

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 05/13/08
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: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL

Mayor Nations adjourned into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 7:00 pm for approximately 10 minutes.

Mayor Nations reconvened into regular session at 7:13 pm.

Additions and/or Changes to the Agenda

Added: Forest Service Task Force report

Council Member Hallowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Tess Hoke, the owner of Local 98856 was present to request Council support to change the speed limit from the bridge at the south end of Twisp to the Town Limits from 35 mph to 25 mph. Ms. Hoke explained that she was going to draft a letter to the Washington State Department of Transportation requesting the reduction in speed and asked Council if they would send a letter supporting her request. Ms. Hoke pointed out that she is looking to the future regarding both residential and commercial growth in that area and feels that the reduction is a proactive approach.

ACTION: Mayor Nations suggested that Chief Balam and Superintendent McConnell meet with Ms. Hoke and report back at the next meeting.

Stan Foster of PARC, the consultant hired by the Town's Forest Service Task Force, was present to discuss his findings regarding the Forest Service project. Mr. Foster stated that he was very impressed with the individuals that make up the Forest Service Task Force calling them one of the most energetic and capable groups he's ever worked with. Mr. Foster shared that during this process and in speaking with area citizens that they found broad-based support and unanimity for this project. He felt this exceptional level of support made a strong case for keeping it for public use.

Mr. Foster recommended to the Council that they proceed with the acquisition of the Forest Service property and that they consider the following as they move forward: 1) identify the facilities that are “move in” ready and have a basic Phase 1 plan to keep the lights on; 2) establish a Public Development Authority; and 3) have the purchase contingent upon both an environmental assessment/testing and an engineering assessment. Mr. Foster shared two examples of tenants that the property could incorporate with little or no improvements as being a library facility and a storage (boats, RV’s) facility.

Mr. Foster also emphasized that a Master Plan would be the next step in moving forward with a project of this size and urged those responsible for developing the plan to employ a broad-based community process. He recommended a methodical approach involving public input and felt that tapping into resources and creativity in the community will bring about the best result.

Several Forest Service Task Force members were in attendance, some chose to speak regarding their perspective of the process so far and their expectations for the future.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Council Member Hollowell moved to approve the April 22, 2008 minutes as sent. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hickman and passed unanimously.

MAYOR NATIONS UPDATE

Mayor Nations reported that the 2nd Avenue Street project is out to bid and so far 9 sets of plans have been purchased. Mayor Nations is happy with the interest shown in the project. He also said that the PUD has taken down trees that were in the way of the project.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam went over the April police stats; pointing out that 9 arrests had occurred in the period.

Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent

Superintendent McConnell reported that Joni Hager was proceeding with her plans to move a manufactured home to a lot on Burton Street in the Gil Webber Short Plat.

McConnell reported that one of his projects is to disconnect the water pump in the well down at the park. McConnell explained that the water rights from that well had been transferred to our other wells and it would never be used in the future. He’d like to decommission it before there can be problems with breakage.

Council Member Hollowell requested that some clean up work be done around the Mel Northcott’s tree in the park. Hollowell stated that some debris was stuck in the fencing surrounding the tree.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that two immediate priorities were to wrap up the Annual Report/Financial Statements for the State Auditor's Office by May 30, 2008 and to continue to monitor the large amount of grants we currently have in place.

Storms reported that the business license reminder letters would be going out soon.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Chief Comstock reported that his volunteers have been training aggressively with Fire District 6, which has included some Saturday training classes and Tuesday night recruit school.

Comstock reported that burning could continue up until May 15, 2008 after which the burning ban would be in effect. Comstock based that decision on some grass fires in the County that have already occurred.

Chief Comstock stated that he would like to discuss the possibility of consolidation of the Twisp Fire Department and Fire District 6 and would be willing to sit down as a group or with individual Council Members to discuss it. Mayor Nations said that the previous decision by Council was to wait one year and see how it works out between the Winthrop Fire Department and Fire District #6 before revisiting the issue. No follow-up meeting was scheduled at this time.

Don Willson, Town Planner

Town Planner Don Willson reported that Thursday, May 15th at 7:00 pm the Planning Commission would be meeting. Willson stated that the Commission would be revisiting the Zoning Code soon. Willson stated that the Town has received a wave of planning documents to be considered since the moratorium was lifted.

OLD BUSINESS

METHOW SALMON RECOVERY FOUNDATION PROPERTY

Chris Johnson with the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) was present to discuss the property just outside the Town Limits up Twisp River owned and maintained by the MSRF. Johnson proposed that the property be annexed into the Town Limits and be incorporated into a trail system in the future and be promoted by the Town as a park. Johnson stated that there is very little use by the public at this point, and that the restoration of the property is nearly done. The MSRF would like to see it utilized more and they were not suited for park promotion. Johnson explained that there could be a transfer of the property to the Town after restoration is complete and that the Town could have options including; obtaining the water rights and utilizing the value of the property as leverage for future grants

Council Member Gehring stated his interest in serving on a committee to pursue this opportunity.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

Superintendent McConnell reported that the improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant were complete and that the only potable water being used is in the lab building. McConnell estimated the total cost of the improvements to be \$22,000.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE #596 – CONCURRENCY MANAGEMENT REVISION

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed Ordinance #596 prepared by Scott DeTro, which revises in part Ordinance #593 regarding Concurrency Management. Storms pointed out two things that are changed by Ordinance #596: 1) Property owners already vested, meaning they obtained water hookup permits or had approved plats prior to the moratorium, are exempt from the concurrency process; and 2) For planned developments in phases, the concurrency determination would only be made for lots created in the initial phase because that phase had an expiration date. Later phases would have to come back for a concurrency determination.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve Ordinance #596 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

PHYSICAL ADDRESS CHANGES

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that the County 911 representative Ted Murray had pointed out a few inconsistencies between the records of the Town of Twisp and those of the County regarding street names. The Council discussed Webb Lane; the County currently does not consider Webb Lane a Town Street and has all the residences facing Webb Lane addressed as Alder Street. The Council agreed that they want Webb Lane to be an official Town Street.

The Council then discussed Cottonwood. Apparently there are two other Cottonwoods in the County and there has been some confusion for emergency vehicles. McConnell suggested naming it after the only people that live on the street and another suggestion was Ewell Street, after Clyde Ewell a long-time Public Works employee. No decision was made.

ACTION: Council Member Hallowell will speak to Mrs. Ewell about this naming.

The Council then discussed Cascade, a street off of Airport Road that the Town had listed as Industrial. No one could verify what was the actual name of the street; Superintendent McConnell or Chief Balam will verify this and the issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack and Joyce Bynum came to Council to request an extension for an expired Short Plat application. The Town allows them one year to file the approved plat with the County and theirs had been about two years prior and never filed. Mr. Bynum explained that there were several issues that led to the expiration of the Short Plat and that health issues were a contributing factor. Clerk/Treasurer Storms stated that there was no provision in our current ordinances for allowing an extension of time to file the plat.

Council agreed that the Bynum's would need to resubmit the Short Plat application, but because Town Planner Willson had previously reviewed the Short Plat the time spent would be minimized. It was suggested that staff determine how much additional work was necessary and that Bynum's could contact Clerk/Treasurer Storms regarding the revised fee.

William Robinson (Skinny) asked Council's permission to wash down the Community Center parking lot as a favor to them as well as practice for the volunteer firemen. Chief Comstock voiced his concern about citizen perception and about others wanting their parking lots done as well. Council Member DeRenzo stated that with the current water issues the Town is having she feels it would look bad to the citizens if the Fire Department was wasting water. Chief Comstock suggested using brooms to sweep the lot or using a pressure washer. Council agreed that brooms or a pressure washer should be used.

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 13th day of May, 2008:

Cashmere Valley Bank	ACH #0090508	\$1,254.99	05/01/08
Voucher/Checks	#25304 - #25356	\$82,287.44	05/13/08
Voucher/Checks	#25257- #25365	\$9,200.00	05/15/08
Payroll	#11824 – 11844	\$17,486.70	05/02/08

MOTION:

Council Member DeRenzo 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 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor Vern Nations

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms