

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 6/22/2021

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Council Members present via phone/video: Hans Smith
Mark Easton
Hannah Cordes
Aaron Studen
Alan Caswell

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Easton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

Mayor-Ing Moody read aloud the following public comment:

Last night the public restrooms were left unlocked all night. They were unlocked when checked at 5:30 PM, at 9:00 PM, and still unlocked at 6:00 this morning.

We have not received any direct correspondence from the town on the planned hours of operation, but minutes from the town council meeting and newspaper reports say that Public Works plans for them to be open from 7:30 to 4:30 with Public Works staff opening them in the morning and a police officer locking them in the afternoon. Somebody failed to lock them last night and they were unsecure all night.

Section 5.1 of the lease agreement states that Twisp shall be responsible for locking the public restroom facility on the Premises each night at the conclusion of the established hours of operation.

Thank you, Missi Smith, The Merc Playhouse, Executive Director

Police Chief Budrow commented that he assumes the responsibility for not having locked the restrooms since he had been on a public safety matter and had forgotten to lock up as this is a new task of their department. He assured the Council that he will be more mindful to remember to lock the restrooms in the future.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked Clerk Treasurer Kilmer and Deputy Clerk Grennell if any other public comment had been received prior to the meeting. They both verified that nothing else had been received.

Public Hearing: Twisp River Suites Planned Development Final:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the public hearing at 5:35 pm. She asked the Council members if they had any comments or would like to speak. No members of the Council had any comments. She then asked if there were any members of the public that wished to speak. Clerk Treasurer un-muted all guest callers to ensure their voice would be heard if they wished to speak. No members of the public had any comment. Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 5:36 pm.

Discussion/Action: Twisp River Suites Planned Development Final:

Planner Danison explained to the Council that this is the final step in approving the modification for the Twisp River Suites Planned Development. He said that once it is approved, staff will sign the final plat and it will be filed and recorded. He thanked everyone for their work to get to this point and said it's been 9 years in the making.

Council Member Studen moved to approve the Twisp River Suites Planned Development as recommended by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she has been busy with the AWC Annual Conference this week and was honored to interview former U.S. Secretary of Defense, Jim Mattis, on his thoughts on leadership, in a one-on-one hour-long fireside chat. She shared that in her interview with him, General Mattis expressed his fond memories for the Town of Twisp. The interview was recorded, and only available for registered conference attendees to view through July 22.

Staff Reports:

Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer gave a report on the recent Audit from the State of Washington. He said they completed the exit conference of the audit which included everything from January 2018 through December of 2019. He said he is happy to report it was a clean audit although it cost more than expected due to remote working conditions. He said the only negative of the audit is a management letter for cash receipting at the Pool. They would like better accounting of who is visiting the pool, verification of season's pass holders, and cash receipting. He said the actual audit report will be published soon. Mayor Ing-Moody congratulated Kilmer on the outcome of the audit since it was work from his two predecessors that was being audited and thanked him for a job well done.

Director Denham said that the pool did open last Saturday and there was just a small glitch. There was a sewer backup resulting in the pool having to close early so that work could be done to fix the problem and then clean up afterwards. He said they worked Saturday and Sunday to get everything ready for Monday. He said the staff did a great job taking care of everything as he was out of town. Denham also reported that the Canyon Street Bus Stop/Crossing received additional funding from WSDOT for the grinding and re-overlay for the travel lane and crossing to finalize that project. Council Member Easton asked when the median would be planted to which Denham replied that he didn't know. Denham also reported that the Twisp Ave project will start on Saturday and that the Sports Complex Project continues to go well. Council Member Caswell asked Denham if he noticed the sign posted by the corner of Airport Rd and Hwy 20 as it seems to be a hazard as you cannot see around it. Denham said he will check it out. He also reported that there was an incident at the Twisp Airport where a tow plane for gliders made an emergency landing. He said there was no damage to the airport and the pilot walked away, but that the wrecked aircraft sitting there is awaiting an insurance adjuster to view before it can be moved. He said the FAA and TO Engineering have been contacted.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Council Member Cordes reported on the Tree Board saying that the WWU intern is arriving, and the goals/work plan for the position is getting finalized.

Council Member Easton reported that the Chamber of Commerce has received grant funding that covers their funding budget shortfall. He said that they are continuing work on the 4th of July parade. He also said that they have hired Bailey Peplow of Red Umbrella Designs to create a tear map to be distributed. He also reported that they have moved Mistletoe Madness this year to a Friday and that they are only charging a flat fee for Chamber Memberships this year. Easton also reported that he attended the Resilient Methow – Economy meeting where they are developing a visitor brochure making visitors aware of how they are impacting climate change in the valley. He said TwispWorks received a grant to pay for them and should be printed in July and distributed thereafter.

Council Member Smith attended the Finance Committee meeting where he said they had the exit meeting for the Audit. He said the auditors were impressed with Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer's records management, maintaining finances and his professionalism throughout the audit. Smith said that they discussed finishing the 2020 annual report, resolve the 2020 budget which would be proposing a budget amendment for the 2021 budget. He said after looking at the latest revenue positions, everything looks positive and above predicted levels. He said that this is an indicator that businesses are busy and people are in town. He said they also discussed the ARP Funding and shared that there are recommendations they have that they would like Council's input on. They would like to recommend a priority to address cyber security, Recreation infrastructure including playground equipment, Public Safety concerns like a police vehicle, and possibly a need for public restroom cleaners to help ensure they are cleaned for public health reasons. He also said they discussed PW Director Denham's request for vacation/leave modification to the policy. Smith also attended the Planning Commission Meeting where they welcomed a new Commissioner and discussed possible updates to the zoning code – including nightly rentals as well as the sign ordinance.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Resolution #21-681 – Twisp PDA Dissolution

Clerk Kilmer said that the process for the PDA dissolution includes a public hearing that will be held on July 27, 2021. Council Member Smith asked if the request for dissolution had already been made by the PDA Board of Directors? TwispWorks Director Don Linnertz responded that the PDA has had a hard time maintaining Board Members for the PDA, especially since they have no real businesses to attend to and sees no reason for the board to continue in their capacity. He said the resolution that is on the screen is the resolution that was passed by the PDA for dissolution. Council Member Studen asked who is in charge at TwispWorks. Linnertz replied that the TwispWorks Foundation is a separate board that was created to oversee TwispWorks and will continue to oversee the property including the solar panels and the Broadband Study. Linnertz said the solar project ended in 2020. The buildings with the solar panels are the South Shed and the Grey Shed; both buildings are now owned by TwispWorks who is responsible for them in the future. This conversation will continue after a public hearing is held.

Discussion/Action: ARPA Funds Usage:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that the town will be receiving the funds in two installments, one in each year. She said that there is information and guidance on how the funds can be spent, as included in the packet. She said that the funds are limited and can only be used in response and recovery of the pandemic. She said she would like to see some of the funds allocated to cyber security since communications during the ongoing pandemic is critical for public health and safety. The Town website is an official platform for information sharing and communication with local residents and businesses. The security of the site is critical, especially in light of today's more sophisticated cyber-attacks; she requested some guidance on ideas to improve the platform. Council Member Smith said he is in favor of staff members getting a

proposal together for review. Council Member Easton said he would like to have input from other Council Members so that they can have a say in what the funds are spend on. Council Member Studen agreed that he believes the proposals mentioned earlier are a reasonable use of funds and is a needed addition to current infrastructure. Council Member Cordes also agreed saying that she thinks the ideas proposed are an excellent use of funds and is looking forward to more details.

Discussion/Action: Water Updates:

Mayor Ing-Moody chaired the recent Watershed Council meeting where they held a presentation about water banking. She said that water banking is important for the Town as the Town of Twisp is one of the initiating governments to serve the constituents of the Methow Valley. She said they are working on 2 main objectives. First is the presentation on water banking. She said the 2 million dollars received were appropriated from the Capital Budget for the Methow Valley to purchase water rights for water banking. She shared that 1/3 of any water purchased from these funds are to be put into beneficial use but instead to serve instream flows. Regarding the establishment of a water bank, the language states that the bank must be a public one potentially in partnership with a private entity. The bank cannot be a solely private one. She said the Methow Valley community will need to decide on how they wish to see the water bank be developed. She said the presentation included Trevor Hutton, from the Department of Ecology and Paul Jewell, the WSAC natural resources expert and former Kittitas County Commissioner very experienced in having established a water bank in Kittitas County. The presentation was recorded and is available on the Methow Watershed Council Website. The second objective being worked on by the MWC is the public process which first comprises of the creation of a subcommittee to provide recommendation to the MWC on the development of a public process addressing the priority for allocating water in the valley to meet the identified needs of water for Fish, Agriculture, and People. Mayor Ing-Moody said she will continue to keep the Council informed as they progress in water banking.

Discussion: 4th of July Parade:

Council Member Easton reported that the Twisp Chamber of Commerce is proceeding with the organization of the parade as usual this year and will not be changing the route as was suggested by a group of people. They are still looking for volunteers and pooper scoopers for the Parade. If anyone would like to volunteer, they need to reach out to Jamie Petitto at the Chamber. Chief Budrow asked if anyone will be going off on their own and Easton replied that it is very clear that the official parade route ends at the end of Glover St, will turn right on Twisp Ave, and again onto Lincoln to return to TwispWorks. Anything that happens other than that route is not an approved parade route. Mayor Ing-Moody said that there will be a Public Works vehicle available for Council Members to ride on in the parade.

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 of June 2021.

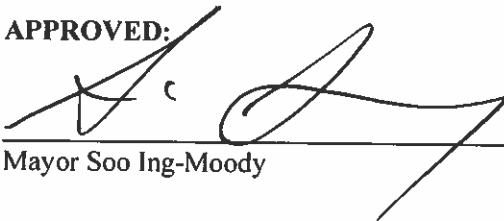
Payroll	EFT# 1175-1182	8616.00	6/15/2021
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Accounts Payable	EFT # 1209	683.00	6/22/2021
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36248-36279	105829.97	6/22/2021
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36280	191899.33	6/22/2021

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

APPROVED:


 Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:


 Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer