

Town of Twisp
Council Minutes – Regular Meeting
08-14-2007
7:00 PM

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

Council Members Present: Vicki Hallowell
Stephanie Hickman
Shari Brown
Tom Gehring
Clint Estes

Council members absent: None

Public Hearing on Six-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2008-2013, 7:00 PM

- Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent
 - Priority #1, Glover St.
 - Have \$175,000 for Glover St. project.
 - Length of project is probably E. Twisp Ave. to 3rd Ave. on Glover St.
 - Priority #2, 2nd Ave. West.
 - Project includes reconstructing sidewalks, curbs and providing drainage for upper W. 2nd Ave.
 - Money is available, engineering has started, with a construction start date of March 01, 2008.
 - Arterials have the best chance of being funded.
 - Does not have to be an arterial to be on the TIP.
 - Council added the following priorities.
 - Priority #3, Glover St. from 3rd Ave. to Hwy 20.
 - Priority #4, 5th Ave. from Glover St. to Hwy 20.
 - Priority #5, East 2nd Ave. to Methow St.
 - There was no public comment on the TIP
 - Hearing was closed at 7:12 PM.

Renda Grim – Request for Hearing Regarding Nuisance Citation.

- Renda wished she would have received a personal notification that her tree was a nuisance instead of the citation. She had heard nothing about it until the bank built next door.
 - Mayor explained that periodically the Town is patrolled for nuisance violations.
 - Renda's tree was noticed during that process.
 - Notification has to follow a legal process.
 - Notification did not happen because the North Cascade National Bank (NCNB) built next to her property.
 - **Action:** Tree will come down by the end of October when her garden is done.

Request for additions or changes:

Change: Moved Jackie Bradley to before Routine Items.

Addition:

New Business: Solid Waste Grant Application, Tom Gehring.

Council Member Estes led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Business:

- Jackie Bradley, Okanogan County, presenting a “Police Certification Expense Resolution” and requesting endorsement by the Town.
 - Presentation was made by Chris Zafares.
 - Small municipalities pay for new officer’s training at the academy.
 - Officers often move on to larger departments, more opportunities & better pay.
 - Small municipalities have to start the recruiting process again.
 - They are asking the legislature to recognize this problem and give relief to the injured municipalities.
 - Jackie and Chris are asking towns, cities and counties for a letter of support for their resolution.
 - **Passed:** Council Member Hickman moved and Council Member Hallowell seconded the motion to support the police certification expense resolution. Motion passed unanimously.
 - **Action:** Chief Balam will prepare a letter of endorsement and it will be sent to Bradley and Zafares.

Public Comment Period:

Meeting Minutes:

Council Member Hallowell moved and Council Member Hickman seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2007 meeting as corrected. Motion passed. Council Member Estes abstained.

Mayor Nation’s Update to Council:

- Council Committee Assignments:
 - Public Works: Chairman Clint Estes, Vicki Hallowell.
 - Public Safety: Chairman Stephanie Hickman, Shari Brown.
 - Finance: Chairman Shari Brown, Stephanie Hickman.
 - Parks & Non-Utility Facilities: Chairman Vicki Hallowell, Clint Estes & Tom Gehring.
- Citizen Comments about Police Department.
 - Comments have been favorable.
 - Citizens appreciate receiving warning and education instead of tickets.

Department Heads & Committee Reports:

- **Rick Balam, Police Chief**
 - Received a grant from WA State Traffic Safety Commission for \$1000.
 - Purchased 2 portable breath testers (PBT).
 - Received 6 handmade quilts from Quilts for Kids in Crisis.
 - Planning a Get Acquainted with Your Police Department.

- Tentative date of September 13, at Town Hall.
- Represented the Town at the Omak Stampede parade on August 12th.
- Since April 23rd, this department has handled 181 criminal complaints.
 - 57 complaints in the month of July.
 - 29 traffic citations and not everyone got a warning.
- Rick attended a grant writing class in Spokane.
- Sheriff Rogers notified Rick that the 3rd Ford Explorer will be returned in January.
- Draft traffic ordinance has been returned from Town Attorney Detro and legal review. The draft is being revised.
- Purchased 2 used radar units from Washington State Patrol surplus.

➤ **Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer**

- Six-month financial reports.
 - Town has 3 major revenue sources.
 - Property tax revenues increased.
 - Retail sales taxes revenue increased even over our projection for the second year.
 - Water/sewer revenue did not have the full expected increase and will be analyzed.
 - A report with revenue & expenses for all funds and their respective cash positions was presented to Council.
 - Reserve & restricted funds are noted also.
 - Clerk Storms explained the booking of the Wagner Donation Trust fund on the financials.

