

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 06/23/09
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor Pro-Tem Estes.

Council Members Present: Clint Estes
 Tom Gehring
 Vicki Hallowell
 Tom Mulgrew

Council members absent: Mayor Stephanie Hickman (attending AWC Conference) and
 Council Member Tina di Rienzo who had to work

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Mulgrew led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Marjorie Wilkinson was present to discuss her neighborhood's (North Glover Street) water pressure. Mrs. Wilkinson stated that she had previously requested Council install larger water lines to replace the small inadequate lines.

Council Member Estes shared that he remembers the Wilkinson's request and that it was discussed when the Public Works had requested the purchase of a backhoe so that they could do smaller jobs at a lower cost to the Town. Council Member Estes asked Superintendent Johnson to put the job on a list of future projects.

Howard Betty was present to request the Council allow the Methow Valley Community Center to restore a bell tower on top of the Community Center. Planner Schrock shared that because the bell tower exceeds the height restrictions in the current zoning ordinance a variance application would need to be submitted. Schrock explained that as the Town Planner she must follow the process set by ordinance and call a Board of Adjustment meeting, advertise and allow for a comment period. The Council will consider waiving the variance fee after the process has been completed.

John Lomison thanked the public works crew for removing the tree near his property on the corner of 3rd Avenue and Lincoln Street. Mr. Lomison requested a copy of the actual revenues and expenditure report for 2008.

Action: Staff will provide Mr. Lomison with a revenue and expenditure report for 2008.

Keith Comstock discussed his irrigation system that was damaged during construction by Larry Brown Construction. Mr. Comstock reported that two trunk lines were damaged and that when it came time to start irrigating and he had not heard from the contractor he repaired the lines himself. Mr. Comstock is requesting \$59.97 in compensation for the damage.

Action: Staff will research the issue and report back to Keith Comstock regarding their findings.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the June 9, 2009 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam reported that things are picking up for his department, especially traffic.

Chief Balam shared a copy of the double enhancement areas map that goes along with Ordinance #608 related to the sale of narcotics and fines.

Randy Johnson, Public Works Superintendent

Superintendent Johnson reported the following:

- Johnson shared an estimate for the repair of the war memorial and for putting a cap on the barbecue pit at the Twisp Park from Jim Monegan in the amount of \$5,500.
- Chris Colvin was hired as a temporary employee for maintenance of the parks.
- The pool passed the Department of Health inspection.
- The UV panels at the treatment plant have been installed, but it was discovered that the keypads also needed to be replaced; the keypads have been ordered.
- Water pump #2 is being evaluated because of vibration. Johnson reported that it could be the 60 ft. shaft or the bearings, which are located approximately every 12 ft. of the 60 ft. shaft. Johnson will report more when a determination is made.
- Glover Street paving begins Thursday, June 25, 2009. Council Member Gehring requested notices be delivered to property owners in the area making them aware of the 5:00 a.m. start time.
Action: Staff will prepare a notice for distribution.
- Johnson shared that the entire Glover Street will be striped, several streets will be swept and the parks will all be mowed in preparation for the 4th of July celebration.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported the following:

- Storms has had inquires regarding subletting hangars on airport leased property. Storms contacted Attorney Scott DeTro to obtain a standard sublet document we can use and needs to meet with the Airport Subcommittee to finish this document.
- Public Development Authority interviews for the Executive Director position will be held on June 29, 2009; Storms will be on the interview board.

- A pre-construction meeting was held on June 16, 2009; now working on contract with KRCI, LLC. and the electric easement for the booster pump.
- Business license discount – added to new business.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Comstock shared that despite a low turnout of volunteers he has been able to handle fire calls and that they are still training.

Sarah Schrock, Town Planner

Planner Schrock reported that the Isabella Short Plat public comment period has closed. Schrock shared that three letters of conditions to the owners were required in this process and that the deadline for the third letter is July 3, 2009.

Schrock reported that the Conditional Use Permit for Pacos Tacos is up for review and that she had received an anonymous complaint regarding on-site seating. Schrock shared with the Council that the Department of Health had recently relicensed them. Schrock asked for the Council opinion on how to handle the complaint. Mayor Pro-Tem Estes shared that he does not think an anonymous complaint warrants action. Schrock requested the option to call in the Board of Adjustment (BOA) on the issue if necessary; Council agreed that Schrock could use her own discretion regarding using the BOA for annual reviews.

NEW BUSINESS

SIX-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Superintendent Johnson reported that he had measured and analyzed all Town streets and then reviewed and prioritized the information with the Public Works Committee Council Members Hallowell and Mulgrew. Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that the estimated costs for the improvements were based on recent project unit pricing. Storms stated that most funding opportunities are for arterial streets and that Twisp is done improving almost all arterial streets.

Storms reported that a public hearing will be held on July 14, 2009 for public comment regarding the Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWALS/STIMULUS

Clerk/Treasurer Storms posed an idea that she and Mayor Hickman had discussed regarding giving current business owners an economic stimulus discount of 20% on their Town of Twisp business licenses if they are renewed prior to July 31, 2009. Mayor Pro-Tem Estes and Council Members Mulgrew and Hallowell voiced their support for a discount to support our local businesses. Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that it would be approximately \$2,800 less in revenue given the same number of businesses renew their licenses this year.

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the reduction of Town of Twisp business licenses for the 2009-2010 season by 20% for those who renew on or before July 31, 2009. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mulgrew and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Council discussed the written recommendations provided by Mayor Hickman in her absence. Planning Commission Member Traci Day reminded Council of the minimum number of two members that need to be residents of Twisp. Council Member Mulgrew said he felt that short interviews should be conducted for those who had submitted letters of interest.

Council decided to hold interviews in executive session at the beginning of the next Council meeting.

CRITICAL AREAS REGULATIONS

Planner Schrock reported that for the most part she recommends adopting the comments from the Department of Ecology and Attorney DeTro. Schrock shared that most of the comments received were in regard to buffers. A Determination of Non-Significance will be advertised July 1, 2009. Schrock recommended the Council close the public hearing that was continued from the June 9, 2009 meeting.

Action: Planner Schrock will prepare a staff report for the Council after the comment period is closed.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to close the public hearing/comment period for the Critical Areas Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

AIRPORT LEASE FEE

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that Airport Manager Palm had obtained agreement from a majority of the airport lessees and board members to the new yearly charge of \$180 for the Twisp Airport Ground Lease. Storms provided the Council with a spreadsheet showing the actual revenue and expenses for the airport. Storms showed that to actually cover costs from lease fees it would take \$264.81 per year per lease. Council Member Mulgrew pointed out that only 3 lessees out of 31 live in the Town of Twisp and that it seemed the airport was more like an elite club and should pay its way. He said even if leases could not be changed because of the legal language, the Town could charge take off and landing fees or more could be charged toward the cost of the use of the facilities. He expressed his desire to see more changes so that the rest of the citizens in town were not subsidizing the airport. Additionally, he pointed out that the expenses shown on the report did not include administrative staff time for grants and general paperwork or the cost of mowing the grass.

Council Member Hallowell stated that she doesn't expect the lessees to fully pay for all expenses at the airport because others use it; Council Gehring indicated he agreed.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the Twisp Airport Lease charging \$180 per year as a lease fee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed. Council Member Mulgrew voted no.

RIVER WALK TRAIL MEETING

Council Member Gehring shared that a meeting was held to discuss a river walk trail on June 18, 2009. Michael Linde, a representative of the National Parks Department was present to discuss a project in Twisp and to make the group aware of assistance available for preliminary feasibility work on trail concept projects. Council Member Gehring shared that he brought from the meeting that this project would be big, a lot of work and possibly cost to the Town for maintenance. He said he felt the Town of Twisp might want to do more comprehensive planning that included connections to out-of-town trails and not just focus on the specific areas that have interested landowners. After more discussion, there was no action taken.

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 23rd day of June, 2009:

Checks/Vouchers	#26450	\$91.00	06/11/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26451 - #26490	\$89,136.49	06/23/09

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 Mulgrew and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Hallowell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor Pro-Tem Clint Estes

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen G. Storms