

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes – Regular Meeting
03-27-2007
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Nations -- Adjourned at 8:23 PM

Council Members Present: Mayor Vern Nations
Jackie Moriarty
Clint Estes
Stephanie Hickman
Shari Brown

Council members absent:

Request for additions or changes:

Change:

Addition: Old Business:

New Business:

Council Member Brown led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Period:

Tom Gehring, who lives on Glover, addressed the Council about a tree in the alley behind his garage that the Public Works Superintendent said they need to remove. The tree limbs are extending into the alley and causing issues with traffic. However, Tom said this tree provides a lot of shade and is attractive and he'd like to find another way to work with it. He said he was willing to help with trimming it to meet the needs of the alley and asked if Gary and he could work out a solution. He also said there is a big drainage problem in the alley that floods his yard and others every year. There was discussion with Gary and Council about this problem as well. After the discussion, Gary agreed to meet with Tom and see what they could do with the tree other than cut it down at this time. The Mayor cautioned Tom, however, that there could come a day where it would still need to come out.

Meeting Minutes:

Council Member Moriarty moved and Council Member Brown seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16th meeting with no corrections. None opposed; motion passed.

Mayor Nation's Update to Council:

- Mayor Nations addressed the Council about the first written police report they'd received. He explained Rick had been busy getting together equipment. He'd recovered several items from the County; radios, cars, etc. He also reported about the status on the hirings for that department.
- The Mayor explained that an ad would be coming out in the next week seeking a council member appointment to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Sam Hanan. He encouraged the Council to talk with people in Town and possibly give them the nudge to apply.

- Mayor Nations also related that he'd watched a video with Gary that showed the inside of the sewer lines, which were recently filmed by a company providing that service. He asked Gary to explain more about what the film showed. Superintendent McConnell told about the substantial root problem they saw on the film from Canyon St. He said there was also a large rock in that area that the jet-washer could not push out. He explained that the roots are not completely blocking the line, but in time that would happen. Gary is proposing to purchase a tool that will attach to our jet-washer and cut the roots. There is also another tip that he believes would assist in clearing the lines. The Mayor agreed this was probably the most cost effective way to prevent problems.
- Mayor Nations explained that the Town has a new building inspector, Fred Hall, who is working for Winthrop and will be contracting here 8 hours a week. He said Fred is getting after it and has run into a few problems around town since there has not been a regular inspector for a few months. He seems to be pretty persistent about pursuing solutions for these problems.

Department Heads & Committee Reports:

➤ **Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer**

- She reported on the dog license progress; we currently have about 110 licensed dogs and are handling complaints as they come in. She would still like to find some kind of arrangement for holding dogs that need to be picked up because of violations. She feels that if we had that type of arrangement, we could be most responsive to the Town's needs.
- She and Gary will be working on the feasibility of a new reservoir constructed on the hill to alleviate the pressure problems there and replace the 70 year old reservoirs. There is a surplus of money available in the grant cycles this year and our application would likely be looked on favorably because of the fact the Department of Health is aware of the pressure issues.
- She is continuing to work on the year-end closing financial work, so will be really busy this next month.

➤ **Dale Hutson, Fire Chief**

- He explained that they have a request for proposals in the paper for new gear and should be getting bids in the next couple of weeks. (This is the gear financed by the Homeland Security AFG grant.)
- The Mayor asked him how many sets of gear we would be getting and he said he would not know the final number until he receives the bids, as there has been some cost increase since we applied for the grant last year. He will get 2 airpacks for sure, and as many sets of turnout gear as the money allows. General Fire is working up a bid and he's not sure who else might be bidding.

➤ **Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent**

- He reported that there was a fire hydrant hit, actually run over, on the south end of Burton Street. He said they will be replacing that soon.

Old Business:

- MVSTA presentation by Julie Muyliaert and John Spaude and request for permission to host bike race in Twisp
 - o Julie passed out a handout with the course map and a summary about the activity they want to host in Twisp. The primary request is to allow them to have the criterion race in downtown Twisp on Saturday afternoon, June 16, 2007.

