

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 02/26/08
7:00 PM**

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

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Stephanie Hickman
Clint Estes
Tom Gehring
Vicki Hallowell
Tina DeRenzo

Council members absent:

Council Member Hallowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment.

GAMBLING TAX

The following business owners, trustees, volunteers and patrons were present to discuss the proposal of assessing a gambling tax: Robin Madison, Antlers Tavern; Miki Eiffert, Mick and Miki's Red Cedar Bar; Bill Bates, Branding Iron; and Bob Simms, Karen Nichols, Al Flag, Wayne Reece, John Jensen, and Bud Richards, Eagles.

Robin Madison, Antlers Tavern prepared and distributed to Council graphs showing the decline in her gambling profits. Ms. Madison shared with Council that she felt the decline in gambling sales is due to casinos. Ms. Madison also stated that with the no smoking laws imposed business has declined.

Bill Bates, Branding Iron agreed with Ms. Madison and stated that if the gambling tax was imposed on top of dropping sales he may consider getting rid of gambling completely in his business.

Miki Eiffert, Mick and Miki's Red Cedar Bar stated that she felt that it was unfair to target a few businesses to generate revenue for the Town. Ms. Eiffert shared that as a business owner this would just be another tax that she cannot afford.

Bob Sims, Eagles, reported that they are a non-profit organization and contribute to many local charities and projects. Sims listed several donations made in 2007 and stated that if they were taxed on the gambling revenue it would directly affect the community. Several members present backed up Mr. Sims report and stated their disagreement with the proposed tax.

Council Member Estes stated he felt he did not have enough information having missed the prior meeting. Estes questioned how the revenue generated could be used and the difference on how for-profit establishment assessments versus non-profit establishment assessments would be

calculated. Mayor Nations explained that revenue could be used for the police department and the general fund, but that some type of audit of gambling in Town would need to be done by the police department. All business owners present agreed that the Washington State Gambling Commission does more than enough auditing and tracking now. Mr. Bates stated that it takes 2 – 4 hours of his time each day just for gambling related paperwork.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to not impose a gambling tax. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Council Member Gehring questioned a section regarding recording meetings. Clerk/Treasurer clarified it and the minutes were unchanged.

MOTION:

Council Member Hickman moved to approve the February 12, 2008 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously. Council Members Estes and DeRenzo abstained from voting because they were absent at that meeting.

MAYOR NATIONS UPDATE

No report.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Not present.

Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent

Not present.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

No report.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Comstock reported that all of the volunteer fire fighters passed training and were certified in the use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment.

Don Willson, Town Planner

Town Planner Don Willson outlined four issues for discussion; proposed amendments to the County Comprehensive Plan; development in the county south of Twisp; a Conditional Use Permit coming before the Board of Adjustments and the parking issue at the Local 98856.

Willson reported that the County Comprehensive Plan amendments that were being proposed were basically minor housekeeping items and were not really relevant to the Town. The short plat being proposed to the County south of Twisp is outside the Urban Growth Area and has no affect on the Town.

Willson reported that a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Paco's Taco's, a business that is in the Commercial II zone was submitted and would be going to the Board of Adjustments on February 29, 2008 for review. Willson stated that was a use that was allowed in that zone with a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Willson stated that he was waiting for a revised parking map for the project. Mayor Nations questioned the access from SR20 regarding the purpose being changed from a residential use to a commercial use. Willson was asked to contact the Department of Transportation regarding the access use change to see if there was a process the Town had to follow.

Action: Don Willson will check with the Department of Transportation regarding the access from SR 20.

Willson reported on the parking at Local 98856, stating that owners Tess Hoke and Doug Potter were working hard on the parking issue to move vehicles where they wouldn't obstruct vision for those leaving Burton Street. He felt it seemed to be better. Willson shared that the next issue may be residents on Burton Street being unhappy by people parking on the side of Burton Street; however Willson pointed out that it is legal to park along the right-of-way.

OLD BUSINESS

FOREST SERVICE COMPLEX AND WATER ISSUES/DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY (DOE)

Okanogan County Commission Bud Hover was present to discuss topics for his upcoming trip to Washington DC and to update the Council on his meeting with DOE staff. Hover reported that he had met with DOE staff members Jay Manning, Tom Tebb, Derek Sandison, and Evan Steffels to continue putting pressure on them to find a solution for Twisp's water problems as well as some other cities in the County. DOE explained to Hover about the part DOE was playing and what the Town was doing. Hover reiterated to Council the importance of the things DOE mentioned the Town is working on such as fixing leaks, accounting for water used, replacing source meters, and recirculation of effluent at the treatment plant. Hover cautioned Council that lifting the moratorium or allowing well drilling could affect the DOE's ability to continue with this plan to assist us. Commissioner Hover made a point to share that Jay Manning volunteered to help fund at least \$25,000 for the work needed for recirculation at the treatment plant.

Commissioner Hover asked for an update and any points that the Council would like him to take back to Washington DC regarding the Forest Service Complex. Council Member Gehring gave Hover a brief update on recent correspondence sent to the legislators, in particular a resolution sent to Senator Patty Murray requesting that she propose a budget footnote to the USDA budget requiring a direct sale to Twisp. Hover stated that he was on the Public Lands Committee and

feels he has a few prospects to discuss the matter with in DC. Council Member Gehring also relayed the Forest Service Task Force's frustration regarding the language referring to the complex as "unique" in regards to appraising its value.

Commissioner Hover asked that the Council keep him updated on these two issues.

NEW BUSINESS

FREEZE-UP/WATER OVERAGES

Superintendent McConnell was not present so matter was deferred to the next meeting.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH OKANOGAN COUNTY REGARDING THE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM GRANT

Clerk/Treasurer Storms explained that when Okanogan County initially received a grant from the Department of Ecology to review and update the Shoreline Master Plan for the county and cities within the county Twisp along with two other cities in the county were not included in the initial project. Recently, the county was given an extension for getting the work done with the stipulation that those cities previously not included be included. Storms reported that she was asked to figure what it would cost Twisp to participate in meetings and tailor the basic plan prepared at the county level to Twisp's needs. Storms prepared a budget of \$14,000, which will cover Highland Associates fees, travel expenses, wages and advertising/meeting expenses for public meetings. Town Planner Don Willson will be attending the county meetings as the Town representative.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement with Okanogan County regarding the Shoreline Master Program Grant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hickman and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carl Timbers asked Council when more discussion regarding water and sewer rates would take place. Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that discussion would continue at the March 11, 2008 meeting.

Council Member DeRenzo discussed the late fee for dog licenses. DeRenzo was unhappy regarding the cost of her dog license including the late fee. DeRenzo reported that several Town dogs were not licensed and questioned the Town's policies. Clerk/Treasurer suggested Council Member DeRenzo contact Town Hall staff and they would check in to whether licenses were purchased.

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 26th day of February, 2008:

Voucher/Checks	#25097 - #25130	\$49,010.48	02/26/08
Voucher/Checks	#25131 - #25131	\$58,395.67	03/01/08

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 DeRenzo 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 8:41 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor Vern Nations

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms