

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 01/13/09
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman.

Council Members Present: Tom Gehring
Vicki Hallowell
Tina diRienzo

Council members absent: Clint Estes

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Hallowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions and/or Changes to the Agenda

Additions: Swearing in of new Mayor

Changes: Moved Glover Street Project up above Public Comment on the agenda due to the amount of people present regarding the issue.

GLOVER STREET PROJECT – DESIGN DRAFT/TREE DISCUSSION - RH2 ENGINEERS

Angi Waligorski and Wil Vicik, RH2 Engineers, were present to discuss the Glover Street Improvement project. Ms. Waligorski presented the Council with a solution of another bump out on the east side of the block between 4th and 5th Streets on Glover if the Council chose to keep some or all of the maple trees. Tree Board members present were Dwight Filer, Carl Hubert and Melissa Larsen. Mr. Filer introduced the other members and each took a turn sharing their training and experience regarding trees. In addition to those members present, Mr. Filer identified the other members of the Tree Board as Gary Kominak, Jim and Mary Johnson and Jane Gilbertson. Mr. Hubert reported he has been observing all four of the maple trees on Glover Street through the seasons and feels that the middle tree on the east side is declining and has a lot of dead wood. Mr. Filer shared that he felt by the time these trees needed to be replaced in possibly 30+ years, so would the infrastructure. Ms. Larsen shared regarding trees that could be planted in addition to the silver maples would be blaze maples; she described them as “great street trees”. Mr. Filer stated that the Tree Board’s recommendation would be to remove only the middle tree on the east side of Glover Street because of its declining state.

Council Member di Rienzo asked about the life expectancy of the other three trees on Glover Street; Hubert stated in his opinion at least 20 years. He added that because of the other two trees having such a large canopy the removal of the middle tree would not leave a big void.

Council Members, Staff and the Public shared the pros and the cons of this issue:

- Long term tree plan, maintenance and planting program
- Possible grants for replanting program

- The longevity of the maple trees
- Future tree plan
- Possible damage to tree roots because of construction – curbs and drainage
- Cost of damage to infrastructure in the future if trees are left
- Aesthetics brought by the trees, attracting people to work, live and shop
- Infrastructure, plowing, lighting
- Planning with existing landscape to provide a uniqueness to downtown Twisp
- Cost should not always trump aesthetics
- Cooling effect of the trees
- Sell tree wood to local artists
- Adopt a tree program

Mr. Filer briefly gave those present the history on the Tree City designation and shared that this program is directly affiliated with the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Mr. Filer stated that the current Tree Board members intend to revive the board and invited everyone to their annual Arbor Day celebration in the Commons Park where the board plans to celebrate and recruit volunteers.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to direct the engineers to revise the Glover Street Improvement Plan, removing the middle tree on the east side of Glover Street between 4th Street and 5th Street, and constructing the proposed bump out. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell. Council Member di Rienzo voted no. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Tana di Rienzo inquired about the outcome of the issue of Lloyd Logging clearing the tree buffer between their industrial property and residential property on Hughes Lane and Burton Street. Clerk/Treasurer Storms relayed that a letter should have been sent from Planner Sarah Schrock explaining that the use for that land pre-dates any zoning ordinance the Town has on record and that Mr. Lloyd is under no obligation to maintain or replace a buffer.

Ms. di Rienzo questioned the process of getting some junk vehicles near her rental property on Hughes Lane removed. Chief Balam suggested Ms. di Rienzo contact our Code Enforcement person Lori Rodio during business hours and request follow-up if those vehicles violate our nuisance ordinance.

Mark Edson questioned a portion of the minutes from the December 23, 2008 minutes under the public comment section: “Leone Edson questioned whether they would receive the backing of the Council Members if in the future there were issues regarding their business”. He felt they had received some assurance from Council that should be noted in the minutes.

SWEARING IN NEW MAYOR

Clerk/Treasurer Storms swore in Stephanie Hickman as the new Mayor of the Town of Twisp. Council Members and audience congratulated Mayor Hickman on her appointment.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the December 23, 2008 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hollowell and passed unanimously.

MAYOR HICKMANS UPDATE

Mayor Hickman had nothing to report at this time.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam went over the monthly stats for December and stats for the entire year of 2008. Balam reported that in 2008 his department reported to 785 incidents, wrote 318 citations (not counting warnings) and arrested 63 people. Balam boasted that he is very proud of his officers, given the size of the department, and the work they have accomplished.

Randy Johnson, Public Works Superintendent

Superintendent Johnson went over the written report that was distributed to Council. Johnson brought the Council's attention to the three year well logs that show a significant reduction in water pumping and usage.

Council Member di Rienzo asked Superintendent Johnson how he determines where snow is stored. Johnson shared the locations of the snow storage. Keith Comstock shared that CenturyTel is removing the snow from their office parking lot on to the street. Johnson stated he would look into the issue.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reviewed the staff report she presented to Council. Storms pointed out a three year comparison she did for the period of 2006 – 2008 showing the trends relating to pet license and business license revenue. Storms reported that the USDA grant application for funding a portion of a new police vehicle went out. Storms shared that with regard to public comment that the police department should bid on Forest Service vehicles her experience has been that those vehicles don't come up for bid very often and didn't correspond with our creation of the police force in 2007. Also, as a bit of history, Storms added that when Chief Balam researched vehicles for department start-up, Gary Clark was instrumental in getting the best used vehicles at a low cost to the Town.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Comstock reported that the department had to clear a snow slide in the Fire Department parking lot from the roof. Comstock shared that the department had been cleaning snow away from fire hydrants and thanked Superintendent Johnson for the help from the public works crew. Comstock reported that he has thanked those residents and business owners for keeping the fire hydrants cleaned out near their property and he has educated others on the importance of keeping a clear path to the fire hydrants.

Sarah Schrock, Town Planner

Not present.

OLD BUSINESS

ADDENDUM #2 TO 2008 HIGHLANDS ASSOCIATES CONTRACT

Clerk/Treasurer Storms read aloud a portion of the proposed Addendum #2 to the 2008 Highlands Associates Contract (complete document was provided to Council). Storms reported that Attorney Scott DeTro confirmed that if this addendum was approved there did not need to be a 2008 budget revision as long as the Fund expenditure limit was high enough to cover the bill. Storms shared her concern about the \$1,935 increase because all 2008 invoices were not yet in to verify that there was remaining budget. However, the contract revision had to be passed to allow payment if there was remaining budget.

MOTION:

Council Member Hollowell moved to accept Addendum #2 to the 2008 Highlands Associates Contract. The motion was seconded by Council Member di Rienzo and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – MEG DONOHUE

Meg Donohue was not present to address the Council at this meeting, however Council Member Gehring reported that the Forest Service had won their case with the Colville Tribe and shared that as long as the tribe does not appeal the decision the bid process will re-open.

2009 INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT FOR BUILDING INSPECTOR SERVICES

Clerk/Treasurer Storms shared that Building Inspector Dave Sandoz volunteered to be present at the meeting, but Storms told him it was not necessary. Storms discussed the proposed 2009 Inter-Local Agreement for Building Inspector Service between the Town of Twisp and the Town of Winthrop. Storms reported that the agreement was for 8 hours per week of building inspector services. Clerk/Treasurer Storms stated that we have had only positive feedback regarding Mr. Sandoz' work performance.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the 2009 Inter-Local Agreement for Building Inspector Services between the Town of Twisp and the Town of Winthrop. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hollowell and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION #09-434 – PUBLIC FUNDS BANKING

Clerk/Treasurer Storms shared that Resolution #09-434 regarding public funds banking was necessary because of the change in Mayors.

MOTION:

Council Member Hollowell moved to approve Resolution #09-434 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member di Rienzo and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION

Clerk/Treasurer Storms provided information from Municipal Research Service Center regarding the procedure to fill an empty Council position. The Council as a whole decided to collect letters of interest from residents from Twisp interested in the position. The deadline for submitting a letter of interest to the Town Hall was set as February 4, 2009 at 5:00 pm and the Council agreed to hold interviews at their February 10, 2009 meeting.

MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE APPOINTMENT

Clerk/Treasurer Storms read aloud RCW 35.27.160 (also provided to the Council Members) pertaining to appointing a Mayor Pro Tempore. The Council had a brief discussion and decided as a whole to wait until Council Member Estes was present to appoint this position.

COUNCIL RETREAT – SET DATE

Clerk/Treasurer Storms requested possible dates in March that Council Members would be available for a Council Retreat. Council agreed on March 6 – 7, 2009. Storms will contact Council Member Estes before making any arrangements.

OKANOGAN COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BOARD UPDATE

Council Member di Rienzo shared that the January 22, 2009 meeting of the Okanogan County Public Transportation Board was cancelled. di Rienzo shared a letter from Tom Hanson, Washington State Department of Transportation requesting a meeting be set for Mr. Hanson to meet with the Council. Staff will set that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLARIFICATION

Administrative Assistant Jackie Moriarty asked if a resolution to Mark and Leone Edson’s question regarding the clarity of the minutes of December 23, 2008 was addressed. Council as a whole decided to leave the minutes of December 23, 2008 as previously approved.

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 13th day of January, 2009:

Checks/Vouchers	#25984 - 26016	\$19,858.07	12/31/08
Checks/Vouchers	#26017 - 26026	\$33,394.95	01/13/09
Checks - Payroll	#26027 - 26034	\$7,810.00	01/15/09

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 di Rienzo 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 di Rienzo and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor Stephanie Hickman

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen G. Storms