660.97; Water - \$12538.85; Sewer - \$319.54; Treatment Plant - \$7521.54; Water Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$4709.42; Sewer Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$2170.02; Treatment Plant Improvement Fund - \$5988.08.

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 5, 2014. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 16887, 16895-16896 (dated 07/16/2014 and 07/31/2014) totaling \$2459.62. General Fund – \$2459.62.

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 5, 2014. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: EFT, payroll checks 16888-16894 (dated 7/31/2014) totaling \$21110.74. General Fund – \$9540.38; Street - \$2887.19; Water - \$1964.40; Sewer - \$635.78; Treatment Plant - \$6082.99.

The council adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor