

Town of Twisp
Council Minutes - Regular Meeting
05-22-2007
7:01 PM

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Mayor Vern Nations -- Adjourned at 9:26 PM

Council Members Present: Tom Gehring (Sworn in at start of meeting)
Clint Estes
Stephanie Hickman
Shari Brown

Council members absent:

Request for additions or changes:

Change: Strike Resolution #07-399

Addition: Old Business: Mike Rohrich Gray & Osborne, Hwy 20 Improvement Project

New Business: Approve & ratify new Airport Board, Resolutions #07-400
& #07-401

Council Member Hickman led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

➤ **Gray & Osborne, Mike Rohrich , Highway 20 Improvement Project**

- Project is under the available funding, which is good news.
- Contractor's work is essentially done.
- Striping will not be done through this contract, but by the State at a later time.
- Knows there's been a lot of controversy and people unhappy with curbs.
- Originally, the pedestrian study recommended sidewalks. The original eastside sidewalks were deleted from project because the businesses could not afford to lose the access. The Town then discussed with WSDOT mountable rolled curbs and these were engineered after G & O came on in December of 2003
- DOT doesn't encourage mountable curbs (prefer more defined ingress & egress)
- Specifications for curbs came from other sources.
- Curbs are too high. Need to be changed.
- Could remove curb and gutter and replace with shorter curb.
- Do not want to lose water run off carrying capacity of project.
- Originally, roadway was to be reconstructed but cost too much money.
- To match sidewalks & curbs to pre-existing road was difficult.
- State will pre-level before seal coating and reduce curb from 5.5 to 3 inches.

Public Comment Period:

- Mel Engelke, lives on W. Twisp Ave.:
- Mountable curbs are wrong for Hwy 20 in Twisp.
 - Catch basins are at wrong elevation.
 - Also, concerned with parking on W. Twisp Ave.

- Owns vacant lots on W. Twisp Ave.
 - Parallel parking signs are gone.
 - Centerline stripe and fog lines should be repainted, would like to see enforcement of legal parking.
 - Log barrier used on his vacant lots have been broken by diagonal parking vehicles.
 - Cost to replace is \$300.
- Jim Gerlach, Valley resident:
 - Vehicles must slow down too much to enter businesses with these curbs.
 - Engineers are responsible for project; they have the knowledge and expertise.
 - Slope on business side lowers too quickly.
 - Engineers should have explained the effect of mountable curbs better.
- Audrey Ann Constantine, Twisp resident:
 - Drives a Nissan, scraped bottom of vehicle getting into Twisp Chevron.
 - Was almost rear-ended using new curbs.
- Mike Port, Owner of Les Schwab on Hwy 20:
 - New curbs are dangerous.
 - Creates a loss of business.
 - Not sure the pre-level fill to be used in the sealing project is the right fix.
 - Feels the engineers owe the Town for this mistake.
 - His alignment shop has acceptable curb.
 - Across the street at his Les Schwab store, the curb is wrong.
 - Prepared to pay for cost of curb change himself.
 - Concerned with pre-level product making his problem worse.
- Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent, Town of Twisp
 - Walked & reviewed project.
 - When State completes sealing project on Hwy 20 in Twisp, we will be left with 2.5 to 3.25 inch curb.
 - National standard on curbs today is 4 inches of mountable curb.
 - Do not have money to take out curb and reconstruct.
 - Will not put temporary fix (gravel or asphalt).
 - State will do sealing project in June or August.
- Todd Smith, Twisp resident:
 - Did Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (ASHTO) sign off on project specifications?
- Shari Brown, Council Member:
 - Wishes there was a temporary fix until the State does the pre-level.
- Clint Estes, Council Member:
 - Could we experiment with the different ideas mentioned tonight for a temporary fix?

Meeting Minutes:

Passed: Three corrections were made to minutes of April 24, 2007. Council Member Hickman moved and Council Member Brown seconded to approve the minutes of April 24, 2007 as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Nation's Update to Council:

Department Heads & Committee Reports:

- **Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer**
 - Went to Water Basin Planning meeting with Jackie Moriarty, secretary of Planning Unit (PU).
 - Changing scope of grant application that will fund PU.
 - Corrected lost water percentage for G & O & Water Comprehensive Plan.
 - Auditors will be here 2nd. or 3rd. week of June. Will be working on audit paperwork.

 - **Dale Hutson, Fire Chief**

 - **Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent**
 - Working on getting pool ready for use.
 - Changed chorine feeding system last year.
 - Cascade Foam sealed the gutters.
 - K.C. Moriarty passed his performance evaluation test & DOE should let Town conduct more of our own sewer tests, which saves money.
 - P.W. will be putting parallel parking signs back up on W. Twisp Ave.

 - **Rick Balam, Police Chief**
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Old Business:

- Approve pool concessions contract for 2007 pool season with Bill Simmons.
 - Indemnification and insurance clause will be added.
 - Will shorten notice requirement to suspend contract to 90 days.
 - Will add swim team in addendum as organization Simmons could supply concessions for at pool.
 - Will send to attorney for review.

- Chamber of Commerce letter, parking situation in Town.
 - Various persons were told a year ago that the new NCNB building would allow parking in their parking lot after banking hours.
 - Now, the Town hears that after hours parking might not be allowed.
 - Kids are already using new bank parking lot as a meeting point.
 - Citizen asked if Twisp Commons Park on west side could be changed to provide parking spots instead of lawn.
 - How far is too far for people to walk to events?
 - Bus barn and buses will not be moved to a new location any time soon.
 - Lincoln St. parking will be signed to get attention of tourists.
 - A 2 hr. parking limit could be placed on parking.
 - Business owners are parking on Glover St.

- Chief Balam is working on parking ordinance.
- The Town should respond to Chamber's letter about parking.
- Discussed making 2 streets (possibly 2nd. & 3rd. one way streets
- Will reappoint a parking committee.
- Will have Chamber of Commerce member on committee.
- **Action:** Will have meeting with Kurt Danison to discuss parking issues.

➤ Interview new candidates for open Council position.

- Vicki Hallowell
 - We need to acquire water rights for the Town.
 - Purchase the Forest Service Compound
 - Appreciates the Town and wants to give back to the Town of Twisp
 - Affordable housing would start with affordable land
 - Challenge for the Town would be to attract businesses that would supply jobs year around.
 - In being objective, a council member needs to focus on the future of the whole community.
- Todd Smith
 - Reactivate Okanogan County Public Transportation Board Area.
 - Decisions must benefit Town of Twisp.
 - See what other communities are doing to supply affordable housing.
 - Water issues are the greatest issues to conquer.
 - Research and knowledge will allow him to be objective.
 - Community needs to answer how we are going to grow.

Adjourned to Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.: The Council went into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss the qualifications of the persons applying to fill the empty council position.

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- At 8:43 p.m. the Council reconvened.
- Council Member Hickman nominated Vicki Hallowell to fill the empty position. There being no further nominations, the vote was taken and it was unanimous to appoint Vicki Hallowell to the vacant position until the next regular election.

New Business:

- Approve RH2 Engineering agreement for Glover St. work to be done
 - Project will cost \$175,000.
 - Project will go from 4th St. to Twisp Ave.
 - Will improve handicapped access to sidewalks.
 - Funds are from Transportation Improvement Board (TIB).
 - Tom asked if businesses would be kept informed about the project. Clerk Storms said the pre-construction meeting could include interested persons, but at this time there wasn't anything specifically included in the agreement about public meetings.
 - **Passed:** Council Member Estes moved and Council Member Hickman seconded to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement with RH2 for engineering services for the Town for Glover St. improvements project. Motion carried unanimously.
- Approve and ratify new Airport Board,
 - Board would be composed of 3 members, not 5 as in past years
 - Bob Ulrich, Don Owens and Mike Palm are nominees.
 - Terms are staggered so not all expire at the same time.

- **Passed:** Council Member Brown moved and Council Member Hickman seconded to ratify the nominations to the Airport Board. Motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution #07-400 to provide matching funds for Dept. of Aviation grant for airport.
 - If approved, project would supply taxi-way from Aviation Lane to runway, security fencing, fuel card lock, paved parking and east-west taxi-way.
 - They have changed, per David Ketchum’s recommendation, to a single \$250,000 project and \$12,500 is the match amount required.
 - Airport Board would supply equipment and labor to meet the match.
 - Told Mayor if their in-kind efforts do not meet \$12,500, the Airport Board would supply funds from their improvement fund.
- **Passed:** Council Member Estes moved and Council Member Brown seconded to approve Resolution # 07-400 to guarantee matching funds of \$12,500 for airport project with the State Department of Aviation. Motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution #07-401 establishes user fees for the Wagner Memorial Pool.
 - Non-swimming guests will now receive a \$1 discount
 - Three day-passes are available.
 - Swim team members will pay for their passes on a sliding scale depending on how many kids were on the team.
 - Reduced fee scholarships are still available for needy families for passes and lessons using the system we started last year.
 - Swim team will support Friday night pool activities with their attendance as well.
 - Pool rental fee of \$50 per hour plus lifeguard costs stayed the same.
 - **Passed:** Council Member Gehring moved and Council Member Hickman seconded Resolution #07-401 which establishes user fees for Wagner Memorial Pool. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

- Jerry Gaston, Twisp resident and ex-Council Member.
 - Is glad he is not a council member any longer.

Routine Approvals:

The bills and previous payroll draws and taxes were briefly discussed.

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

Council Member Brown moved and Council Member Hickman seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms

Mayor Vern Nations