

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 01/11/23

Mayor Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Council Members present: Alan Caswell
 Katrina Auburn
 Mark Easton
 Hans Smith
 Aaron Studen

Council Member absent:

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Studen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Request for Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Additions: **Letter of Support Okanogan County PUD;**
 Letter of Support Okanogan County Electric Coop

Public Comment Period (Up to Three Minutes):

Shirlee Evans, Methow Recycles: She is a member of the Methow Recycles Board, and the board has decided they want to reach out to work with more local utility suppliers, including the Town which offers several utility services, including water, sewer, and snow removal. Methow Recycles provides materials collection for reuse in recycling. In her view, both Methow Recycles and the Town are non-profits that serve to benefit the local community. She said that Methow Recycles strives to deliver the best service in the most economical way and are asking for ways that Methow Recycles can cooperate with the Town to provide a better service to the Town and the people. Shirlee Evans can be reached through Sarah Jo Lightner, who is the executive director. She thanks the council for giving her the opportunity to attend and introduce herself.

Mayor Ing-Moody responded thanking her for the service Methow Recycles provides to the community as she believes it to be a valuable asset to the community.

Shirlee responded that Methow Recycles will keep trying to be better and she may not be able to attend council meetings in person but will be joining online when possible; she is very glad to see the Town using online resources.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that snow seems to be the biggest issue at the moment, and that Director Denham will be sharing a report at this meeting. She is asking community members to be patient with staff working on snow removal. Mayor Ing-Moody introduced the Town's new Interim police chief as Officer Ty Sheehan and that she has been working closely with him since Chief Budrow's departure. Officer Sheehan responded saying he is excited to be working with Mayor Ing-Moody and that he and Officer Purtell will be working hard to keep things running smoothly.

Staff Reports

Director Denham reported that Public Works is in the middle of several plan reviews including the 60% design for the Wastewater Treatment plant, and the 75% Sewer Collection System designs. He shared that there is a lot going on with just these 2 reviews, in addition to other developer plans in the works. He reported that the public works crew is extremely busy. This week he will be working at the Wastewater treatment plant, operating it, as another crew member is added to plow and remove snow. It is all hands-on deck with snow removal being top priority. The crew is not just working on removal and clean up, but also sanding and lots of other challenges that have come up. They are doing everything they can and would appreciate help from the community. Director Denham stated that the community might not be aware that they start plowing at midnight and they can be going to 2pm or longer depending on snow situations. Director Denham has also been out helping in the field as well. Crews are working weekends as well as during the week, doing absolutely everything that they can. Director Denham reported the hiring of private contractors to help with snow removal and clean up including with berms, grading, and plowing as our equipment is not big enough for some of the tasks. Public Works is aware that the streets are narrow, and that they are working on widening them when they have the chance. He shared that widening streets is a difficult task to do during the day due to the size of the equipment and traffic; stating that the easiest time of the day to do this is also the most dangerous time to do so. A way for residents to help the process would be to yield to the crew and to be patient. Director Denham also stated that snow sluffs have been an issue and that if a resident's snow sluffs into right of way to get it cleared as soon as possible for safety reasons. He shared that another way to help is as a contractor is hired to clear your roof, to also have a contractor be clearing the snow so that it doesn't stay in public rights of way. Snow should be cleared right away. He also asked residents to not put snow from their driveway into the road after it has been plowed as it creates a dangerous situation for others.; drivers can hit the pile not expecting it and get hurt. Director Denham said that these are just a few items that the community can do to help. He also asked that we be cordial and understand that the guys and gals are doing everything they can to get things taken care of in a timely manner.

Mayor Ing-Moody responded saying that she knows how much crews are working, and that this year has been extreme. She appreciates Director Denham putting together talking points to show what role that everyone plays. She thanks the crew for all the hard work being done.

Council Member Easton responded saying that the meter across street from him froze, and that it was Director Denham that came out and worked hard to get it fixed. He thanked him for his hard work. Council Member Easton asked if more meters had froze, and what can be done in the future to stop that from happening. Director Denham responded that as the crew encounters those, they make a list of it to add more insulation so as to keep them warm. He noted that on that particular day that meter was the third one. There was a total of six or seven this winter, which is less than normal, due to the replacement of meters and having installed them deeper. He shared that there is one meter that they have not been able to thaw even after a week and are now moving to the next step of digging. This was a worst-case scenario as the residence was vacant for the coldest week of the year, so no water had been running at all. Council Member Easton asked if letting faucets drip helps at all. Director Denham said that it does, and a lot of people do it, which we can see on a chart showing water usage going up, but everything is back to

normal now. Other ways to prevent freezing is to keep snow on top of the meter for extra insulation. It is rare for a meter to freeze, but if cleared off and driven on it could freeze.

Council Member Studen asked if driving over a meter is a factor of freezing or if it's only when snow is cleared and driven over. Director Denham responded that this has been discussed with many boards and it is common thought that driving over a cleared shallow line or meter can drive the colder temps to meter causing it to freeze.

Council Member Auburn thanked everyone for all the hard work being done. Director Denham stated that he does get the emails thanking them and that it does make a difference as well as the in-person thanks that they get.

Mayor Ing-Moody reiterated that Public Works is very busy with many tasks on a given day and asked that if there is something that people are aware of that needs attention to please tell us so that we can get it taken care of; she asks that people be patient and kind when reporting needs.

Clerk Kilmer reported that dog licenses are up for renewal and that reminders had been sent out in the mail. He asked residents to let the town know if your dog has passed away, so that they can be removed from the system. The cost goes up after January 31st and asks that residents renew sooner the better. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that dog licenses help owners should their dog runaway as it helps officers to reunite pets to their owners. Clerk Kilmer supported this statement, saying that it is easier to get dogs home as the address is already on file; especially important since we do not have a pound in Twisp.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports

Council Member Caswell reported that he attended the Okanogan Council of Governments (OCOG) meeting virtually. This was his first meeting. The discussion mainly revolved around grant applications for TranGo, WSDOT, commuter routes, and replacement busses. There was an election of officers; only two positions were up. Chairmen Jon Neil was reelected for chair, Wayne Turner will retain his position, and the treasurer will continue to be Josh Thompson. There is a part time position open to represent OCOG at out-of-town meetings but discussion was mostly around who is going to provide insurance for this person. The meeting ended with a round table talking about route expansion for TranGo, hydrogen fuel stations promoted by Okanogan County PUD that Okanogan County is trying for zero emissions for public transport.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked if the PUD is looking for a grant for the hydrogen fuel stations and if they are planning for themselves to have hydrogen vehicles storage capacity developed within the county. Council Member Caswell responded saying yes they are interested and are working towards it as they are just starting the project and don't know how long it will take.

Council Member Studen, who sits on the TranGo board, stated that Trango invests in zero emissions leads, and after investigations it has proven that electric options are not feasible given how long the routes are, but hydrogen is considered to potentially be more viable. It is believed that partnering with the PUD, who will offer the fuel, this is something that can be achieved. He shared that the technology is a ways off from Trango being able to power busses with hydrogen but it is something they are looking at.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #795- Sewer Bond

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that this is a 915k bond, and that Stacie Amasaki from Foster Garvey is in attendance and can answer any questions the Council may have. Stacie Amasaki apologized for not attending in person, but glad she could join via video. She stated that this is a USDA bond, and that it will be payable in installments as well as having better interest rates compared to the Town's current bond.

Council Member Hans made a motion to adopt Ordinance #795 as presented. Council Member Studen seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #796- TMC 12.05.120 – Sidewalk Snow Removal

Clerk Kilmer stated that this Ordinance is to provide consistency as some portions of town code conflicted with other times, so it was decided to change the time of snow removal to be no later than 11:00.

Council Member Studen stated that the ordinance does not say AM in the document. He also asked about the sidewalks that Public Works clears and when those are done.

Director Denham responded that Public Works usually clears sidewalks at 4:00AM so they are done before business owners start clearing theirs.

Council Member Studen made a motion to adopt Ordinance #796 with addition of AM to the document. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Letter of Support PUD

Council Members questioned if this will help the Town and if they had any plans that the Town could look at. Mayor Ing- Moody responded that any communications infrastructure improvements in the valley will benefit the Town of Twisp. Specific details on the project application have not been shared with the Town at this time.

Council Member Studen made a motion to approve the PUD Letter of Support. Council Member Easton seconds. Council Member Smith abstained from voting. The motion was passed.

Letter of Support OCEC

Council Member Studen made a motion to approve the OCEC Letter of Support. Council Member Easton seconds. Council Member Smith abstained from voting. The motion was passed.

Consent Agenda

- Accounts Payable/Payroll

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Town Council. The following voucher/checks are approved for payment by a majority vote on this 11th day of January 2023.

Accounts Payable	Checks #37537-37559	\$360,744.42	01/11/23
------------------	---------------------	--------------	----------

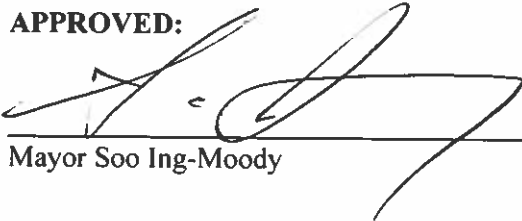
Payroll	EFT Trans # 2933-2947, 2953-2955, 2957-2959	\$79,637.90	01/11/23
Accounts Payable	Checks #37560-37576	\$97,219.90	01/11/23

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:18pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer