

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes
07-11-2006
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Mayor ProTem Hickman -- Adjourned at 9:35 PM

Council Members Present:

Jackie Moriarty
Clint Estes
Stephanie Hickman
Sam Hanan
Shari Brown

Staff:

Colleen Storms
Gary McConnell
Don Willson
Dale Hutson

Council members absent: Mayor Vern Nations

Request for additions or changes:

Change: Strike the Mayor's Update

Addition: Old Business: Award of contracts on Waterline Replacement and Street/Sidewalk improvement

Council Member Moriarty led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

- Kathleen Ebbert, resident on 5th Ave.
 - She has two water meters, one used only in the summer for irrigation.
 - She was negatively affected by the change the Council approved where they will not allow people to have seasonal use breaks. She feels it is a hardship on the very few people that have an extra lot like her, not a house they are leaving for part of the year. She pays into the upkeep of the system through her hook-up that includes her home.
 - She would like Council to reconsider this issue.

- Mark Edson
 - He would like to defer his comment to the discussion regarding the Conservation District in Old Business

- Bruce Morrison representing the Twisp Valley Grange Hall
 - The Grange is struggling to stay alive financially.
 - To pay five more months of water bills would create a real hardship and might put them under.
 - Their long-term plan was to raise funds to insulate the building so it could be used in the winter, and eventually they would pay year-round water bills.
 - They would appreciate Council reconsidering the decision about offering seasonal rate relief.

- Dan Johnson, Lincoln St.
 - He lives right on the other side of a fence bordering the park, next to the bandshell. He wondered if anyone at the Town determines what kind of music can be played and how loud the music can be. He feels some of the recent bands sounded worse than a quartet of chainsaws and the volume was very high.
 - He is unable to even hold a conversation in his yard and some of the events go on for hours and hours. The Pow Wow is an example in that they drum for hours a day and it would drive anyone crazy.
 - He wants to know if the Town will consider making any changes to this situation or will he have to confront people on his own?
 - Shari Brown said maybe they could get the Pow Wow committee to move the drumming over to the northeast part of the park. She will call one of their members regarding this.
 - Don Willson, planner, suggested the Council determine if they want to put any limitations on noise in the park and then secondly, what limits they could set that would be enforceable.
 - **ACTION:** Put this on the next agenda.

Meeting Minutes:

Passed: Council Member Brown moved and Hanan seconded that the minutes of the June 27th Regular Council meeting be approved as corrected for punctuation. Motion passed unanimously.

Department Heads:

Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent

- The new traffic signs will go up on Lincoln this next week.
- He did some research and found that the Town can install speed bumps in neighborhoods as long as there is signage informing people they are there.
- He presented a report of three options they have for addressing the problems with the chemical unit at the pool. He recommended the Council purchase the new controller, which is simpler and does not require a dedicated telephone line. The cost is approximately \$2600. The Council agreed with his suggestion for purchase.
- Gary found about 10 yards of cold patch and they will be distributing it through town on the worst potholes. This was all they could get.

Don Willson, Planner/Highlands & Associates

- Don brought up two examples that occurred recently where a party had to pay \$500 for a conditional use permit and it seemed quite high compared to the amount of work put into the effort, one a daycare who was increasing the number of children and one a couple who wanted to put their garage closer to the property line.
- He and Kurt Danison had discussed this and Kurt thought maybe a two-part fee structure would be more equitable. There could be a lower base fee, like \$200.00, and a cost plus portion of the fee for the time and special costs that might be incurred for more complex requests.
- The Council discussed this matter for a while and decided since the new fees were set just last fall, they would wait and revisit this matter later this year.
- Staff was instructed to check to see if there can be any hardship reduction to a fee of this type as in these cases presented by Don Willson.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

- We have obtained a verbal commitment of the additional funding to award the sidewalk/street portion of the SR20 job as well as the waterline additional monies. We received assistance from Linda Evans-Parlette's office; they wrote a letter in support of the work.
 - The Clerk will be bringing back a half-year financial statement and revised budget in the next 2 meetings.
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Old Business:

- Craig Nelson from the Okanogan Conservation District presented information regarding the District's purpose and the upcoming assessment they are requesting of the County.
 - The District was organized under RCW 89.08 and as such has the ability to assess members. Twisp has been a member since 2003.
 - The District is pretty much entirely funded by grants and the grants are not covering the operations of staff. The grants bring more than \$1 million into the County in cost shares and other programs. The indirect effect to the economy is significant, he said.
 - In response to concerns voiced at their public meetings, they have reduced the assessments for small parcels to \$1 each and increased the acreage assessments.
 - Council Member Hanan brought a copy of the agreement signed in 2003 with the District wherein the Town was told it would not cost anything to be a part of the District. He said he felt the benefit isn't there for people living in Town.
 - Council Member Moriarty asked if there were any projects that assisted members of Town. In response, the representatives from the District said there was a stormwater stenciling project currently planned for Twisp. This would warn people not to put pollutants into storm drains that reach the river.
 - The Council also asked what the process was now for the District to have the assessment approved. Craig explained it goes to the County Commissioners who hold hearings and then decide whether they will approve the assessment.
 - Council Member Hanan proposed the Town write the Commissioners and say they did not support the assessment, or as an alternative, explore withdrawing from the District.
 - Mark Edson commented that the benefit to the Town residents isn't very evident and he felt the people benefiting should pay more for the services.
 - **ACTION:** Council Member Hanan moved that the Town would begin the process for withdrawing from the District. Motion was seconded by Council Member Moriarty and passed unanimously. Staff was instructed to begin the petition process to withdraw.
- Award of contracts
 - Clerk Storms presented a summary of the bids, prepared by Gray & Osborne, for the Waterline Replacement project and for the SR20 Sidewalk and Street Improvement project. Mike Rohrich, Project Engineer, recommended awards to the two low bidders in both cases; he had verified the competency and responsiveness of both bidders.
 - Council Member Moriarty moved and Shari Brown seconded a motion to award (by Resolution #06-383) the SR20 Sidewalk and Street Improvement project to

Wilder Construction Company of Bellingham, Washington whose low bid was \$767,864.00. Motion passed unanimously.

- o Council Member Moriarty then moved and Stephanie Hickman seconded a motion to award (by Resolution #06-384) the Waterline Replacement project to THG Construction, LLC of Hermiston, Oregon whose low bid was \$572,578.34. Motion passed unanimously.
- Proposed Dog Ordinance #561
 - o Clerk Storms presented a draft ordinance to replace the Town's animal control ordinances and told the Council about the State minimum requirements with regards to dangerous dogs. There was a brief discussion about the different provisions Council had directed the Clerk to address in the ordinance.
 - o **ACTION:** Clerk Storms suggested the Council take additional time to review the ordinance and come back to the next meeting with suggestions to finalize and adopt said ordinance. Council agreed to postpone a vote on this ordinance.
- Proposed changes to neighborhood traffic control.
 - o The Council discussed again whether they wanted to have Public Works put out some fire hose filled with sand as speed bumps on roads where there have been speeding problems.
 - o Council Member Estes expressed he was concerned about the possible liability of that type of speed bump that might damage a car. He asked about using the traditional asphalt speed bump.
 - o Public Works Superintendent Gary McConnell said the problem with fixed speed bumps is with clearing snow in the winter. He said his understanding from the State was that it was legal to use the alternative (hoses) method with proper signage.
 - o Council discussed that possibly more police enforcement was the first step to take prior to using the speed bumps. **ACTION:** They instructed staff to get the word out to the police and the public if possible that there would be more patrols in these neighborhoods.

New Business:

- Discussion of persons wanting to transfer a water hook-up permit from one property to another.
 - o Clerk Storms said she has had requests regarding one person with an approved water hook-up transferring that to another lot they owned.
 - o Don Willson said he'd had a request from a person who had a business they wanted to relocate. They wanted to terminate service at the current building and add service at a new location that would be better for the business. He said that this would have a neutral effect on the usage of water in the Town and that it was possibly something the Town should consider.
 - o There was a lot of discussion about this issue. Several Council members were concerned about the paperwork involved with such a transfer and how we would establish that the right was legally transferred.
 - o Don Willson commented about the fact that it allowed growth to continue, but without worsening the water hook-up situation in Town.

- Clerk Storms said there were approximately 50-60 approved permits for hook-up outstanding at this time and allowing them to be traded might mean more of them would be used.
- There was discussion regarding allowing someone to remove water service to a building, the safety risks, etc.
- **ACTION:** Clerk Storms will revisit the legalities of this issue with Carol Morris, Attorney/Consultant with Association of Washington Cities.
- **ACTION:** Don Willson will speak with the people who have asked him about this and tell them they are welcome to come to Council and make their case.

Public Comment - None

Routine Approvals:

The bills and previous payroll benefits and taxes were briefly discussed. Motion to approve the current payment of accounts payable was made by Shari Brown, seconded by Clint Estes and passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the payment of payroll taxes and benefits was made by Shari Brown, seconded by Clint Estes and passed. Moriarty abstained.

Motion by Shari Brown to adjourn meeting at 9:35 p.m. Seconded by Estes; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms

Mayor Vern Nations