- o Council Member Brown asked what a rolling enclosure (mentioned in the handout) was. The MVSTA representative, John Spaude, explained that it was a way of protecting the riders during the road race part (which runs primarily outside of Twisp). He explained that vehicle escorts would drive in front and behind a group of riders, which notifies drivers of the existence of the riders. Drivers that aren't within the rolling enclosure would be subject to the standard laws governing bike riders.
 - o Julie explained that they expected about 200 riders this year as there were 160 last year and they expect better response in June. They have decided to start and end the road race at Blackbirds in Twisp this year. The course is more engaging to riders and the closure of the road in Winthrop last year was longer in duration because the course was shorter and they circled it four times. This year's course will go up Twisp River Rd., Elbow Coulee, West Chewuch, and East County Rd, then all the way to Carlton and back to Twisp.
 - o The Council discussed whether Twisp businesses were positive about the race last year. Part of MVSTA's approach, they said, had been to ask businesses, like restaurants, to offer race specials to attract participants to their establishments. Mayor Nations said that he had received some complaints from Glover St. restaurants that it hurt their business; they were pretty negative about the impact of the Glover St closure. MVSTA said they would work aggressively this year with the local businesses to make it a positive thing for them. They said that if this event is hosted here for a few years, it could eventually bring a lot of spectators to the valley. Council Member Brown said she felt like if the businesses planned for the kind of crowds the event brings it could be a real asset to them.
 - o Mayor Nations said that he also received complaints about the Pub setting up refreshment sales on the lot on 2nd and Lincoln, which competed with the downtown restaurants. MVSTA said they would consider that in their planning and work with the Glover business-owners to have it be a positive thing for the majority.
 - o Council Member Moriarty asked if the needed Council action was approval for the closure of the street for the event. Council Member Brown asked that MVSTA notify the residents along the course about the times of closures and work with them to alleviate any issues that arise.
 - o Council Member Estes moved and Council Member Hickman seconded a motion to authorize the MVSTA to sponsor and host a criterion and road race here in Twisp on the weekend of June 16-17th this year. Motion passed unanimously.
- Red Cross presentation and request- Sheron Sheldon and Paul Waterstrat
- o The Red Cross is the primary responder for emergencies, fires, floods, pandemic flu, etc. The area is very dependent on their response and their education programs for disaster preparedness, first aid, lifeguarding instruction, etc.
 - o There is a lack of national funding to support the work of the Red Cross in this area. Local donations and fundraising covers the bulk of their budget.
 - o Red Cross is asking for cities and the County to contract with them to provide the emergency coverage. They have a very large coverage area, but very low population and very small towns in their service area.
 - o In order to keep the service available in the area, the Red Cross is asking that the Town commit \$800 per year to contract with them for emergency management in Twisp.

- o Local resident and Red Cross volunteer Nancy Dammann said that she and her husband have helped during emergencies in Twisp. Part of the Okanogan Chapter's strategy has been to recruit local people to be available for quick response. The staffing of this Red Cross office is two persons (Sheron and one Americorps employee), which really limits their ability to respond unless volunteers participate.
- o Paul Waterstrat said one of the things that really frustrates him is that the State does not give the Red Cross any money at all to participate in the required emergency planning that the State has required of all governments. But, everyone counts on the Red Cross to be part of planning and be the primary responder and builds them into the plan.
- o The Council discussed whether the Town has the ability to include this in the revised budget that will be forthcoming. They have made several commitments lately that came to the Town after the budget was approved. Council Member Moriarty said she feels the Council needs to have a plan and strategy about these types of health and human service needs that will guide decision making in the future.
- o The Council asked the Red Cross how they came up with the \$800 number and they explained they are using the approximate population to determine the fee for services.
- o Council Member Moriarty said she would like to see us commit for a set amount of time, then revisit this and review the services received. Council Member Hickman said it was a fair and worthy cause and very important for this area.
- o Council Member Hickman moved and Council Member Estes seconded a motion to enter into an agreement with the Red Cross to provide emergency response and planning services for \$800.00 for each of the next two Red Cross fiscal years.
- o Paul Waterstrat said there will be a planning meeting at 3:30 p.m. the next day at the High School and he invited the Mayor and Council to attend.

New Business:

- Request from Bob Howson, a possible purchaser of the property owned by Cydney Wells next to the airport, to approve a new ten year license allowing him similar use of the access onto the airport she currently enjoys
 - o Council Member Brown asked whether the Airport Layout Plan(ALP) addressed this access.
 - o Council Member Estes replied that the access was on the map and acknowledged in the ALP, but that no decisions about its continued use had been made. He said that our planner, Mr. Ketchum, said that the feds and the state discourage access from off-site locations, but that this access already exists. The use of the access is limited to the property owner only; no commercial development would be allowed.
 - o Council Member Estes further explained that there is language in the ALP that allows the Town to decide they want to permit other accesses in the future as long as the compensation for access meets the needs of the airport.
 - o Council Member Moriarty moved and Council Member Hickman seconded a motion to approve the license with Mr. Howson for ten years to use the existing airport access from the property when he purchases it, contingent upon our attorney's review of the document. Motion passed unanimously.

- Millennium Digital Media request for renewing the franchise agreement with the Town
 - Clerk Storms explained that she had not asked our attorney to review this agreement as it extends an agreement we've been in for some time. She also understood it is common to other municipalities. It appeared that Twisp has had several of these types of franchise agreements over the years.
 - The Council discussed whether there should be a legal review of the agreement as a precaution. Council Member Hickman said it is a pretty standard type of agreement that has been going on for years.
 - Council Member Moriarty said that in her work with Brewster, this is something fairly common that towns are doing, but she volunteered to ask other towns that are working with Millennium if they have any comments on the agreements they have in place.
 - The Council decided they would like Council Member Moriarty to investigate this a little further and asked the Clerk to bring the issue back to the next meeting for action.
 - Soccer club request to use field at the airport
 - Clerk Storms explained the soccer club asked if they could use the field at the airport again and that they had submitted their insurance information.
 - Public Works Superintendent McConnell said his department is fine with the club using the field, but the biggest problem they'd run into last year was the neighbor's cows that were always on the field doing damage. Apparently, it is open range there.
 - Council agreed to allow the use of the field again this year.
 - Approve Ordinance #573, which adopts the Twisp Municipal Code
 - The Clerk introduced the ordinance, reviewed by Scott Detro, that adopts the Twisp Municipal Code. This ordinance did not repeal all of the ordinances where that is required. Scott Detro will work with us on completing that task in the near future. She said the Town wants to make the Code available online as soon as possible however, so she asked that the Council approve this ordinance.
 - Mayor Nations asked if we still owed the final payment on this project to Code Publishing and Clerk Storms said that the invoice was presented for payment in the past week.
 - Council Member Hickman moved and Council Member Moriarty seconded a motion to approve Ordinance #573 adopting the Code. Motion passed unanimously.
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Public Comment

- Carl Timbers
 - He asked if the police officers Twisp hires will be required to complete the academy before they start working in Town. He was concerned because a recent Seattle newspaper article said that around the United States there are issues arising from police officers being put on active duty for up to a year before they even go to academy.
 - Mayor Nations responded that the Town hoped to hire an officer that has already been through academy and has worked for at least two years as an officer.
 - The Council also agreed they really preferred to hire an experienced officer (lateral hire).

- o Clerk Storms said one of the reasons the Town set the pay ranges that they did was to encourage laterals to apply; the pay ranges were higher than the median amount for similar cities.

Routine Approvals:

The bills were briefly discussed.

Motion to approve the current accounts payable and disburse payment was made by Council Member Brown and seconded by Council Member Hickman. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Brown moved and Council Member Estes seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms

Mayor Vern Nations