

**Town of Twisp  
Council Minutes 06/24/08  
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

**Additions and/or Changes to the Agenda**

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms stated that Resolution #08-424 relating to a grant for financial aid contingent upon the purchase of the Forest Service property was added for discussion.

Council Member Gehring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING – REGARDING THE SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN – RESOLUTION #08-422**

Mayor Nations opened the public hearing at 7:04 pm to discuss the 2009-2014 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan and Resolution #08-422

Superintendent Gary McConnell presented Council with a draft copy of the Six Year Plan showing three projects that carried over from the previous year. One of these is in the process currently; the Glover Street reconstruction. He asked Council if they had additional projects they would like to add to this list.

Superintendent McConnell discussed that there was still a possibility that funds could be obtained to fix 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues from SR 20 to Glover Street in the near future.

Council discussed sidewalk only grants, for example on Twisp Avenue from Glover Street to Lincoln Street and grants for pedestrian trails. Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that there are some grants for sidewalks only available, but they are for arterials and we would have to find out if TIB would consider Twisp Ave. an arterial between SR20 and the Glover or Lincoln area. In response to a question from Tom Gehring, she said that when combined with street projects sidewalk money may also be used to build pedestrian trails parallel to a street as long as they are separated in some way from the lane of traffic.

Council agreed that they would like to add to the plan 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue from SR 20 to Bridge Street.

There was no public comment offered.

**MOTION:**

Council Member Hickman moved to approve the Resolution #08-422 approving the 2009 – 2014 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

Mayor Nations closed the public hearing at 7:11 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no public comment.

**MINUTES**

**MOTION:**

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the June 10, 2008 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

**MAYOR NATIONS UPDATE**

Mayor Nations had nothing to update at this time.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Rick Balam, Police Chief**

Chief Balam reported that there were approximately 100 volunteers at the Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) drill on June 21, 2008 at the Liberty Bell High School. Balam stated that there were individuals that rated their performance and that they were rated in the top 10% for the State of Washington. Chief Balam shared that 12 agencies were involved and that he felt that this training exercise brought the emergency staff closer together.

Chief Balam reported that on June 18, 2008, he, Mayor Nations, Clerk/Treasurer Storms and Admin. Assistant Jackie Moriarty attended Officer Matt Moen's graduation from the Spokane Police Academy. Balam explained that Officer Moen is on staff and will train with another officer until such time as he (Balam) feels Moen is ready to be on his own.

Chief Balam reported that there has been an outbreak of vandalism in Town, including school buses and signage theft.

**Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent**

Superintendent McConnell reported that the pool passed its first inspection and things are working well and that WWTP Operator KC Moriarty passed the DOE's performance evaluation. The evaluation is DOE's way of testing the operator and insuring his/her knowledge of their treatment plant.

McConnell shared that he had been contacted by Jennifer Allen Tate regarding the sidewalk that runs down the south side of her building at 101 N. Glover Street (Methow Valley News Building) along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Ms. Tate offered to work with the Town and pay half to replace the unsafe sidewalk.

McConnell reported that he and his crew are putting up the remaining parking signs as time allows.

**Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer**

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that a meeting with the DOE regarding the Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) water lease will be held on July 8, 2008. Storms shared that at the July 8, 2008 Council meeting Building Inspector Dave Sandoz would be present to update the Council on his work and the contract with Winthrop for his services would be visited too.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms asked that the Public Works Committee, Council Member Estes (Chairman) and Council Member Hallowell meet with Superintendent McConnell to discuss revising the Capital Facilities Plan and also to help with the interviewing process for McConnell's replacement. Storms also shared that it's almost time to do the 6 month budget review and that the water and sewer funds would need to be looked at carefully.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that the pool staff is holding their Friday Nights at the Pool events again this year. Storms stated that the pool staff is doing a great job along with Lori Rodio acting as the liaison between the staff and Town Hall.

**Keith Comstock, Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Comstock also reported on the mock incident held at the Liberty Bell High School. Comstock shared that he felt that his department did great and that the training his volunteers have been receiving really paid off in the exercise.

**Don Willson, Planner**

Town Planner Willson provided to Council a draft of the proposed Comprehensive Plan Public Facility and Services element and the Economic Development element for their review. Willson requested that the Council review these elements and discuss them at the next meeting. Willson reported that Peter Nawrot, Planning Commissioner, had just resigned from his position and because of that resignation the public hearing for the two elements would need to be held at a Council meeting.

Town Planner Willson reported that the draft zoning ordinance would be presented to Council soon for their review. Council Member Gehring asked for a copy of both the new and old zoning so he could compare changes.

**Action: Willson agreed to provide a document showing the changes.**

Willson pointed out to Council that there is potential for approximately 24 new houses on Burton Street and Riverside Avenue according to the planning documents submitted to Town Hall. Willson suggested that Council look at acquiring land to make a loop around street so residents have another outlet as the traffic increases in that neighborhood.

Willson announced to Council that he would be relocating as soon as his house sold and he introduced Sarah Shrock. Ms. Schrock, a Twisp resident, is educated in Landscape Architecture and Planning and is currently working for Highlands Associates and will be taking over for Mr. Willson when he leaves.

Council Member Gehring discussed planning for walking trails in the zoning plan. Willson suggested that a committee begin by identifying any barriers that may exist in planning and developing a trail system in Twisp; then begin talking to land owners; possibly develop an incentive for the use of private property; and developing a policy for undeveloped property.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **METHOW ARTS ALLIANCE – ART IN THE PARK**

Kate Jones of the Methow Arts Alliance was present to share that they would be holding their annual Arts Festival in the park on July 4, 2008. This year they are planning a Western theme including wagon rides, milking cows, BBQ and art projects such as stick horses and wind chimes. Ms. Jones shared that approximately 1,200 people participated in last year's event. As in past years the admission fee will be \$5 per person.

Council Member Gehring questioned the availability of sanitation facilities. Ms. Jones stated that along with the portable toilets they have ordered two hand washing stations. Council had a brief discussion regarding the need for security for a gathering of that size, however it was felt that there was no need at this time for formal security.

Ms. Jones discussed (unrelated to this event) the possibility of the Town allowing liquor in the park in the form of a beer and wine garden. Ms. Jones shared that they could utilize the park for more of the Methow Arts Alliance events if participants could enjoy a glass of wine or beer during the event.

Council briefly discussed the possibility of combining the 100-year anniversary of the Town of Twisp with this event next year. Ms. Jones stated they had already discussed that as a theme for next year.

### **RESOLUTION #08-424 – REGARDING A GRANT FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION BOARD FOR FINANCIAL AID REGARDING THE FOREST SERVICE PROJECT**

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed Resolution #08-424 regarding our grant from the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) for financial aid regarding the Forest Service project. Storms explained that Kate Jones of the Forest Service Task Force had written this grant, but because the sale of the Forest Service Compound has been delayed, we needed to request an extension of the requirement on the grant that we own the property. In order to show we are proceeding in good faith, we need to pass Resolution #08-424 which formally agrees to those terms so that our extension request will be granted.

#### **MOTION:**

Council Member Estes moved to approve Resolution #08-424 regarding our grant from the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) for financial aid regarding the Forest Service project. The motion was seconded by Council Member DeRenzo and passed unanimously.

**2008-2009 DRUG TASK FORCE OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT**

Chief Balam discussed the 2008-2009 Drug Task Force Operational Agreement. Balam reported that this year the Town’s share would remain the same that it has been for some time, \$1,000. However, next year the amount would increase to \$1,500. Chief Balam shared that larger agencies would be paying a great deal more for the same services starting next year. Chief Balam stated that the Task Force now consists of 2 full-time officers and one sergeant; cut down considerably due to lack of grant funding. Balam shared that he currently serves as the Executive Director. Council questioned the function of the Task Force and Balam shared with them examples of drug busts and growing operations that have been discovered, investigated and prosecuted by the Task Force.

**MOTION:**

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the 2008-2009 Drug Task Force Operational Agreement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hickman and passed unanimously.

**ORDINANCE #599 – RELATING TO WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed Ordinance #599 relating to water system improvements. Storms stated that Ordinance #599 replaces Resolution #08-420 that was passed at the June 10, 2008 meeting. The act of approving the construction loan, because the loan is a bond anticipation note, requires an ordinance per our bond counsel. Storms explained that Foster Pepper PLLC, the Town’s bond council, has an excellent reputation and she was sure that this document meets the requirements. Council Member Gehring asked for clarification regarding what a parity bond was per one section and Clerk/Treasurer Storms referred him to the definition section of the document.

**MOTION:**

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve Ordinance #599 relating to water system improvements. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION #08-423 – SURPLUS OF TOWN EQUIPMENT**

As previously discussed by Fire Chief Comstock, Resolution #08-423 was presented to Council to surplus a Crown Victoria and a Howe Fire Truck. Also included in the resolution for surplus from Public Works were a digital camera and a video camera.

**MOTION:**

Council Member Estes moved to approve Resolution #08-423 regarding the surplus of town equipment. The motion was seconded by Council Member DeRenzo and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council Member Hallowell discussed the visibility of the stop sign on the corner of northwest corner of Lincoln Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Apparently there are trees from the Methow Valley Inn that are obscuring that stop sign. Superintendent McConnell shared that this has been an issue before and that the trees are actually on the Town right-of-way and should be removed. Mayor Nations suggested a letter go to the owners of the Methow Valley Inn requesting the trees be removed or at least trimmed and then moved in the fall.

**Action: Gary McConnell will prepare a letter to Terry and Melissa Larsen regarding the trimming and removal of the trees blocking the stop sign on Lincoln Street.**

Council Member Gehring shared with Council about a town meeting being held on June 30, 2008 at the Senior Center hosted by Partnership for a Sustainable Methow regarding the economy, alternative fuels and the valley's overall economic status.

Council Member DeRenzo stated that Glover Street and the bike lane on SR 20 needed to be swept. DeRenzo felt that because of the sand and rocks in the bike lane people were riding on the street side of the white line.

Mayor Nations discussed the MVSTA Bike Race that took place recently in Twisp. Mayor Nations feels this event needs to be discussed further if they intend to hold it in Twisp again and that maybe an alternative route could be used rather than closing down Glover Street and affecting businesses.

**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 24th day of June, 2008:

|                        |                        |                    |                 |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Vouchers/Checks</b> | <b>25435</b>           | <b>\$360.00</b>    | <b>06/19/08</b> |
| <b>Vouchers/Checks</b> | <b>#25436 - #25461</b> | <b>\$74,180.22</b> | <b>06/24/08</b> |

**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 Hickman 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 8:32 p.m.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Vern Nations

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms