

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 01/27/09
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Hickman.

Council Members Present: Clint Estes
 Tom Gehring
 Vicki Hallowell
 Tina di Rienzo

Council members absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Estes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions and/or Changes to the Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mark Edson discussed the Critical Areas Map relating to the draft Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Edson shared that the map was incorrect and addressed the question of why that map was used to Kurt Danison, Highland Associates/Town Planner. Danison shared that the critical areas information was obtained through Okanogan County in April of 2007 and is the only map available short of the Town doing their own very expensive mapping and explained that planners use the best available science when preparing these types of plans. Danison assured Mark and Leone Edson that each site within a designated critical area is assessed for actual conditions present prior to any development on the property.

Mike Price inquired as to where the Town was on the water rights issue and what the cost thus far has been. Clerk/Treasurer Storms gave Mr. Price an update based on her 3 years with the Town and reported that in that period of time the Town had expended approximately \$50,000 she believed.

Mr. Price then began sharing history about his time as the Mayor of Twisp regarding town employees and disgruntled citizens. He expressed his concern over the present administration. Mr. Price was given his time to express his opinions and when he would not allow the Mayor to continue the meeting, he was asked to leave.

Council Member Gehring requested that the Council review Roberts Rules of Order with regard to public comment.

Traci Day, Planning Commission member, shared that she would like to see the Council wait to pass the zoning ordinance because she felt there were too many issues unresolved and possible errors that she had discovered.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the January 13, 2009 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

MAYOR HICKMANS UPDATE

Mayor Hickman pointed out some information she provided in Council packets regarding hiring procedures and encouraged them to review it.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Not present.

Randy Johnson, Public Works Superintendent

Public Works Superintendent Johnson reviewed his staff report with Council. Johnson shared that he and his crew have been working to make the sidewalks free of ice. Johnson mentioned that he had been educating some of the residents on 2nd Avenue regarding clearing sidewalks according to the Twisp Municipal Code. Johnson explained that drainage was in part to blame; it was the snow melting then freezing that was causing the problems. Council Member Gehring asked about using drain tile along the sidewalks for drainage. Johnson reported that he is working with RH2 Engineers on the installation of the computer at the treatment plant and the Hilltop Booster Station project design.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer began her report by thanking Mayor Hickman for the support she has shown to the staff and for the time she has been spending working at Town Hall coming up to speed on all of the issues.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms shared that 18 applications had been submitted for the Police Clerk position and that 3 would be interviewed. Storms reported that the police office space should be done by February 5, 2009.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Comstock reported that Fire District #6 had received a grant for equipment that would enable a site plan of a business to be prepared digitally to provide the fire department crucial information in case of a fire and to create scenarios based on particular businesses for training purposes. Comstock described the equipment as an excellent training tool. Comstock reported that there is no mention of a requirement to keep snow away from fire hydrants in the Twisp Municipal Code; he asked if that could be added. Comstock also responded to the Mayor's request for a meeting with him to discuss the Fire Department's Standard Operating Guidelines, which are being prepared by Chief Balam and need to be reviewed by them.

Dave Sandoz, Building Inspector

Building Inspector Dave Sandoz shared that he is currently working on a proposed revision of Town building codes and fire codes and should have a draft for Council review in February.

OLD BUSINESS

SHORELINE MASTER PLAN

Kurt Danison, Highland Associates/Town Planner was present to discuss the progress of the development of a countywide Shoreline Master Plan (SMP). Danison went over the history of funding the project and the process they have followed in the development of the plan. Danison shared that each community in Okanogan County will be provided a plan that they can then tailor to suit their needs. Danison was questioned regarding how local zoning works with the SMP. Danison replied that when the SMP is complete it is state law, but that the SMP refers to local zoning laws to govern zoning decisions. Danison shared that while the County is under a time restriction to get this plan done the communities have until 2014 to have the plan in place.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – RESOLUTION #09-435

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that the Comprehensive Plan Economic Development Element was found to have some technical problems. She, representatives of the Council, and Planning Commissioner Day reviewed the use chart and corrected the problems. Clerk/Treasurer Storms shared that the proposed Resolution #09-435 adopting the Comprehensive Plan rescinds prior Resolutions #07-411 and #08-426. Council Member Gehring questioned a phrase regarding water rights in the Economic Development Element. Clerk/Treasurer Storms explained the meaning of that section and Gehring agreed to leave it as written.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve Resolution #09-435 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member di Rienzo and passed unanimously.

DRAFT ZONING ORDINANCE #601

Kurt Danison shared that he felt responsible for the errors in the draft zoning ordinance due to his employee turnover. Danison suggested the following options for Council to consider:

1. Council could pass the zoning ordinance as is and initiate a review process to consider amendments.
2. Go back and revisit all the issues of concern and start the public process over.
3. Hold a workshop to discuss the items of concern listed by Planning Commissioner Day to determine what items were discussed during prior meetings and what items should be excluded from the plan at this time and revisited later.

Council Member Gehring voiced his concern of passing the ordinance as is and opening the Town up to undesirable development in the interim before items of concern could be addressed. Mr. Danison stated that the ordinance as drafted to date is still better than the current zoning the Town is working with. Mr. Danison supported option number 3 and is open to attending the workshop.

Council as a whole agreed to hold a special meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2009 to discuss the zoning ordinance.

LIBRARY EXPANSION

Clerk/Treasurer Storms asked the Council if they were ready to commit to a long term rental contract for the additional room at the Community Center for the library. An alternative was to pay month-to-month for another 3 months at the Community Center and see if the Forest Service Compound is acquired by the Twisp Public Development Authority. The PDA planned to devote a building for the library.

MOTION:

Council Member Hollowell moved to extend the library month-to-month rent for the extra room for an additional 3 months and to ask North Central Washington Regional Library to consider helping in with the additional lease fee. The motion was seconded by Council Member di Rienzo and passed unanimously.

AIRPORT

Council Member Estes and Hollowell (Airport Committee) discussed their meeting with the Airport Board regarding the revision of the Airport Lease. Council Member Hollowell shared that the two main issues discussed were hangar size and the annual lease fee. Dave Sandoz, Town Building Inspector, shared that if a hangar is built over 2,000 square feet there are regulations that are imposed that are non-issues if the hangar is smaller; he agreed with the reduction of the approved hangar size to 40 x 40.

Council discussed at length the airport lease fees, how the fee would be determined and who would be involved in the decision of rate increases. The language the Airport Committee and the Airport Board agreed upon involved both the Council and the Board having to be in agreement on a charge for lease fees prior to a rate increase going into effect. Council discussed the appearance of fairness if the Airport Board had to agree to raise the rent as opposed to making a recommendation that Council could approve or not. Also, the question was raised as to whether a formula based on the cost of living was appropriate or relative to the actual expenditures at the airport. Clerk/Treasurer Storms suggested a formula for the fee increases could be based on leases covering a percentage of the actual expenses at the airport, noting that one of the comments from the Airport Board was that there are pilots from out of the area also using the airport.

Council Member Hollowell and Estes will work with the Airport Board regarding language that reflects the Town Council discussion.

APPOINTMENT OF A MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

Council briefly discussed the appointment of a Mayor Pro-Tempore. Council Member Estes was asked if he would take the position for the remainder of 2009. Council Member Estes shared that he would be happy to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to appoint Council Member Estes to the position of Mayor Pro-Tempore for the remainder of 2009. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION – APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL

Mayor Hickman adjourned into Executive Session for approximately 10 minutes to discuss personnel at 9:30 pm.

Mayor Hickman reconvened into regular session at 9:50 pm.

There was no action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL

Council discussed the issue of sticking to the 3 to 5 minute time limit for each person to convey public comment in the interest of keeping the meeting under control. Council as a whole agreed that time limits need to be followed at future meetings.

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 27th day of January, 2009:

Checks/Vouchers	#25797 – 25983	\$5,451.18	01/02/09
AWC	ACH	\$7,899.85	
NCNB	ACH	\$9,224.84	
FP Francotyp-Postalia, Inc.	ACH	\$500.00	12/31/08
Cashmere Valley Bank	ACH	\$1,254.99	01/01/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26035 - 26039	\$18,206.31	12/31/08
Checks/Vouchers	#26040 - 26058	\$53,677.08	01/27/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26059	\$1,975.40	12/31/08

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 Estes and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Gehring moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor Stephanie Hickman

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen G. Storms