

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 07/28/09
6:30 PM**

Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm by Mayor Hickman.

Council Members Present: Tom Gehring
 Vicki Hallowell
 Tom Mulgrew

Council members absent: Clint Estes and Tina di Rienzo

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES

Mayor Hickman adjourned into executive session at 6:37 pm to discuss personnel for approximately 30 minutes.

Mayor Hickman announced that the executive session would be extended by 10 minutes.

Mayor Hickman reconvened into regular session at 7:10 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Mulgrew led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS &/OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Additions: Public Development Authority Update

Changes: None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Marjorie Wilkinson was present to discuss the possible vacation of an alley in the North Glover/Massey Wills area. Mrs. Wilkinson wanted to retract a statement made at the July 14, 2009 meeting regarding her and her husband's willingness to give their share of the vacated alley to Mrs. Watson. Mrs. Wilkinson shared that, after talking with the Town's Planner, they would like to see how the issue works out before making any commitments.

John Lomison reported to the Council that the Senior Citizens' bus routes were being reduced due to federal budget cuts. Mr. Lomison asked if the Council would consider subsidizing the services for our local seniors. Clerk/Treasurer Storms shared that the Town already provides \$1,000 for operations and \$1,000 for a vehicle replacement fund per year. Mrs. Wilkinson shared that she is on the local Senior Citizen Board and that the Board is currently working on a contract with Okanogan County to subsidize operations to retain the services. Mrs. Wilkinson mentioned that a conflict between the driver and the Okanogan County representative has held things up.

Bill Bates, owner of the Branding Iron, was present to discuss the police department surveillance at his business. Mr. Bates passed out a letter from his attorney to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Bates feels that his business is being targeted by the Twisp Police Department. Mayor Hickman requested that the Public Safety Committee consisting of Council Members Mulgrew and Estes meet to discuss this issue further.

Action: A meeting will be set for the Public Safety Committee to discuss this issue.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the July 14, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam reported that he is working on the homicide case with the assistance of Okanogan County Detective Mike Murray. Balam reported that he spent a day in Black Diamond doing an interview and that he expects to be in Spokane and back in the Seattle area in the coming weeks. Chief Balam reported that an error made by the media regarding the response time to the scene had been corrected to both his and the Aero Methow's satisfaction. Mayor Hickman commended Balam on his work with the homicide case.

Chief Balam reported that Police Clerk Vicki Hallowell had worked to obtain certification in the NIBRS crime reporting system, making the Twisp Police Department only the second police department in the County to obtain this status. Chief Balam commended Police Clerk Hallowell on her hard work.

Randy Johnson, Public Works Superintendent

Superintendent Johnson reported on the following:

- Department of Ecology permit renewal approved for treatment plant effluent.
- Hilltop update – The contractors have found a few lines where they were not anticipated, the lines were quickly fixed and caused minimal down time for residents.
- Patching potholes as time allows.
- Getting the park ready for the Columbia Bicycle Club that will be coming in the first part of August.
- Finalizing items on the Glover Street project.
- Reported that parts for Well #2 have been ordered and that it should be back in operation soon.

Bill Bates thanked Superintendent Johnson and his crew for patching the potholes in town, particularly 5th Avenue.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported on the following:

- Methow Watershed Council update – A draft Detailed Implementation Plan has been completed. Progress is being made by the group. A rule revision could bring water to the Town.
- Methow Recovery Council – Working on a contract with them, because the Town of Twisp is the lead agency and will be monitoring the grant and providing accounting reports for them.
- Glover Street lights have been ordered.
- Signage is on hold until the artist returns from a trip outside the country.
- Hilltop electrical easement update – Still working with property owners.
- Commended Pool Manager Rodio on her management of the pool. Revenues are down a bit. The pool will close on August 30, 2009 to allow for repairs.
- Presented a Financial Snapshot showing 2007, 2008 and 2009 comparative sales tax revenues, comparative property tax receipts and utility accounts receivable. Department Heads have spent less than 50% of their budgets as of June 30, 2009. Storms stated that everyone is being very cautious with their budgets because of the economy.
- 2010 budget process will begin soon.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Not present – fire call.

Sarah Schrock, Town Planner

Not present

PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE

Council Member Gehring reported that the PDA met for the first time at the compound on Monday, July 27th. At that meeting the Co-Executive Director team of Maggie Coon and Mark Wolf -Armstrong were hired. Gehring reported that approximately 20 applications were submitted, 4 interviews were scheduled and one potential interviewee dropped out. Contract negotiations have begun and the start date for the directors is August 10, 2009. Maggie Coon resigned her position on the PDA Board upon her being hired as co-executive director. Council Member Gehring reported that the next thing on their agenda would be to gather public input and begin a master plan for the property. Mary Anne Quigley is the newest member to the PDA, filling an open position created when Richard Hart had to resign.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Council Member Hallowell reported that 4 applicants had been interviewed for the 4 open positions on the Planning Commission, but unfortunately only 3 could be appointed because one position still needs to be filled by a resident of Twisp and none of the current applicants reside in Town limits.

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to appoint Peter Day to Position #3 on the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to appoint Carl Hubert to Position #4 on the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

MOTION:

Council Member Mulgrew moved to appoint Tarrie Darwood to Position #5 on the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

METHOW VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER SUB-LEASE FOR LIBRARY SPACE

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed the proposed changes to the sub-lease with the Methow Valley Community Center (MVCC) for library space. Storms clarified for Council Members that the sub-lease revision proposed the opportunity to increase the rent be tied to the date the North Central Regional Library reimbursement will be increased, the first of 2013. The MVCC board is concerned about waiting that long for an increase, but she said that part of the consideration for the longer-term lease on the part of the Town was to stabilize the rent.

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the proposed sub-lease between the Methow Valley Community Center and the Town of Twisp for the library. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

2ND AVENUE STREET PROJECT – NOTICE OR CONTRACT COMPLETION

Council received a copy of a Notice of Contract Completion submitted to the Town by RH2 Engineers. Clerk/Treasurer Storms pointed out that in the notice it included a brief summary of the results of the federal audit and the resolution of those issues. Storms reported that a few issues just recently brought to the Town by residents on 2nd Avenue were brought up to RH2 Engineer Wil Vicik when he was here working on the Glover Street Project and were all resolved.

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to accept the 2nd Avenue Street Project as completed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mulgrew and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Edson arrived late to the Council meeting and requested a moment to comment on the Hilltop Project. Mr. Edson expressed what a great job he felt that KRCL, LLC was doing on the Hilltop Project. He also reported that the Methow Valley Irrigation District plans to get their irrigation line installed soon, but they are not going to activate the line and abandon the old line until October to avoid interrupting the users summer irrigation.

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

Clerk/Treasurer Storms announced that a ribbon cutting ceremony is set for Tuesday, August 25, 2009, tentatively at 2:00 pm, to celebrate the Glover Street Project.

Council requested more information related to issues from Storms' report regarding the following and there was a brief discussion of the topics:

- Update on the PUD electrical easement on Painter's Addition and general information related to the overall project.
- Status of the EPA Recycle Grant

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 28th day of July, 2009:

Checks/Vouchers	#26551 - #26584	\$323,112.59	07/28/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26585 - #26586	\$6,964.37	07/28/09

MOTION:

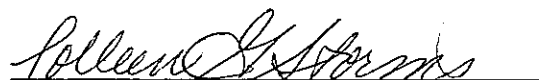
Council Member Mulgrew moved to approve the current accounts payable and to disburse payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

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 8:54 p.m.

APPROVED:


Mayor Stephanie Hickman

ATTEST:


Clerk/Treasurer Colleen G. Storms