

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 10/26/2021

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

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

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she continues to be busy with meetings. She said with budget season upon us, the number of meetings she has been involved with has increased, and it will continue to be a busy time as personnel and budget matters remain priorities. She said otherwise it's business as usual for the town.

Staff Reports:

The Police Department has included a staff report in the packet. Council Member Caswell asked Chief Budrow about his comment on the increase in crime and asked what kind of crime he is seeing. Budrow responded that there has been an increase in thefts, drug dealings, and shoplifters. He said they are mainly misdemeanors but it's keeping his department and officers busy.

Director Denham reported that he has some updates to projects that his department has been working on. He said the SR 20/Canyon Street crossing has been repaved and painted. He said there are a few more plantings to take place where the inventory for specific plants is not available at this time. He said that the Twisp Ave project has only a couple of loose ends to be tied up. He said they want to use the sewer camera to verify a few of the sewer tie-ins and then it will be completed. He said the bio solids and lift station projects just went back out to bid and he had a pre-bid conference yesterday with 2 interested contractors. Denham reported that the Sports Complex has a final walk-through next week and then that project will be completed. Council Member Easton said he is very happy with the SR20 crossing and said he feels safer crossing the highway. He asked Denham if he knew about placing vinyl on the bus stop at Canyon Street? Denham responded that he hasn't heard of any plan for that, but it would have to fall in line with the code and adhere to the clear vision requirement for signage at intersections. Mayor Ing-

Moody asked Denham to please complete a visual inspection of the area to see if it would hinder the clear vision requirements.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Council Member Caswell attended the Planning Commission meeting where they continue to work on the draft sign code. He said that Commissioner Battle invited local sign maker Donna Keyser to join the discussion in case she had any input. Caswell said that they are working on creating a 3-person decision committee to address the non-compliant signs and how to move forward with an amortization schedule to bring all signs up to code. He said the commission would like to eliminate all signs that are non-compliant with Dark Skies Methow considerations, especially noting signs like the Chevron one. He also said that code enforcement has become an important issue with the sign code and the commission would like to know that the new code will be enforced. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that code enforcement can be discussed internally with department heads.

Council Member Cordes reported that she attended the Friends of the Pool (FOP) Community Meeting on October 14th where they met with Ken Ballard of Ballard King. He is conducting the feasibility study for the FOP and was able to tour possible locations in town that would be appropriate for the type of facility that is needed. He was able to meet the members of the community and allowed them to provide feedback about the pool. She said the Independent Learning Center had a group of students present ideas that would allow a place for teens to hang out after dark. They said that there are a lot of activities for adults to do, but the teenage age group still needs something for them. It was suggested that a place to play games or a potential skatepark be part of a new facility. Cordes said the information from the meeting is posted on the FOP website for anyone to check out. She said they are hoping to have another community meeting in January or February and hope to see the final feasibility study be completed in May 2022. Cordes also attended the Parks and Recreation meeting but that is going to be part of the discussion tonight so she will let that speak for itself. She is excited to see the plan moving forward.

Mayor Ing-Moody attended the Methow Watershed Council meeting. She said that AESI was there to present information on Managed Aquifer Recharge projects. She reported that the Council took action to end the metering program. She said they also discussed water banking with the conservation district and the County Commissioners are in support of creating a water bank with them. She said there is much more discussion to happen, including considerations of the type of water bank needed; currently there is a lot of discussion of an agricultural water bank. She said that no rules have been established as it is only conversation happening at this point. She reminded council that there had been 2 million dollars appropriated by the state legislature to purchase water rights in and for the Methow Valley.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation/Discussion: AESI – In Stream Flow/Managed Aquifer Recharge Feasibility Study:

Jay Chennault and Curtis Koger with Associated Earth Sciences Incorporated (AESI) gave a presentation on a Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR). The reason they were invited to speak to the town is because the Methow Watershed Council is discussing the need for water rights within the Methow Valley and conducting a feasibility study on the potential for any additional water to be made available to the Town would be desirable to be aware of for the Town. She shared that certain mitigation projects have usually been funded by grants from the Department of Ecology. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the Town of Twisp continues to seek and acquire water rights, where possible to make up for the loss of rights incurred as a result of a historic supreme court ruling. She noted that water rights are becoming increasingly difficult to acquire, especially for Twisp that is located geographically near the headwaters of our watershed.

Additionally, mitigation is likely to be needed to purchase any eligible water rights for sale. She said that in order to be prepared to take advantage of any potential acquisitions, it would take years for the town to be poised and ready to complete a water transaction; it is therefore prudent for the town to be looking ahead when planning projects. After the presentation, the mayor expressed that she would like to see the town at least put forth a grant application as the lead agency for a feasibility study. Council Member Easton asked what the long-term maintenance would look like for such a project, if a viable project were to be identified by the study. Chennault replied that the town's public works department would be involved in monitoring the water levels of the basin and the river and perform typical maintenance on the diversion/intake structure. Mayor Ing-Moody reminded the council that having a feasibility study completed would not mean that a project would have to be constructed as it may be determined that such a project is not feasible and an MAR not conducive to our needs. With no further questions from the Council, the mayor said this item will be brought back to council in the near future for further consideration.

Discussion/Action: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that she received a letter from the Parks and Recreation Commission about the changes they would like to see on the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP). They stated that the changes made to the Parks Plan were not included as well as the pool wasn't included, and they wanted to have the sports complex be vetted through a public process for phase 2. Mayor Ing-Moody said that the Sports Complex design was completed years ago and was vetted by the members of the public. She understands that sometimes needs can change, but the town has partnered with the Methow Valley School District (MVSD) to help fund the proposed complex, which would include the implementation of the next phase of the existing plan. Council Member Cordes thanked the mayor for her clarification on the partnership, she wasn't sure if that would be following into phase 2. She said that the Commission would like to be able to update the CFP with items from the Parks Plan to be eligible for funding in the future. She said that they need help from the town with gathering the feedback and to be part of the public process for the plan. Council Member Easton stated that he would like more time to read the plan and have a chance to comment. He indicated that he wasn't given enough time prior to the meeting and feels that they put a lot of time and effort into writing the plan that he would like to be able to provide some substantial feedback. Council Member Smith agreed to needing more time to review the plan. He stated that he knows that his wife has been participating in the writing of the plan, but that this is his first chance to review it. He feels that it is a strong draft and thinks it needs more public process. He thinks the plan is at a good place for presentation to the public to solicit feedback. Smith also thinks it's premature to utilize the plan to amend the CFP at this stage; and does encourage the Parks and Recreation Commission having input on the CFP, so everyone is on the same page. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that items don't generally get put on the CFP unless they've been adopted in some way as a priority project. She agrees that the plan needs to have some community input as it is a public document. She would like to discuss internally how to proceed with public input and bring the plan back for further discussion. Council Member Studen wanted to point out that in past discussions he was under the impression that they were not going to include the pool as part of the CFP as they agreed as a council that they were not going to put any more money into the existing pool until there was a plan for something new there as there is no money to further allocate to it. Council Member Smith said that by having the pool on the CFP in some capacity might strengthen our ability for opportunities for grant application and funding. Council Member Cordes wanted to say that she appreciates all the hard work that the Commission did on the plan and is proud of the draft.

Discussion/Action: Annexation Request – Parcel #3322170359 and 3322160005:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the discussion stating that Hank and Judy Konrad have submitted a letter requesting annexation of two parcels that they own just south of town. There is approximately 10 acres,

and they would like to turn it into a residential neighborhood. She said that she asked Director Denham to review the utility infrastructure in that area in advance of the meeting. Council Member Easton asked how many housing units they anticipate building and does the town have enough water rights to adequately supply the number of units. Konrad representative Gary Scott responded that there is a high need for affordable housing, especially for Hanks employees. He said they are considering single family and multifamily housing but needs consideration for annexation from the town prior to moving forward with plans. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that there are still some water rights available but can't say whether and how much might be available without first knowing the number of units they wish to develop. Council Member Smith asked if the services are available in the area. Denham responded that in 2017 they extended lines to Airport Rd and so there is service available. He said they would like to use the sewer cam to verify the condition of the sewer lines. He said it may be some work to get water across the road. He said it looks good for utilities. Council Member Smith asked what the process for Annexation would look like and how it involves public process. Mayor Ing-Moody responded that these discussions are still in the initial phases and will be meeting with the owners later this week to learn more information. She will provide more information on the formal process at a subsequent Council meeting.

Discussion/Action: Public Works Surplus Equipment:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that more surplus equipment is up for review as Public Works has been diligent about cleaning out items they no longer use. Director Denham asked to have the Stamford AC Generator and trailer to be removed from the list as he thinks it may be beneficial for the town to use. Council Member Easton would like to know how the town acquired a moped. Denham responded that they used it to read meters in the past, but no longer need it. In jest, Council Member Smith said it was from the French intern that used to work at the town.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Public Works surplus items presented, except the Stamford AC Generator and trailer that Denham requested be removed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes – 10/12/21

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 26th day of October 2021.

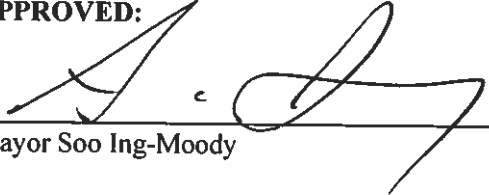
Payroll	EFT# 2230-2235, 2237-2238, 2257-2258	14033.71	10/15/21
Accounts Payable	EFT # 2243,2264	5803.16	10/26/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 37066-37079	378722.02	10/26/21

Council Member Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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 7:19 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer