

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 01/08/08
6:30 PM**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Nations.

Council Members Present: Clint Estes
 Tom Gehring
 Vicki Hallowell
 Tina DeRenzo

Council members absent: Council Member Stephanie Hickman

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER

Mayor Nations swore in Tina DeRenzo to a 4-year term for Council Position #5.

2ND AVENUE/TWISP RIVER ROAD STREET PROJECT

Don Popoff and Angi Waligorski, RH2 Engineering, were present to discuss four alternatives relating to the 2nd Avenue/Twisp River Road street project. Alternative A – Sidewalks on the north side of the street until Magers Street (with crossing at Magers Street) and then the remainder of the sidewalks leading up to the clinic would be on the south side of the street. Alternative B – Sidewalks on the north side of the street until Johnson Street (with a crossing at Johnson Street) and then the remainder of the sidewalks leading up to the clinic would be on the south side of the street. Alternative C – Sidewalks up the south side of the street all the way up to the clinic. Alternative D – Sidewalks up the south side of the street with a combination of public and private land used to increase parking and traffic flow.

All alternatives would have curbing and gutters opposite of the sidewalks and the road would be 37 ½ feet wide including sidewalks, curbs and gutters. The plan will be to center the road and improvements on the existing centerline thereby impacting each side equally.

Public Comment and Discussion:

Gary and Anna Clark owners of property on 2nd Avenue commented that they have three lots and the maps only provided one access and they want three. Gary Kominak discussed his driveway being below the grade now and is concerned about drainage and grade. General discussion and comments were as follows: Increased on-street parking; residential loss of parking on the north side, second block; Grange Building parking lot, concerned about loss of parking lot space; maintenance and snow removal of sidewalks; pedestrian crossing at the bottom of the hill coming down 2nd Avenue; pedestrian crossing at the intersection of May Street and Lookout Mountain Road; drainage on the street as well as down at SR20; easement negotiations relating to landscaping; and utility relocation.

Mr. Popoff was asked what his suggestions were regarding the Alternatives discussed. Popoff stated that he felt Alternative C would best suit all involved because of the crossing being at controlled intersection and that the utilities would be less affected. Mayor Nations commented

that with mainly commercial related businesses on the south side it would make good sense to keep the pedestrians on that side of the street rather than having them cross to access a business. Mr. Popoff stated that a preliminary plan reflecting this discussion and changes that could be made would be available in February.

END OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD REGARDING 2ND AVENUE PROJECT.

Council Member Gehring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment.

MINUTES

Council Member Gehring asked that two insertions be placed in the minutes regarding his previous encouragement that all Council Members pay attention to County development in the Urban Growth Area south of Twisp and pointing out that Mayor Nations sent a letter of conveyance to the Forest Service regarding the purchase of the Forest Service property.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the December 17, 2007 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

MAYOR NATIONS UPDATE

No report.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent

Public Works Superintendent McConnell reported that his department has received several calls regarding snow piles and they have been working hard to remove the piles they have made if possible. Council Member Hallowell commended the public works crew on their work with snow removal.

McConnell commended WWTP Operator K.C. Moriarty on work he's done to obtain permission from the DOE to do the BOD tests at our treatment plant instead of sending them to a lab and reported it will save the Town a considerable amount of money.

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam reported on the stats that were included in the Council's packet. Balam reported that he, Officer Denham and Officer Redfield had responded to 35 offenses, had written 3 citations, 13 parking citations and 1 warning-only parking ticket for the month of December. Chief Balam announced that Matt Moen had been hired and accepted into the Police Academy in Spokane. Balam stated that Moen's first day with the department will be on January 23rd, he starts the academy on February 9th, will be done June 18th and will then be trained in the field for two

months. Balam reported that the last Ford Explorer has been retired and the newest Durango has been equipped and put into service.

Chief Balam reported on the recent graffiti problem on several businesses in town and requested help from Methow Valley News to get the word out to residents to report any suspicious activity. Lillian Tucker, Methow Valley News, will contact Rick and work on an article.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that after closing out some of the grants and finishing up with the 2008 budget she is currently working on obtaining an environmental assessment for the booster station project, she is working on a water usage history report for the ongoing water lease project with the Methow Valley Irrigation District and she's working on Personnel Policy Manual changes.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Keith Comstock reported all is going well at the Fire Department. Chief Comstock volunteered to work with Superintendent McConnell to clean the snow away from the fire hydrants. Comstock and McConnell will work out the details.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER AND SEWER RATES

Clerk/Treasurer Storms provided Council a hand out containing the current water/sewer ordinance and a rate spreadsheet with 3 alternatives. Storms discussed the current tiered water rate system and showed Council according to her spreadsheet the number of citizens served and how they fit into the tier according to their water usage and billing. Storms reminded Council that the reason the rate study is being done is to cover increased operating and maintenance costs, and to cover debt service on a loan that would be part of the proposed booster station project and for the cost of acquiring water rights. She also said that the consultant assisting with this will be at an upcoming Council meeting. Council discussed changing the amount of water usage allowed before excess water fees are assessed. Council felt it important to protect the low/fixed income citizens from a drastic price increase. Storms felt that could be accomplished best by re-evaluating the tier system and suggested possibly the Public Works committee meet.

Action: Coordinate with Consultant to come to Council Meeting with more details including rates from other Towns. Plan Public Works Committee meeting with Clerk/Treasurer Storms and Superintendent McConnell to explore water rates further.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that she and Superintendent McConnell had discussed suggesting a 6% increase for the sewer rate, which would increase the average bill by approximately \$1.80. Storms stated this increase would be used for wastewater treatment plant up keep and operating expenses.

PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL – RESOLUTION #08-413

Mayor Nations reported that Attorney Scott DeTro was still reviewing the Personnel Policy Manual and that no action would be taken on this issue at this time. There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE #590 – REGARDING PUBLIC NUISANCE PENALTIES

Chief Balam reported that in his review of the Twisp Municipal Code relating to public nuisances, he found that nuisance penalty issues requiring appeals were to be heard by the Town Council. Balam suggested that this be rewritten to allow those issues to go to the Municipal Court who was better equipped to deal with them.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve Ordinance #590 amending Ordinance #531, an ordinance which regulates public nuisances, authorizes penalties for violations and abatement procedure. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE #591 – REGARDING LITTERING PENALTIES

Chief Balam reported that in his review of the Twisp Municipal Code relating to littering penalties he found that the code referred to littering as a misdemeanor and Balam felt that littering should be no more than a civil infraction. Chief Balam stated that misdemeanors are handled at the County level and by changing the language to civil infraction it could be handled here in our Municipal Court and any fines imposed would stay in Twisp.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to accept Ordinance #591 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member DeRenzo and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lillian Tucker, Methow Valley News, asked if a decision would be made in regards to the 2nd Avenue/Twisp River Rd. street project at the next meeting. Clerk/Treasurer stated that no official Council action was needed; Mayor and staff could take the information provided by the citizens and council and move forward with the project. However, the Town planned to bring the revised plans back to a future meeting for review.

Carl Timbers requested a bit more clarification regarding the water and sewer rates for his trailer park business; Clerk/Treasurer Storms was able to answer his questions.

Bub Gaston voiced his opinion regarding the 2nd Avenue/Twisp River Rd. street project. Mr. Gaston stated that he agrees that the road needs fixed but does not agree with sidewalks and gutters being installed. Council Member Estes explained that the Town is not able to get funding for just road projects, the grant funding agencies require sidewalks be built too. Council Member Gehring interjected that the Comprehensive Plan also refers to the importance of pedestrian friendly areas.

Council held a brief discussion regarding parking near the farmer's market area.

ROUTINE APPROVALS

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 8th day of January, 2008:

Voucher/Checks	24953-24957	\$3,594.28	
NBNC	ACH	\$7,900.67	
AWC	ACH	\$6,148.61	01/02/08
Voucher/Checks	25004-25011	\$1,071.78	01/08/08
Voucher/Checks	25012-25014	\$184.42	01/08/08
Voucher/Checks	24958-24995	\$26,059.78	12/30/07
Payroll/Draws	24996-25003	\$8,130.00	1/15/08
FP Francotyp – Postalia, Inc.	ACH	490.23	01/03/08
NCNB	ACH	\$733.16	01/02/08
Payroll	11740-11759	\$17,105.95	01/02/08
Payroll	11699-11718	\$18,260.69	12/1/07

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the current accounts payable and current payroll and benefits and to disburse payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member DeRenzo and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Hallowell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor Vern Nations

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms