

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes
04-11-2006
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7: 04 PM by Mayor Vern Nations -- Adjourned at 9:40 PM

Council Members Present:

Jackie Moriarty
Clint Estes
Sam Hanan
Shari Brown
Stephanie Hickman

Request for additions or changes:

Change: Add the Cascade Pipe lease under Old Business

Council Member Hanan led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Revised Minutes from March 28, 2006- Councilmember Moriarty moved and Sam Hanan seconded a motion to approve the Minutes as written. Motion passed; Councilmember Hickman unanimously.

Public Comments:

---Richard Yonko commented regarding two questions he'd posed before to the Council. How does the Council coincide the creation of the parking committee with the Consolidated Plan and justify appointment of four individuals on the committee that would be responsible for paying for parking if the Town did not intercede. He commented that this seemed like a conflict of interest as the recommendation coming from the Committee would be at odds with the interests of the business owners. The Council responded that the committee was formed to solve all of the Town's parking problems, not just the downtown area, and that these businesses were impacting residential parking in their areas and needed to be part of the solution.

---Mark Edson commented about a couple of topics. He presented Initiative 933, sponsored by the Farm Bureau, that is in petition form at this time in the State. The legislation provided for compensation in the event that governmental action affected property rights, like the potential effects that could come from the zoning ordinance or comprehensive plan. He left a petition copy for the Council.

Secondly, Mark read data from a report that the Town's previous planner Jeff put together wherein Jeff estimated the cost of his services to do different planning functions, subdivisions, etc. Mark commented the report indicated the Town is not sufficiently charging for these services and in that way, is subsidizing the private parties who benefit from these services. He felt that municipal money is providing for private profit. Another example was a business in Town that

has two water hookups, but only pays for one. He also mentioned that businesses are functioning in town, but not paying for licenses. He also said that he would not have his property rights violated as this comprehensive plan goes forward and if the initiative 933 does not pass, he would stop the process legally if he has to. Council members Hanan and Moriarty responded to these statements and asked for names and specifics about these issues that were referred to. The Edsons said they would be happy to provide these, but not in the public meeting. Member Moriarty asked for their patience in this time where we are working through a large backlog with new staff and Council members. She asked that Edsons let the Clerk know the names and situations so that we can look into these. After additional discussion between the Mayor and the Edsons, the Mayor closed the topic.

LeAnne Edson commented that the brewery is part of the parking problem and she had a discussion with Mr. Rivard that he might be willing to provide parking to the Pub's employees.

Department Head Reports:

---Colleen Storms presented a summary income and expense report for the Town's first quarter of 2006 and commented about the general fund's ability to cover its expenditures currently. She said that overall it appeared the Town's actual expenses were fairly close to budget, with the exception of just a few accounts she'd discuss with the Mayor. While the situation is improved with the staffing changes made in 2005, the general fund is still tapping its reserves. She is continuing with work to get the general ledger corrected for 2005 and bring those fund balances into 2006. There have been more problems than she even anticipated.

Old Business:

- Don Willson reported on the comprehensive planning process and mentioned the first public meeting of four planned that was scheduled for the next night at the Community center.
- Ron Perrow gave the Council a history on the Methow Basin Planning Unit. He related how the Basin Planning Act came into existence, what the mission of these units was, and the specific progress of the Methow Unit. He said that the long-range plan to rebuild the watershed included storage methods that would require a scientific proving period and a lot of grant funding. The groundwater recharge program could free up rights for the Town, but it would be a slow process.

The current direction the Methow Unit is taking is to become a 501c(3) non-profit corporation, which they believe will allow for better pursuit of certain funds and a path to completing the research. They want to apply to the DOE to use canals, unlined current structures, for the express purpose of groundwater recharge. They feel it could establish a process and a program that would be an advantage to all.

He also said they are looking for a public agency to be a recipient of grants, in a sponsorship role, for the Planning Unit and would like Twisp to consider this. If they can prove they are increasing the in stream flows through these processes, this could free up rights for the Town. The County is in favor of their efforts as well.

The Council asked several questions about the Planning Unit and whether this change of structure was something that Town could support. Sam Hanan commented that the Town is impatient about working through the process as it had not resulted in any more rights for the Town since it lost the case in 1997. The Town needs water now. Member Moriarty also asked about the time frame for creating the new entity and the response was that their attorney was working through the details still.

- Joe Doggett presented the plans as approved at the 2005 Council for the skatepark in the T wisp Town Park. He said they had volunteers and some materials and plan to add a roof as soon as possible, possibly log-style to match other structures there. They talked about the size of the slab and said it would probably be better if it was slightly larger to allow for the peripheral area to be covered and paved. A question from Council about upkeep revealed that there is not a lot of upkeep on this type of ramp. It's coated with a material that is specific for skate uses and if covered, should be good for many years.

Council Member Moriarty moved and Sam Hanan seconded to ratify the conditional use permit and authorize the placement of the ramp in the park as proposed, contingent upon verification that the Town's insurance will cover the use.

ACTION: Clerk Storms to check with AWC regarding insurance. Mayor and Staff to meet with Joe to locate the structure.

- Town clean-up day was discussed. The consensus was that the Town would carefully define what types of materials would be picked up. The loader and truck would be used, so they should not bag debris. Only burnable yard waste would be allowed. The County prisoners would also be available to sweep streets, etc. The staff will coordinate with the High School to see if there was interest on the part of students to donate hours also. **ACTION:** Staff will put a notice in the paper and make a flyer.
- Cascade Pipe lease- Mayor Nations said he's been in contact with the attorney regarding this lease. He needed a legal description to complete this and John Cramer is working on that. **ACTION:** Mayor will follow up with Cramer and Detro.

New Business:

- Potable Water Purchase
 - There was a long discussion regarding whether the Town could arrange to provide potable water and regulate the sale of it. Part of the discussion focused on whether it needed to be potable and what the expense would be of a cardlock system. There was also discussion about whether it was something the private sector could offer, but the tiered rates might make pricing of it difficult. No action was taken at this time.

Routine Items:

- Approval of Warrants & Payroll, unanimous. Moriarty abstained from payroll approval.
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Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Shari Brown, seconded by Sam Hanan. All Ayes, motioned passed. Meeting adjourned at p.m.

Attest:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms

Mayor Vern Nations