

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 07/25/23

Mayor Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Council Members present: Mayor Ing-Moody
Alan Caswell
Katrin Auburn
Hans Smith
Aaron Studen-Virtual

Council Member absent: Mark Easton

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Caswell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Request for Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Removal of Avidex Service Agreement

Public Comment Period: Up to Three Minutes

Susan Ernsdorff-

Ms. Ernsdorff commented on a neighborhood nuisance that occurred last year and is now happening again this summer. She stated that she has a neighbor that was raising pigs last year and after being told that it was for 4-H, the neighborhood was okay with it. They are now raising pigs again. She stated that there are no codes for raising farm animals in Town. Ms. Ernsdorff asked the Council and the Mayor what residents are to do with nuisance complaints.

Lucy Reid-

Ms. Reid commented that she has no problem with residential rezoning but is worried about density if it is allowed to be split into sixty lots. She stated she lives in a R-2 zone where the lots are bigger and spaced out. Ms. Reid commented that she is curious about the process and about the ultimate plan before the rezone is approved.

Mark Edson-

Mr. Edson commented that he was unaware of any neighbors being contacted about the rezone petition. He also commented on the contract between the Town and Fire District 6 mentioning where it

states that Town will transfer ownership of all fire equipment to the District in return for fire protection to all Town owned buildings. Mr. Edson stated that the District says they do not know what that means. He asked the Council what it meant. He stated that because the Town is not lowering the tax levy he will be campaigning against the annexation. Mr. Edson stated that at the last Council meeting he asked a Council member what the Town spent \$36,000 on and claimed he was told that they did not know what it was for and that they only pay attention to large sums of money. He stated that that concerns him as that seems like a large sum of money to him and that there were more large purchases that were made.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that the Town is still working with WASPC and finalizing details on using their service. She also reported that Town is looking at replacing the current planner with an interim planner as Planner Danison will be leaving. They have been working on the contract which will include additional hours.

Council Member Studen asked if there is the possibility of the interim planner becoming long term.

Mayor Ing-Moody responded that the potential is there and we will make further determination near the end of the year.

Staff Reports

Clerk Kilmer reported that the town is being audited this year; the audit will be conducted in a hybrid way. For the pre-audit he has sent digital records and the auditors have reviewed them and decide what they will need to physically review.

Sheriff Budrow reported that the Sheriff's Office is managing the Town's case load very well. He stated that he patrols the town before going to Okanogan and again when he comes back to town. He reminded everyone about the recent bad fatality accident that occurred and that DUI's are high on the priority list for him as he encouraged people not to drink and drive. As of July 1, 2023, drugs are illegal again and officers can start enforcing again on August 15th, 2023. He also mentioned that the jail is open again and will be taking people in until a safe cap is met due to the shortage of six officers. Sheriff Budrow also reported that mental health continues to be an issue and that the county is in the middle of budget season so Town will be seeing less of Sheriff Budrow in a patrol car as he is needed for that process.

Director Denham reported that the Sewer Collection project was kicked off yesterday. He said there will be many projects going on at the same time throughout Town. The contractor doing the work has been tasked with maintaining access to the streets; they are very conscious of the public and will do what they can to keep access open. He reported that the project is going well and Town got another two million dollars to finish the project. The WWTP design has been completed and sent to the Department of Ecology for their review. Town should receive their comments back at the end of the month or early

next month. Once Town receives the comments the project will go out for a six-week bid due to the size of the project, with the contract expecting to be awarded in early fall. Director Denham also reported that USDA came out and did a final inspection walkthrough of the Civic Building and gave nothing but high marks on the design and construction of the facility. He also reported that he will be working on an RCO grant; the grant is the first of its kind for RCO and will cover one hundred percent of park revitalization projects. Well number four has been completed. Later this week the crew will commission it once a final test is completed. He anticipates that this time next week, barring any malfunctions, Town will have a third well in commission. Director Denham gave a shout out to the Public Works crew for all their hard work especially while he was on vacation.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports

Council Member Auburn reported that the Planning Commission meeting set for Wednesday July 26th has been cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. They will resume their normal schedule next month. The Chamber met on Thursday where they addressed the Visitor Information Center and the possibility of having someone paint the sign. They will meet again on August 17th, 2023. Council Member Auburn responded to Mr. Edson's earlier claim of a Council member's statement regarding the check register, stating that she does not know anyone who has memorized a register before and emphasized that the Town has always been transparent with Council and members of the public.

Council Member Caswell reported that at the last Planning Commission meeting the only matter that was discussed was the nightly rental task force.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Action: Motion to Move Orchard Hills Planned Development to Subsequent Meeting

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that Town is continuing to work with legal counsel on the next steps for Orchard Hills.

Council Member Smith made a motion to move Orchard Hills Planned Development to a subsequent meeting. Council Member Caswell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Planning Commission Interviews/Appointments (Rachel Levi, Ken Borg)

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that there are currently two positions open on the Commission. Position two ends in 2025 and position five ends in 2024. The two candidates discussed between themselves the positions and decided that Rachel Levi would go for position five, and Ken Borg would go for position two.

The Council gave the candidates a chance to give their background and reason for wanting to join the Planning Commission. Each candidate gave their reasonings and answered all questions presented to them.

Council Member Caswell made a motion to appoint Rachel Levi to position five of the Planning Commission. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Smith made a motion to appoint Ken Borg to position two of the Planning Commission. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Hidden Acres Long Plat Alteration

Planner Danison stated that the Hidden Acres long plat was approved over twenty years ago, but since the Housing Trust have acquired the property, they would like to ensure the road is dedicated and made public to the Town. To do so a boundary line adjustment is needed to lot five and six. Once the road becomes a public road it is intended that the road be brought up to development standards during construction.

Council Member Smith inquired on the process of title transfer as it impacts the sewer line. Planner Danison responded that approving the plat would approve the right of way for the sewer line.

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the Hidden Acres Long Plat Alteration. Council Member Caswell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Petition for Comprehensive Plan Map and Zoning Map Amendments

Planner Danison stated that all necessary information has been laid out in the packet for the Council. The proponent, Mike Port, has paid all required fees, and the Planning Commission is ready to begin the process.

Council Member Smith asked what Planner Danison recalls of discussions in the past of what is allowable in the CR zoning class. Planner Danison stated that he remembers discussions allowing for a mixed use of homes, hotels, and motels. Council Member Smith stated that while sending this petition to the Planning Commission may reveal more information about what is requested to be amended, the council is interested in hearing from the property owner about their plans for the property, or be provided additional information on why a rezone is desirable. Council Member Smith stated that he has reservations about investing town resources in changing the zoning or even pushing it forward to the Planning Commission without more information to explain the request, especially considering the town's limited capacity to address other priorities and the Planning Commission's current workload.

Council Member Auburn asked how the codes would be impacted for those areas if the zone change were to be approved. She asked for the different zones to be explained. Planner Danison stated that if approved for a change in zoning, the proponent would have to follow R2 zoning codes, a residential zone in which the biggest difference is the lot size requirements.

Council Member Studen stated his opinion that either zoning class may be appropriate considering the location of the property, but noted that the property has an industrial past and wondered if there is the

possibility of chemicals having been dumped on the property. Council Member Smith responded that the Council should be cautious about assuming that anything has been dumped at the site, noting that the current zone designation is not intended to be reflective of contamination concerns, and there is no current evidence or analysis regarding site contamination potential before the Council.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked Planner Danison to request additional information from the proponent on their plans with the property. The discussion will come before the council at a later date.

Discussion/Action: Task Order Authorization – RTAAP Grant Funding Assistance

Director Denham stated that this grant is a request for \$360,000 for design of the Glover St and Twisp/Carlton Rd connector. He stated that until now there has not been a good funding opportunity for the design portion of the project. He explained that it may be easier to be awarded this year as he believes that the grant will become more competitive in future years.

Council Member Auburn made a motion to approve Task Order Authorization – RTAAP Grant Funding Assistance. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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 25th day of July 2023.

Accounts Payable	Checks #37966-37989	\$94,036.84	07/25/23
Accounts Payable	EFT Trans 1526	\$683.00	07/25/23
Payroll	Checks #14521-14529	\$6,704.82	07/25/23
Payroll	EFT Trans 1462-1470	\$11,178.47	

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

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor ~~Soong-Moody~~

Smith

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer