

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 7/27/2021

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 Caswell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

Mayor-Ing Moody read aloud the following public comment:

Dear Mayor Ing-Moody, members of the Twisp Town Council, and members of the Twisp Planning Commission:

We are requesting that the Town Council consider more proactive measures regarding wildfire prevention and protection of our citizens in the event that wildfire would approach the Town of Twisp.

We live in a neighborhood in which most of our neighbors have a decent consciousness of wildfire issues and have taken, or are taking, "firewire" measures to reduce vegetation and respect appropriate setbacks from neighboring properties when flammability is an issue.

However, there are exceptions - in some cases, extreme exceptions. For example, on another neighboring property there is an immense woodpile stacked against the fences of two neighboring properties right under several spruce, fir, and pine trees - along with the pine needles and fir cones that land inside the pile and on top of it throughout the year. The landowner works out of town during the summer and is rarely home. Despite ongoing "firewise" work on our own property and the work of other neighbors, if this pile caught fire we believe there would be little we could do to save our own homes.

Some people in town seem to be under the false illusion that towns cannot burn, and that it is an issue only of the Wildland /Urban Interface. But we know that towns can - and do - burn, and that sometimes merely a spark, improper storage of flammable materials, or one live ember landing on top of such hazards can cause a huge tragedy.

Please consider an ordinance that would require that sources of flammable material and large storage of fuels be done correctly and be required to be a certain distance from neighboring properties - at the very least.

The Town's website encourages people to have an "inspection" of their properties regarding fire danger. But we are not talking about the people who understand fire danger and would request such an inspection. We are talking about people who, for whatever reason, do not want an inspection because they apparently do not see the necessity. They are endangering other people's lives and property and need to be made aware. The law is our greatest ally in this regard. Without such an ordinance, neither the Twisp Police Department nor the Fire Department can do much about such dramatic hazards - their hands are currently tied. Please give these entities the tools they need in order to deal with such issues effectively.

These hot and dangerously dry conditions are not temporary, and we need to begin looking toward the future in order give the ordinary working citizen a fighting chance to protect what they have worked all their lives to build.

Thank you for your service to the community.

Sincerely yours,
Richard L. Tingelstad
Isabelle Spohn

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.

Presentation: AWC Recognition – Peter King:

Association of Washington Cities CEO Peter King gave a brief congratulatory presentation to Mayor Ing-Moody for her time spent on the AWC Board, and as AWC President during the past year. He thanked her for her service and concluded that during the past unprecedented year she did an outstanding job. He said she continues to be a strong voice for small cities.

Public Hearing: Twisp Public Development Authority Dissolution:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the public hearing at 5:48pm. She asked if anyone objected to any of the members of Council for this decision-making process for the PDA Dissolution. Clerk Kilmer unmuted everyone in attendance so they could freely comment. There were no comments. She then asked the public if there were any comments. Clerk Kilmer unmuted everyone in attendance so they could freely comment. There were no comments. She then asked the Council Members if they wished to speak. Council Member Easton stated that the Town Code (in section 18.40.070) specifies that the Public Development Authority Overlay—that is, the special zoning area encompassing TwispWorks—will be administered by both the town and the PDA management / board. If the PDA is dissolved, who will oversee the Overlay? Has new verbiage for the Town Code been drafted to reflect this change? Mayor Ing-Moody responded by saying that question could be answered now or in the discussion part of the meeting after the public hearing. TwispWorks Executive Director Don Linnertz commented that there are no funds remaining in the PDA and therefore no purpose for it. There are documents that he will turn over but will retain the PO Box for now. TwispWorks Board Member John Battle also stated that he no longer sees a purpose for the PDA and believes in the dissolution. At 5:53pm Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public meeting.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #21-681 – Twisp Public Development Authority:

Council Member Easton stated that the Town Code (in section 18.40.070) specifies that the Public Development Authority Overlay—that is, the special zoning area encompassing TwispWorks—will be

administered by both the town and the PDA management / board. If the PDA is dissolved, who will oversee the Overlay? Has new verbiage for the Town Code been drafted to reflect this change? Council Member Smith agreed with Easton's statement regarding the special zoning regulations in Chapter 18 for the PDA overlay that currently houses TwispWorks. Mayor Ing-Moody said that she believes that it would require some assistance from the Town Planner to make recommendations for updating that part of the zoning code to the appropriate zone. Council Member Easton would like to wait for a resolution until moving forward so that the Town is not caught unaware. Mayor Ing-Moody said that this item will be tabled for future conversation and pending additional information on zoning and overlay.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that she has been busy with the fires and has been attending the daily meetings along with Chief Budrow. She said there is a new Type 1 team – Great Basin - that has been assigned to the Cedar Creek Fire and is hoping that things might start to look better. She said she is most concerned for Twisp if the fire reaches the Twisp River valley. She said they will hold community meetings this week in both Winthrop and Twisp for residents to attend and get information about the fires. She said that the National Guard is here to help with checkpoints. Chief Budrow also said that having the National Guard here will be a great help to keep people out of the evacuation areas. Mayor Ing-Moody said that the fire continues to move and it is expected that with the number, size, and activity of the fires, that the valley will see smoke for a while. She said along with the smoke brings the hard decision to close the Wagner Memorial Pool for the season. She said after consulting with air quality experts they anticipate long and prolonged smoke that is unhealthy for everyone to be outside; it is recommended that N95 masks be worn. The town has been distributing them liberally thanks to Okanogan County Emergency Management who has been supplying them to us. She said that she met with the Friends of the Pool who are understanding of the situation.

Staff Reports:

Director Denham reported that the projects are continuing as scheduled. He said that the SR 20 Crossing received the final approval to re-grind, and re-lay asphalt, and is hoping to complete this work as quickly as possible. He said that one of his Public Works Operators gave their resignation and he will be looking to fill that position. Council Member Easton asked Denham if there is an opportunity with fire season to have another chipping event? Denham replied that ideally, he would like to have chipping events every spring/fall and he's hoping to have another one this year but doesn't have any details yet.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Council Member Cordes attended the Twisp Chamber of Commerce meeting where she reported there was not a quorum, so no action was taken. They did have some discussion on the Methow Investment Network thinking about housing solutions and how they might help. They also talked about how to help provide public restrooms; the businesses that are willing to advertise public restrooms are the Methow Valley Community Center and TwispWorks. They are looking for financial support for the supplies to maintain those restrooms which would cost \$1800 annually to each organization. She also said they will be paying their Marketing Director Jamie Pettito a 5% bonus of a grant that she helped attain. She said there will be a sip and chat on September 13th at the Twisp River Taphouse and an Artwalk on September 25th.

Council Member Smith said that he isn't sure about just financing public restrooms at private businesses; he was thinking there would need to be an agreement in place like the current one with the MERC. More discussion will come later.

Council Member Cordes attended the Friends of the Pool meeting where they expressed understanding of closing the pool although they are saddened to have had such a short season. She said they are working on the final details with Ken Ballard and hope to have a letter of agreement in place soon. She said they are talking about how great an indoor pool would be with the current outdoor conditions.

Council Member Smith attended the Public Works Committee meeting where he said two of the items on tonight's agenda were discussed. He said there is an upcoming Complete Streets grant that needs to have the application in by October 1 to be considered. It would be in the 100-thousand-dollar range to help support the 3rd Ave/Civic Building project, so it is prudent to get the application in for the funding cycle. He also said the rest will be discussed later in the meeting.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion: Twisp Chamber of Commerce Bi-Annual Review:

Mayor Ing-Moody said this is on for a discussion and not just an FYI anymore because of the new contract we have for the 2% funds. Council Member Smith says he appreciates the prompt 6-month report and that it is helpful in tracking the 2%. He said that the summary page is great, but the 2nd page of the quickbooks report that shows the Chamber's expenses doesn't track the 2% in regard to the contract. He asked what items the 2% money is supporting on the list. Don Linnertz responded that this is a new contract with the town, a new report as they usually report annually. He said that in the future, he can narrow down on how the 2% funds are being used and thanked the Council for the feedback.

Discussion/Action: Planning Commission – Confirmation of Priorities:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that this is a continuation of the conversation from the previous meeting and welcomed Chairman John Battle from the Planning Commission to be part of the discussion this evening. Council Member Smith asked what the reasoning was for holding off on working on the Comp Plan until the County finishes their plan. Chairman Battle replied that the Commission has tackled some of the pieces of the plan but would like to get to work on the zoning issues. He said due to some of the letters they have received, there is a need to get in motion and work on those issues. Council Member Smith said he would like to have a member of the Planning Commission attend the Methow Housing Solutions Network. He would like to see the Comp Plan updated with the land use element to include a Firewise plan. He thinks that research needs to be done on areas like Paradise, CA that are working to embody Firewise into their code and would like to see something similar added to help Twisp be more fire-ready. Commissioner Battle wanted to reiterate the Planning Commissions priorities as 1. Finish the Sign Code, 2. Comprehensive Plan – Land Use Element and Economic Development Element, 3. Attend the Methow Housing Solutions Network meetings in regard to housing needs in the Methow Valley as it pertains to planning and zoning issues. Planning Commissioner Jasmine Minbashian is already part of the Methow Housing Solutions Network and Council Member Studen agreed to attend from the Council.

Discussion/Action: Fireworks:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that this conversation is being brought back from the previous meeting. She said currently there is a firework ban in place through October 2021. Council Member Smith said this conversation would be to create a more permanent ban on fireworks and he is in support of the ban being concurrent with Okanogan County's burn ban. Chief Budrow said there are a couple of ways to enact a firework ban, citing RCW 70.77.395 (1) It is legal to sell and purchase consumer fireworks within this state from twelve o'clock noon to eleven o'clock p.m. on the twenty-eighth of June, from nine o'clock a.m. to eleven o'clock p.m. on each day from the twenty-ninth of June through the fourth of July, from nine o'clock a.m. to nine o'clock p.m. on the fifth of July, from twelve o'clock noon to eleven o'clock p.m. on

each day from the twenty-seventh of December through the thirty-first of December of each year, and as provided in RCW 70.77.311.

Council Member Studen moved to approve an ordinance to be drafted to ban fireworks during these allotted times, as suggested by Chief Budrow. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Parking Restrictions on E. Second Ave between Glover St and Lincoln St. (Next to Melbourn Building):

Director Denham stated that he was notified that a delivery truck that used to use the 3rd Ave alleyway for access to deliver to local businesses has had a difficult time upon entering the 2nd Ave alleyway. He said they need to make a wide left turn into the alley and there are cars parked in the way of the turn. Denham is recommending to restrict parking on the right side of E. 2nd Ave between Glover and Lincoln prior to 8am. He said that he feels this is a good solution to help accommodate businesses. Council discussed the matter and in favor of moving forward with a draft ordinance.

Mayor Ing-Moody said that staff will draft an ordinance to bring to a future meeting for approval.

Discussion/Action: Temporary Contract Hire for Public Works through ARPA Funds:

Council Member Smith said there was a previous discussion on the use of ARPA funds, stating that outdoor spaces are a priority since we need to support outdoor recreation during Covid. He also said that during a Public Works committee meeting they have identified a need for additional staffing in Public Works. It would be used during this fiscal year that would be for a contract worker for Public Works during the remaining 5 months and then maybe turn into a permanent position next year in support of the work needed to facilitate improvements made to outdoor areas. This year it would use approximately 23-28 thousand dollars in ARPA funds.

Council Member Smith moved to approve using ARPA funds to hire a Public Works contracted employee for the remainder of this fiscal year in support of outdoor areas. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Interagency Data Sharing Agreement State Auditor's Office:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the red-lined version from our attorney is in the packet and that we are still waiting on approval from SAO of those edits to the agreement.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the mayor's signature on the agreement as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and 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 27th day of July 2021.

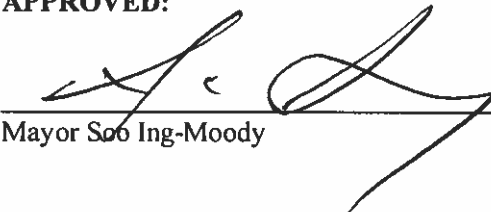
Payroll	EFT# 1425-1433	13155.99	7/15/21
Accounts Payable	EFT # 1516	683.00	7/27/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36830-36854	328596.87	7/27/21

Council Member Smith 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 7:18pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soob Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer