

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes – 12/14/10
7:00 PM**

Mayor Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Council Member present: Clint Estes, Mayor Pro-Tem
 Tom Gehring
 Hans Smith
 Bob Lloyd
 Traci Day

Council Members absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Gehring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Request for Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Additions: Ordinance #622 – Amending the 2010 Budget

Deletions: None

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes – 11/23/10
- Payroll and Accounts Payable

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 14th day of December, 2010:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Checks/Vouchers | #27918 - #27920 | \$1,174.92 | 11/30/10 |
| AWC | ACH #9101105 | \$7,864.32 | |
| NCNB | ACH #9101106 | \$9,003.18 | |
| DRS | ACH #9101107 | \$2,516.61 | |
| DRS | ACH #9101108 | \$1,336.43 | |
| Payroll | #12616 - #12637 | \$26,183.37 | 12/01/10 |
| Cashmere Valley Bank | ACH #9101201 | \$1,254.99 | 12/01/10 |
| Checks/Vouchers | #27964 | Void | 12/09/10 |
| Checks/Vouchers | #27970 - #27984 | \$5,412.00 | 12/09/10 |
| Checks/Vouchers | #27965 - #27969 | \$4,390.00 | 12/15/10 |
| Checks/Vouchers | #27921 - #27963 | \$53,691.29 | 12/14/10 |

Motion:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the consent agenda with amended minutes from 11/23/10. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Ing-Moody reported on the following:

- Discussed her work finalizing the 2011 budget.
- Met with Don Popoff, RH2 Engineering regarding the cost of the Wastewater Treatment Plant diffuser project.
- Met with the Public Safety Committee to begin the process of hiring a full-time Police Chief; ads have gone out.
- Attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting 12/02/10; the meeting went well.

Staff Reports**Police Department**

Interim Police Chief Rick Balam reported on the following:

- Discussed November police stats; there were 43 incident calls and 15 traffic infractions written in November and the department is up to case number 812 for the year.
- Officer Kim successfully completed his 6-month probationary period with the Town.
- The Kino Gomez homicide case has been re-activated based on new information; Balam is working with the Okanogan County Sheriff's Department.
- Ads went out for the Police Chief position to several agencies; two applications have been received.
- An active eligibility list is now being kept through Public Safety Training; this will enable the Town to expedite the hiring process if we have an open position.
- The newly updated Civil Service Commission rules and regulations have been completed and sent to Attorney DeTro for review; the document will be provided to the Council for approval soon.
- There is no longer an on-call list in the police department.
- Approximately \$7,000 was revoked from the department from the Stonegarden Grant for non-use. This grant was specifically for overtime dealing with homeland security/border patrol; there is approximately \$1,600 left for overtime.
- The Blackbird burglary case has been reopened.
- The transmission in Officer Kim's patrol car is not operational; the repair will cost approximately \$3,000.

Public Works Department

Public Works Superintendent Moss was unable to attend the meeting. He submitted a written report to the Council.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Keith Comstock reported on the following:

- Submitted an estimate to the Council for updating the heating system at the Fire Hall including a centrally located thermostat in the garage and a programmable thermostat in the meeting room; the estimate was approximately \$821. Mayor Ing-Moody requested a breakdown of the parts and services for the estimated amount
- He discussed the fire hydrant at the corner of 5th Avenue and Highway 20 being buried by a business removing snow from their lot. Clerk Moriarty stated the information would be passed on to the Code Enforcement Officer and Public Works Department.

Action: Clerk Moriarty will pass on the need to have the fire hydrant at 5th Avenue and Highway 20 dug out to Code Enforcement Officer Rodio and the Public Works Department.

Action: Chief Comstock will supply a breakdown of the services for the estimate.

Committee/Board/Commission Reports

Parks and Recreation Commission

Council Member Gehring reported on the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on 12/02/10. Council Member Gehring shared that Amy Stork facilitated the meeting to help the group prioritize projects. She was able to help the group identify the top 4 projects: Pool; Trails in Town; a Sports Complex at the airport; and the creation of park use plans and policies. A Commissioner was then assigned as a liaison for each project, with the exception to park policies, which the group felt would require their collective input. Council Member Gehring reminded everyone that we still need one more Parks and Recreation Commissioner if anyone should know someone interested in the position.

Action: Council asked staff to confirm the number of in-town and out-of-town members that need to be on both the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission for the next meeting.

Non – Utilities Facilities Committee

Council Member Smith reported that he, Council Member Day, Superintendent Moss and Airport Manager Howson met and discussed the following:

- The quality of the pavement for the airport project.
- Whether the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation Division would fund putting a sealant on the pavement in the near future. According to Council Member Smith, Eric Johnson, Project Manager for WSDOT Aviation said that there is funding available through the Airport Aid Program.
- A decision was made to have Dave Sandoz, as a representative of the Airport Improvement Club, draft a resolution instead of an agreement regarding the airport fuel tank to outline the Town's concerns, and the responsibilities for the Airport Improvement Club.
- Discussed briefly the need for a resolution to be drafted about the Urban Growth Area and Airport Overlay.

Public Works Committee

Council Member Smith reported that he and Mayor Ing-Moody had met with Don Popoff, RH2 Engineering and the Wastewater Treatment Plant diffuser project permit should be approved by the spring of 2011. Smith stated that would hopefully give the Town time to obtain funding for the project. Possible funding sources are: Department of Ecology, (Council Member Smith will contact Richard Marksley and/or Sanjay Barik) and the Public Works Trust Fund Emergency Loan for a low interest loan (to constitute an emergency one of the criteria is if the issue causes a public health problem). Council Member Smith reported that the Salmon Recovery Foundation has no funding opportunities at this time.

Council Member Smith reported he and Superintendent Moss discussed fire hydrant obstructions; Superintendent Moss is checking the Twisp Municipal Code to see if it effectively covers enforcement which would require property owners to avoid blocking the fire hydrants.

Friends of the Pool and Methow Valley Community Center (MVCC)/Visitor Information Center (VIC)

Council Member Day reported she attended the Friends of the Pool meeting on December 2nd.

Council Member Day reported she attended a meeting at the Methow Valley Community Center. The group brainstormed ideas of how to man the VIC on weekends. A few of the ideas the group came up with were to provide a computer kiosk, develop a volunteer program, provide a resource manual with information or let local artists set up their art in the hallway by the MVCC office and have them be in charge of answering visitors questions.

OLD BUSINESS

Water and Sewer Rates

The Council discussed the proposal to increase the water base and overage rates by 6.5% and an increase to sewer base rates of 3%. Mayor Ing-Moody stated the raise is necessary to maintain current operations and to be able to set aside reserves in case emergency repairs are needed.

Motion:

Council Member Smith moved to approve a rate increase of 6.5% for the water base rate and overages and an increase of 3% for sewer rates to maintain current operations and set aside reserves. The motion was seconded by Council Member Day and passed unanimously.

Ordinance #621 – 2011 Final Budget

Council Member Lloyd joined the meeting and Accountant Storms joined the meeting by phone. Mayor Ing-Moody reviewed with Council her Mayor's Message regarding the budget. Council Member Smith thanked Mayor Ing-Moody and Accountant Storms for keeping the Council so well informed during the budget process. Accountant Storms commended Mayor Ing-Moody's resolve in and being mindful to her goal for setting aside establish reserves for the Town.

Motion:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve Ordinance #621 adopting the final budget in the amount of \$2,046,590. The motion was seconded by Council Member Day and passed unanimously.

Ordinance #622 – 2010 Budget Amendment

Accountant Storms discussed staff changes and how they have affected the budget. There were no fund overages and the year end balances are her best projections given the fact there are still invoices due for December.

Motion:

Council Member Estes moved to approve Ordinance #622 amending the 2010 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

Sales and Use Tax

Mayor Ing-Moody had directed staff to research the process of getting a measure on the upcoming February ballot to increase the Town's sales tax by one tenth of a percent. To do so, the Council would have to pass a resolution with ballot language and get it to the Okanogan County Auditor's Office. Unfortunately after speaking with Town Attorney DeTro it was discovered a ballot measure for raising sales taxes can only be ran during primary or general elections. The next primary election will be in August 2011. Mayor Ing-Moody suggested that the extra time be used to carefully investigate cutting costs and preparing for open discussion with the public regarding this potential.

Winthrop Mayor Dave Acheson was present and suggested that he and Mayor Ing-Moody discuss the proposed tax increase with other cities and towns in Okanogan County prior to the August primary in an effort to cut election costs for all that choose to participate.

Council Committee Assignments – Planning Commission Liaison and Chairman Position Confirmation

Mayor Ing-Moody reported the Town was advised by Municipal Research Service Center that Council Member Day remaining as a voting member on the Planning Commission was not in the best interest of the Town. Mayor Ing-Moody, with the approval of the current liaison to the Planning Commission Council Member Estes suggested Council Member Day take over as the liaison to the Planning Commission because of her 5 years of experience and desire to stay involved; Council Member Estes agreed to the change.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked Council if they were happy with those assigned as Committee Chairperson; Council Member Smith volunteered to be the Chairperson for the Public Works Committee. The rest of the assignments stayed the same.

NEW BUSINESS

Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Director Positions

Mayor Ing-Moody reported the Town had received a ballot from the Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) for Board of Director Positions. There are four candidates for two positions: Vaughn Jolley, Tim Johnson, Don Phillips and John Richardson. Mayor Ing-Moody explained the Council could either, vote and approve two candidates, or authorize her to cast the vote on behalf of the Town, or abstain from voting.

Council Member Lloyd shared that Vaughn Jolley and Tim Johnson have worked hard for the MVID for many years.

Motion:

Council Member Lloyd moved to vote for Vaughn Jolley and Tim Johnson to fill the two open positions on the MVID Board. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Motion:

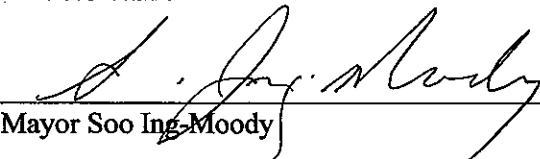
Council Member Estes moved to authorize the Mayor to vote on behalf of the Town. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring; the motion failed. 2 – Yes votes and 3 no votes.

After much discussion the Council decided not to cast a vote for the MVID Board of Directors open position based on insufficient information on the candidates.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council; Mayor Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 8:53 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer II Jackie Moriarty