

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 09-27-22

Mayor Soo Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Council Members present via phone/video

Hans Smith
Katrina Auburn
Alan Caswell
Mark Easton

Council Members absent:

Aaron Studen

Pledge of Allegiance:

Councilmember Caswell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

none

Public Comment:

none

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor announced the plan to move into the new Civic Building facility in the next week. Construction continues to apply the final touches to the facility and staff are eager to move in and enjoy the much needed office improvements. To facilitate a more efficient move, the staff will need some uninterrupted time to prepare, pack, move, and reorganize at the new site. The Mayor announced that to facilitate these activities, town hall will be closed to the public for a couple weeks and reopen October 17th, although staff will be working, answering phones and checking emails. It is expected that business will continue mostly as usual inside and that staff will respond to any needs as soon as possible.

Staff Reports:

Public Works Director Denham reported that there are a lot of projects happening around town.

Lift station 3 has been completed with the contractor providing installation in a timely manner. They are awaiting the PUD to change the needed voltage.

Lift station 2 project is on hold as parts are needed which are expected to become available in October.

A final design for the sewer collection system is expected in early spring.

Cascade Loop is scheduled for paving.

The new Civic Building town square is proceeding and on schedule, with nearly daily contact with the contractors to ensure everything stays on task; completion date is expected by November.

Staff has been winterizing the pool. The new well construction is expected to be installed Tuesday of next week. It is expected that three wells will be in operation by spring.

The sports complex is being worked on and the watering system has been corrected, another load of dirt having been spread today which should result in significant improvements to the field.

He reported that the Airport runway did not receive the WSDOT Aviation grant for sealant and discussions are being had to consider a plan B.

An income survey will be conducted by Evergreen Rural Water; it is hoped that results may provide the town with a higher threshold for the receipt of grants vs loans. Evergreen will be going door to door to conduct the survey.

Chief Budrow reported that there had been a fire the police responded to and that it was small as it was put out quickly.

Public Comment:

None

Committee, Commission and Board Reports:

Council member Studen reported that he, Council member Easton, and the mayor met with Beckwith consultant on the 19th regarding the housing action plan he would be developing. It is expected that data will begin to be collected in October. He reported that the hiring team had been impressed with Beckwith Consultants and look forward to seeing the final report once it is completed.

Council member Easton reported that at the Twisp chamber board meeting it was announced that Mindy Irvine will be organizing the October 29th ribbon cutting event. The Chamber will evaluate how the event goes prior to deciding on how they may use her services for future events. The Art Walk is expected to take place Friday December 9th this year. The membership rate was raised to \$150 this year and so far 50 businesses renewed their membership for the year.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Planning Commission Update (Priorities/Sign Code)

Planning Commission Chair John Battle was invited to answer any questions pertaining to the work on the sign code.

Battle reported that since last February there had been proposed revisions to the sign code; the intent is to provide for some creative and artistic freedom. A list of every possible sign within town was created by the college student intern who worked under Planner Danison. The student identified all signs, its location, and compliance; a written summary will be produced as a result. Highlights of results include the identification of 109 signs total, with 78 in compliance, and 31 non-compliant. It was shared that there had been some discussion on the accuracy of these numbers. Changes to these numbers could be altered based on whether illuminated signs will be prohibited. It was suggested that rooftop signs be prohibited; off premise signs reconsidered; and updates to be made regarding banner signs that have become very popular.

The Mayor thanked Battle for his work as chair and thanked the rest of the Planning Commission for their work as well.

Councilmember Caswell commented on the night sky considerations and would like to see the recommendation of the Commission regarding signs.

Councilmember Easton shared that he has had exploratory discussions with the chamber board regarding banners. He expressed observations regarding several banner signs throughout town, noting that they are allowable only during business hours and not on public rights of way.

Councilmember Smith thanked Battle for his report. He asked what the process is expected to look like regarding hearings and noted that there will likely be some decisions that need to be made once the draft is received. He expressed the need to let business owners know of their non-compliance and although he supports considerations for the night sky, he would like to hear from those advocating for dark sky policies and how impacted businesses might come into compliance.

Commissioner Battle recognized the initiative for dark skies as well as the investment made by business owners currently with illuminated signs noting that at this time, the commission does not have a recommendation on how to best reduce illumination while bringing businesses into compliance.

Councilmember Caswell asked whether a clearer definition would be helpful or if a sign code administrator would be needed, or a board like the Board of Adjustments, or if it is a matter of enforcement. He asked whether a new committee would need to be formed and how it would be governed if so. He wondered if staff might look into it further to see if other municipalities might have something already in place.

Commissioner Battle asked if the Twisp PDA land use provisions need to be updated in the comprehensive plan as a priority. He noted that this was not high on the Planning Commission's current list of priorities. He confirmed that signs, the floodplains recommendation, based on the Department of Ecology, and the Shoreline master plan will be coming to the Council as routine business. Following that, they will be looking at next steps regarding the PDA land use.

The Mayor expressed her appreciation to all commissioners on their work in service to the Town.

Civic Building Celebration:

The Mayor expressed her gratitude for everyone who has worked over the years for the Civic Building and is thankful that a celebration is in the works.

She noted that the Chamber is participating and hosting the event through their contribution of an event coordinator, Mindy Irvine; additional funds not covered include a request for \$3,500 to pay for equipment, food, and festivities. A special delegation has been invited speak. Councilmembers Easton and Auburn have participated with a small committee to organize the event. Some funding has been received to assist with promotional costs.

The Mayor expressed the need to celebrate the incredible accomplishment of two new facilities for the Town; Phase one included the construction of the Public works Shop and Phase two has resulted in the construction of the new Civic Building / EOC. The idea is to celebrate and acknowledge those who helped make these facilities possible for the future of the town.

Councilmember Easton made the motion to spend \$3,500 in support of this event. Councilmember Auburn seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Council Committee Assignment Review

Discussions proceeded regarding current council assignments and any changes desired by Councilmembers.

Councilmember Easton supported Councilmember Auburn to join him as alternate liaison at Chamber meetings. The Mayor noted that both may attend simultaneously if so desired. Councilmember Auburn expressed her plan to attend regularly alongside Councilmember Easton.

TAAB – Councilmember Smith will be joined by Councilmember Auburn.

MWC – Councilmember will remain as alternate to the Mayor.

Okanogan Council of Governments (OCOG) – The Mayor has been primary attendee since she first founded the OCOG ten years ago; she will remain on with Councilmember Studen to regularly attend as alternate so she may pull back due to time constraints. Councilmember Auburn agreed to be alternate to the alternate.

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 27th day of September 2022.

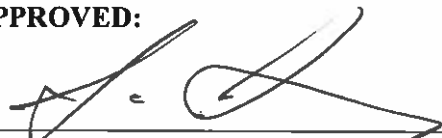
Accounts Payable	Warrant # 37279-37304	\$355,146.54	09/13/22
------------------	-----------------------	--------------	----------

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer

