

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 11-22-22

Mayor Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Council Members present via phone/video:

Hans Smith
Katrina Auburn
Alan Caswell
Mark Easton
Aaron Studen

Council Members absent:

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

Barry Stromberger of Burgar Street commented on two items. First, he encouraged Council to renew the nightly rental moratorium for another six months. He appreciates that there are no exemptions for commercial zoning. He feels that the priority for housing should be for local primary residents to rent or buy, and to mitigate the loss of a good residential neighborhood atmosphere.

Second, he is in favor of the Milltown Annexation, however he does have concerns that the Town has adequate water rights and sewer treatment capacity to deal with all the growth in town. He does not want to see developers add cost to existing town residents.

Morgan Sicilia commented in support of the nightly rental moratorium, the desire to keep neighborhoods intact, and prioritizing housing for locals.

Paula Mackrow commented in favor of the Milltown annexation request and is happy the Konrads have stepped up to develop this property. She shares the same concerns for the project as Barry and is hoping that the density expectations are addressed via a zoning overlay.

Isabell Spohn likes the idea of affordable housing and applauds the Konrad's intentions. She has lots of questions that she hopes are answered by the presentation on the proposed development. She agrees with Barry's concerns on water capacity and would like to see the results of the Housing Action Plan before any developments are approved. She is in full support of the nightly rental moratorium.

Public Hearings:

2023 Preliminary Budget Hearing

Mayor Ing- Moody opened the Public Hearing at 5:48 pm.

She asked Council if anyone would like to comment on the budget. There were no comments. She then asked if anyone in the audience would like to make a comment. She asked that they state their name for the record. There were no comments from the public.

She reported that a balanced budget has been presented but is subject to change as the year progresses and we have a better projection of final 2022 balances. Federal and State revenue projections have been considered with this budget as issues of inflation and rising costs are affecting all. This year it is expected that some O&M reserves may need to be used, but as minimally as possible. Department Heads and the Finance Committee will continue to work on the final budget in the coming weeks before adoption.

Director Denham reported on the proposed water/sewer rate increase of 5.5%. Increased costs of operation, staffing, equipment maintenance, and scheduled projects for 2023 underscore the need for the increase. He noted that Twisp rates remain in the middle of comparable public utility providers in the area, and that the requested increase is similar to what has been proposed by other providers. He's happy to report that the projects completed in the last five years have had a tremendous grant/loan ratio in the Town's favor and that Twisp has above average infrastructure with average rates due to the work the administration and Council have put into these projects.

Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 6:00 pm.

2023 Property Tax Levy

Mayor Ing- Moody opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 pm.

She asked Council if anyone would like to comment on the property tax levy. There were no comments. She then asked if anyone in the audience would like to make a comment. She asked that anyone interested please state their name for the record. There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 6:01 pm.

2023 EMS Levy

Mayor Ing- Moody opened the Public Hearing at 5:01 pm.

She asked Council if anyone would like to comment on the EMS Levy. There were no comments. She then asked if anyone in the audience would like to make a comment; and to state their name for the record.

Cindy Button of Aero Methow commented in support of the 2023 levy and thanked the Council for their support of previous year's levies.

Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 6:04 pm.

2023-28 Capital Facility Plan

Mayor Ing- Moody opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 pm.

She asked Council if anyone would like to comment on the capital facility plan. There were no comments. She then asked if anyone in the audience would like to make a comment; she asked that anyone interested please state their name for the record.

Ellen Aagaard commented on the parks portion of the capital facility plan, specifically Maves Park and the Burton Street / river access site. She'd like to see bike racks and art added to Maves Park. She'd like to see signage at the end of Burton Street for river access as well as considerations for the disabled use of the site.

Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 6:09 pm.

Nightly Rental Moratorium

Mayor Ing- Moody opened the Public Hearing at 6:13 pm.

She asked Council if anyone would like to comment on the nightly rental moratorium. There were no comments. She then asked if anyone in the audience would like to make a comment to please state their name for the record.

Paula Mackrow commented her concerns that the process has not been very transparent as she understands a Council sub-committee has been working on it without much public involvement. She notes that citizens have expressed a desire to be involved in the solution and help to establish priorities to mitigate the loss of neighborhood atmospheres. She appreciates the extension of the moratorium as proposed.

Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 6:17 pm.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #789 - 2023 Property Tax Levy

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance #789 - 2023 Property Tax Levy. Council Member Easton seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #790 - 2023 EMS Levy

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve #790 - 2023 EMS Levy. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #22-698 - 2023-28 Capital Facility Plan

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Resolution #22-698 - 2023-28 Capital Facility Plan. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that finalizing the FY23 budget is taking most of the staff's time now, as well as completing tasks associated with moving into the new building and ensuring ongoing operations. She is thankful for the diligent work of staff to make progress on the numerous projects the Town has going now.

Staff Reports:

Director Denham is excited to report that Public Works is now fully staffed, and the new operator starts next week. Snow removal continues to be taxing to the crew and recent weather events have been so extreme that it took three times the amount of time to clear as compared to usual snowfall periods. A standby generator failure at the wastewater treatment plant has necessitated the rental of a backup generator. Staff training at the WWTP has continued and the new lift station is functioning flawlessly. Department of Health did a sanitary survey, completed once every five years, and Twisp received extraordinarily high marks. The engineer who performed the survey had great things to say about the Public Works staff. Director Denham is very proud of the work they've done and their ability to operate even in his absence.

Clerk Kilmer reported that new staff training is going well. The new website is now live and he appreciates any input or suggestions on the content therein.

Committee, Commission and Board Reports:

Council Member Auburn reported that the recent Planning Commission meeting was held in regard to the draft sign code and is on the agenda for discussion tonight.

Council Member Easton reported on the Chamber meeting. Mistletoe Madness is scheduled for 12/9/22 from 4-7pm. Updates to the VIC were discussed with talk about inclusion of public restrooms. That discussion may be had with the TERC as well.

Council Member Smith reported on the Finance Committee meeting. Discussions were had with Gary Scott as a representative of the Konrads in the Milltown Annexation proposal. They are looking for feedback on some items in the proposal and still working with the Committee on the pre-annexation agreement. This item is on the agenda tonight.

Council Member Studen reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting wherein they reviewed and updated the most recent draft agreement for annexation with Fire District 6. Talks were also had about finding a replacement for the Twisp Police Chief with Chief Budrow's resignation expected due to his election as Okanogan County Sheriff. The committee is wanting to make sure the proper time is taken to find a suitable replacement, though plans will be put into place for an interim chief.

Council Member Auburn reported on the Twisp Airport Advisory Board. Discussions were continued on the request for a fuel depot and recommendations on hangar lease rates.

Discussion/Action: Milltown Annexation – Gary Scott

Gary Scott, representative of the Konrads and the Milltown Annexation request shared a slideshow and presented the proposal to the Council. This slideshow is available upon request. Currently the Finance Committee and the Milltown group have been meeting to develop a pre-annexation agreement to set the terms moving forward. It has been agreed that the amount of Equivalency Residential Units (ERUs) created by project beyond town limits will be the basis for assessing an impact charge against the future loan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWPT) upgrade.

Council Member Smith explained the mitigation fee. The upgrades to the new WWTP are designed with Twisp's 20-year growth projections in mind. That equals 373 ERUs projected within existing town limits. The land being proposed for annexation along with the proposed development would consume ERUs

projected from the current town limits. The fee is to mitigate the impacts of the proposed annexation on current residents of Twisp.

Gary Scott also discussed variances from Town standards when it comes to open space, building height, and parking. These are items that would be sorted out in the Planned Development process and reviewed by the Planning commission.

Mayor Ing-Moody thanked Gary Scott and the Konrads for their time, effort, and funds into this project and assured them the Town will continue to move forward to consider this development through the necessary steps.

Discussion/Action: Sign Code Recommendations

Planning Commission Chair John Battle reported on the final draft of the sign code recommendations as presented to council. Planning Commission believes that it addresses all directions Council had previously provided, and brings an effective, safe, consistent, and visually pleasing solution to enhance the rural character of Twisp. It does not restrict style but does restrict size, type, and location. Use of internally lit signs has been a big topic of debate in the process of creating the draft. Another consideration is enforcement of the code if it is adopted. Nothing proposed in the code will enforce revisions on existing signs. This draft will need review, ordinance drafting, and a public hearing before potential adoption.

Council Member Smith believes that the Town needs to be conscientious of enforcement and administration as to who is going to have those responsibilities. He would like to give administration time to look at potential impacts on passing this. This doesn't represent an opinion that the recommendations are flawed, just that enforcement needs to be considered. He requests that it come back to Council after a staff review.

Mayor Ing-Moody will add it to a future agenda after the TERC and administrative staff take a look. At this time there is no further work the Planning Commission needs to do on the matter until otherwise directed. She thanked John and the commission for their diligent work on the recommendations.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #791 - Nightly Rental Moratorium

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance #791 - Nightly Rental Moratorium. Council Member Easton seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #792 - TMC 10.20.090 – Parking

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance #792 - TMC 10.20.090 – Parking. Council Member Easton seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Twisp/Okanogan County – Interlocal Agreement for Building Inspection Services

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the Twisp/Okanogan County – Interlocal Agreement for Building Inspection Services. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: OCOG Representative Alternate Appointment

Council Member Smith made a motion for Alan Caswell to be the OCOG Representative Alternate for the Town of Twisp. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion. The motion was 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 22nd day of November 2022.

Payroll	EFT # 2637-8	22,638.90	11/22/22
Accounts Payable	Warrant # 37430-37463	171,635.32	11-22-22

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer