

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 03/25/08
6:30 PM**

Public hearing called to order at 6:30 pm by Council Member Estes.

Council Members Present: Tom Gehring
 Vicki Hallowell
 Tina DeRenzo

Council members absent: Mayor Vern Nations and Mayor Pro-Tem Stephanie Hickman.

**PUBLIC HEARING – REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOOSTER PUMP
– APPROVAL OF DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE**

Council Member Estes opened the public hearing regarding the development of the booster pump and approval of the Determination of Non-Significance. Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms reported that funds for water lines on 2nd Avenue to be replaced during the street construction in 2008 and reservoir repairs to be done in 2009 along with the Booster Pump project were approved through USDA and that the water rights lease had been dropped from the funding process.

Superintendent Gary McConnell supported the project pointing out that personal pressure tanks would be eliminated along with the contamination risk of them; fire flow improved and the Town would be in compliance with DOH pressure requirements.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that RH2 Engineers had prepared a Determination of Non-Significance regarding environmental effects of the projects and asked that the Council consider approval of the document.

Mark Edson stated that the project was well overdue and he was happy that it was finally getting done. There was no additional public comment.

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the Determination of Non-Significance regarding the 2nd Avenue water main replacement. The motion was seconded by Council Member DeRenzo and passed unanimously.

Council Member Estes closed the public hearing at 6:44 pm and called the regular meeting to order.

Additions and/or Changes to the Agenda: Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that Ordinances 592 and 593 were combined into one ordinance; #592.

Council Member Gehring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Rosalie Hutson, Rande Colyar and Marjory Wilkinson were present to discuss the dumping of unusable items at the Senior Center for the rummage room. Ms. Hutson shared that in Chelan, Habitat for Humanity had gone to the City Council to request an ordinance and signage relating to illegal dumping at their drop off area; they are asking for the same consideration if the Town does not already have an ordinance that will work for them. Ms. Hutson reported that a camera is going to be installed to aid in identifying people that drop off unusable items and people that steal things that have been dropped off. Ms. Hutson stated that they just want to know that the Town will work with them in stopping the problem. Council Member Estes stated that Town staff would work to find the code relating to illegal dumping.

ACTION: Clerk/Treasurer will talk with Chief Balam and find out if our ordinances cover the various incidents.

Marjory Wilkinson asked if a “Children at Play” sign could be placed at the top of their road that is located at the west end of Glover Street. Ms. Wilkinson explained that people drive too fast down that hill and she is worried about the neighborhood children’s safety. For safety reasons Ms. Wilkinson feels that a stop sign should be placed there too, however it was pointed out that in the winter it may be an issue if residents tried to stop and could not get restarted because of the incline. Ms. Wilkinson mentioned that the dust was getting bad again and wondered if dust control would be done this year again. Superintendent McConnell stated that he was planning to do dust control in that area again this year and that he would address the signage issue.

ACTION: Gary McConnell will work with Chief Balam to determine what signage should be used on Massey-Wills Lane intersection with Twisp Avenue.

Leone Edson discussed water and sewer rates sharing that she felt she had been paying for services that were not delivered for some time and she questioned Clerk/Treasurer Storms whether all residents and businesses were being charged correctly. Storms confirmed that she and Deputy Clerk Janie Surface have reviewed accounts and she feels confident that water and sewer charges are being correctly accounted for. Council Member Estes responded to Mrs. Edson that the agencies like DOE constantly change requirements the Town has to meet, which in turn increases costs. They also expect conservation measures will be taken along with normal Town system maintenance costs, which are very expensive. The Town is required to charge water and sewer revenues that cover expenses. Clerk/Treasurer Storms added that with the Rural Communities Assistance Corporation’s assistance, the proposed rate structure will most likely cause people to conserve water.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Council Member DeRenzo moved to approve the March 11, 2008 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hollowell and passed unanimously.

MAYOR NATIONS UPDATE

Not present

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Not Present

Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent

Superintendent McConnell reported that he was working with H&H Excavating regarding the non-potable water system at the treatment plant. McConnell is uncertain at this time if the \$25,000 allocated from the Department of Ecology (DOE) will cover the costs of the project.

McConnell reported there were a couple of issues that the Town and the engineers were still working out regarding the 2nd Avenue Street Project.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer reported on her projects over the next few weeks which included: closing out the general ledger for 2007; preparing reports for the auditor's office; setting up the new grants; and preparing for the 2nd Avenue Street Project bid process.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Comstock reported that they had discovered one fire hydrant was damaged and the District engine was back from being repaired. Comstock also provided meeting reports to be given to Mayor Nations.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE #592 – ADOPTING NEW WATER AND SEWER RATES

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed the various options that the Council had been presented with at previous meetings. Storms reported that after more research RCAC's most experienced consultant, Skip Rand, advised her that a customer that uses twice as much water as the person using the base amount should have charges up to 50% to 70% higher. He advised that most small cities do not do that and low water users are basically subsidizing higher users. Storms explained that then we would be truly charging and collecting money fairly from all residents. Storms said Mr. Rand also suggested that the Council needed to consider what their policies were regarding sharing of costs of services before making a decision.

Public Comment: Scot Domergue felt that the base rate should be low, either the same as current or even lower, and charges should increase by water usage to promote conservation. He also said perhaps increases should be gradually implemented over time. Mr. Domergue also suggested education should be provided to residents regarding how to conserve water.

Council felt that they would like to review the ordinance and make a decision at the April 8, 2008 meeting when Mayor Nations and Council Member Hickman could be present.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

Superintendent McConnell stated that this was covered in his department report.

NEW BUSINESS

METHOW VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER – USE OF FIELD AT AIRPORT

Clerk/Treasurer Storms shared with Council that the request and proof of insurance from the Methow Valley Youth Soccer group was in their packets. Council Member DeRenzo stated that they were already using the field for practice.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve use of the airport field for the Methow Valley Youth Soccer group. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

2008 METHOW VALLEY TOUR ROAD BIKE RACE

Julie Muyllaert and John Spaude were present to ask Council's permission to close off a portion of Glover and Lincoln Streets to hold the 3rd Annual Methow Valley Tour Road Bike Race/Criterion on Saturday, June 14, 2008 from approximately 2:00 – 9:00 pm. Ms. Muyllaert reported that they were expecting approximately 250 racers this year. She said 2007 participants and families were happy with the hospitality shown by the businesses and residents of Twisp.

Ms. Muyllaert shared that last year they contacted the businesses and residents that were most inconvenienced by the event and distributed care packages, offered businesses help to advertise specials for race participants, and worked with a few businesses to get customers through the race blockades. They intend to make these efforts again this year.

John Spaude asked about the Glover Street road project and possible conflicts, to which Clerk/Treasurer Storms replied that there might be a possible conflict in 2009, but the project wouldn't be done in 2008.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the use of Twisp streets for the purpose of the 3rd Annual Methow Valley Tour Road Bike Race on June 14, 2008. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy Stork, Methow Valley News, introduced herself to the Council and Town staff present as the new reporter that would be covering Council meetings. Council Member Estes welcomed her.

Council Member Gehring asked when the public restrooms were open. Superintendent McConnell reported that the restrooms were open and closed for the season according to the opening and closing of the North Cascade Pass and that when open, the hours were from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Council Member Gehring asked if they could be open longer; it was suggested that he speak to Mayor Nations.

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 25th day of March, 2008:

Voucher/Checks	#25192 - #25219	\$34,404.31	03/25/08
Payroll	#11782 - #11802	\$17,036.76	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 Hallowell and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor Vern Nations

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms