

**Town of Twisp  
Council Minutes  
08-11-2006  
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Vern Nations -- Adjourned at 9:30 PM

Council Members Present:

Jackie Moriarty  
Clint Estes  
Stephanie Hickman  
Shari Brown  
Mayor Vern Nations

Staff:

Colleen Storms  
Gary McConnell

Council members absent: Sam Hanan

Request for additions or changes:

Change:

Addition: Old Business- Add Basin Planning Unit- appoint alternate for Sam Hanan

Council Member Estes led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

---

**Public Comments:**

- Jerry Bushnell, Twisp resident and ex-Council Member regarding dog ordinance:
  - The nuisance ordinance already in place addresses part of these concerns- money was spent for that ordinance. It would be good to enforce it.
  - There are some dogs that run around and don't cause problems, but this encourages other people to let their dogs run and they do cause problems.
  - Town should consider picking up dogs that are running loose. In Bridgeport they have a person who picks them up and it has really decreased the number of dogs running loose. People in Town are worried about roaming dogs; since the infrastructure is there, we need to increase enforcement to get on top of this problem.
- Carl Timbers, Owner of Trailer Park:
  - He thinks dogs should be picked up rather than just a warning.
  - He feels Pit Bull dogs and Rottweilers shouldn't be allowed in city limits. All dogs should be registered, maybe for free, but if they don't there should be a fine.
- Sandra Strieby, Twisp resident:
  - With regards to the ordinance, she is in favor of requiring physical control of the dogs.
  - She has had to be aggressive a number of times to protect herself while walking around town. She has encountered many dogs displaying inappropriate behavior.
  - Enforcement needs to be consistently applied to not incur liability for the Town.

- Rebecca Alexander, new resident outside Twisp city limits:
  - She has run a dog rescue and been involved in working to save dogs from euthanization.
  - She is in favor of people taking personal responsibility and keeping dogs confined to yards or on leashes.
  - She cited statistics on many different breeds who have been involved in dog bite incidents nationally, including five Chihuahuas that sent a police officer to the hospital. She was not in favor of breed banning because she felt it was more an owner responsibility issue and that someone might accidentally put a dog down thinking it was a dangerous breed when it wasn't.
  - She also stressed that un-neutered dogs account statistically for a large percentage of the bites, so neutering should be strongly encouraged.
  - She also said some communities encourage micro-chipping dogs for identification and will give them one free ride if they're picked up because they are chipped.
- Sue Koptonak, Twisp resident and ex-Council Member:
  - As the victim of a recent dog attack, she has heard a lot of dog stories recently, part blaming specific breeds and part blaming owners. She thinks some distinction should be made between a vicious criminal-like attack like she suffered and the type of typical dog bite that occurs.
  - She feels there is a lot of support in town right now for something to change and knows it's not always popular to do what is best for the benefit of the Town.
  - A dog is still property under the law and it should not have greater rights than persons. Dogs in town have caused people fear, impacts their personal security, their right of passage, etc. Even friendly dogs can cause injury by jumping on people. She feels any ordinance of the town should require owners to keep their dogs on their own property.
  - She commented on specifics of the ordinance regarding breed bans, leash law, etc.
  - She said a big part of the success of this ordinance would be in the Town encouraging people to report more quickly. The Town needs to do some education and make it easy for the public to come in and file a complaint.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

**Passed:** Council Member Hickman moved and Council Member Estes seconded that the minutes of the July 25<sup>th</sup> Regular Council meeting be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Hickman moved and Council Member Estes seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the two public hearings of July 25<sup>th</sup>. None opposed, motion passed. Shari Brown abstained from vote.

### **Mayor Nation's Update to Council:**

- The Mayor did not have an update at this time as he had been gone working on the wildfires locally.

### **Department Heads:**

Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent

- He had spoken with Gloria Bennett of the Transportation Improvement Board (that is providing the financing for road repairs we found out recently was still available to us). She said that they (the State) will do the pre-leveling and the chip seal of the roads we have targeted for improvement next spring. Council asked him if this meant we would not lose the money by not completing any project this year. He answered that she is the person who would know about this funding and apparently we are ok.
- He said the new pool chlorine control device is working very well, but he is still having issues with the boiler. He is having trouble getting parts for it.
- He also said he had been reading the new Department of Health rules regarding usage, planning, forecasting, etc, and there will be a lot of changes in the records we have to keep on conservation and consumption. Some of this should be addressed through the Water Comp. Plan and some he will need to address separately.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

- She told the Council that the budget revision work isn't complete and she will need to bring this to them next month.
- The pre-construction conference on the SR20 work went well and the current week would be used for surveying and preparing for the work, with actual construction to start by Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

---

### **Old Business:**

- Ordinance 561 Animal Control Ordinance replacing the pre-existing ordinances.
  - There was additional discussion regarding the public input and the need to look at the aspect of how we would enforce, and what the goals of making the change are.
  - Clint Estes suggested a workshop to really look over the details and give them more time to read the proposed ordinance would be in order.
  - Council decided to schedule a workshop, with public participation, for the following Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- Ongoing Water Rights Work- Appoint an alternate for Sam Hanan's position to schedule a meeting with the County and MVID.
  - The Clerk explained that Sam had been at the fire seven days a week with no end in sight and he didn't want to hold up the reorganization discussions. The County and MVID were supposed to hold. He sent word he would like an alternate assigned to this committee.
  - Jackie Moriarty said she would be willing to serve as an alternate to the committee, but would like a second set of ears to be present since it was so detailed and only Sam had much exposure to this subject.
  - The Mayor said he would attend the meeting as well.
  - **Action:** Jackie will schedule an appointment with the County and MVID.

---

**New Business: - None**

**Public Comment - None**

**Routine Approvals:**

The bills and checks to pay the same were briefly discussed. Motion to approve the current payment of accounts payable was made by Jackie Moriarty, seconded by Stephanie Hickman and passed unanimously.

Motion by Shari Brown to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Stephanie Hickman; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms

Mayor Vern Nations