➤ **Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent**

- PW will use the new sweeper August 16th, early in the morning.
- PowWow is this next week-end, August 17-19.
 - Will give organizers the use of dump truck to store garbage.
 - They will pay dump costs.
 - They use electricity supplied from the Town pump house.

Old Business:

- Approve Resolution #07-404 adopting the 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Plan.
 - **Action:** Gary will make changes per the public hearing and return the TIP to Council at the August 28th meeting for approval.
- Council Member Tom Gehring – Presentation regarding Sopris Foundation Conference.
 - Sopris was founded as a result of rapid growth in Aspen, CO.
 - Conference addressed regional growth through practical, creative methods of sustainability.
 - Twisp has some of same issues as Aspen had.
 - Tom offered an outline of his notes.
- Council Member Tom Gehring - Forest Service Purchase.
 - Committee is meeting every other week.
 - Members are doing different research projects .
 - Kate Jones is researching creating a public development authority with the property.
 - Council Member Gehring is researching history of the property.

- Don Johnson and Wanda Iverson are researching using the property for affordable housing.
- Next step may be to create an ad hoc committee.
- There will be a tour of the F.S. buildings on Thursday August 16th.
- Property will be sold by competitive bidding next spring.
- Committee will apply for feasibility grants for administrative costs.
- An architect gave a conceptual view of possibilities with the property.
- Council Member Gehring gave the Council a community created list of community needs.
- The committee sees a mixed use of retail and community space, which generates income from the different elements.
- Council Member Hallowell asked to be on the committee if one is appointed.

New Business:

- Bob Floyd & Aaron Studen regarding parking on Twisp Ave.
 - Concerned about adequate parking for Bergstrom Bldg. & Twisp River Pub.
 - Understand Town's concern is emergency vehicle passage and pedestrian safety.
 - Offered a plan showing parallel parking and loss of parking spaces (6) from west corner of their buildings to Hwy 20.
 - Offered a plan showing diagonal parking, fog line markings and signage stating compact cars only from the west corner of their buildings to Hwy 20.
 - To lose 6 parking spaces with parallel parking is a large loss.
 - Town Planner Don Willson noted diagonal parking stalls need 21'4" for length.
 - Aaron's plan does not allow 21'4" per diagonal stall.
 - PW Superintendent McConnell stated that parallel parking on both sides of the street would increase pedestrian safety and intersection safety and he would like the Town to follow through as planned.
 - Aaron talked with NCNB management and citizens can use the bank parking lot on the off hours as long as there is not damage to bank property.
 - Drivers need a visual reference for parking whether it is parallel or diagonal markings.
 - Chief Balam concurs with Superintendent McConnell that parallel parking is the only way to handle pedestrian safety and vehicle passage on Twisp Ave.
 - Council noted the availability of parking on Glover St., Lincoln St. and side streets.
 - Signage at the Pub and at intersections leading citizens to public parking will greatly help the parking be more dispersed throughout the Town.

- Approve using up to \$4,000 from the Realty Excise Tax Fund (and amending the budget accordingly) to pay for an engineer's cost estimate necessary to submit for grant funding to reconstruct Glover St. from 3rd Ave. to Hwy 20 by the Forest Service.
 - Town has to pay up front for an engineer's cost estimate to complete this Glover St. project.
 - Realty Excise Tax Fund can be use for capital construction on real estate and is an acceptable use for this fund monies.
 - If we do not receive the funding this year, the funds for additional work on Glover St. could be applied for again next year with a minor cost update.
 - **Passed:** Council Member Brown moved and Council Member Estes seconded a motion to approve the using of up to \$4000 of the Realty

Excise Tax Fund to develop an engineering cost estimate for South Glover St. reconstruction. Motion passed unanimously.

- Solid Waste Disposal Grant application:
 - Our proposed project needs to be in August 17th to get on a list that will be used for future grants.
 - Ideas for use of application monies.
 - Town assist in a program of recycling wood chips, possibly buying a chipper.
 - Possibly provide education on composting.
 - Consensus of Council was for Tom to let County know by deadline that we are interested in being on the list.

Public Comment

Routine Approvals:

The accounts payable, previous payroll draws, payroll and payroll taxes were briefly discussed.

Passed: Council Member Brown moved and Council Member Estes seconded a motion to approve the current accounts payable, payroll and payroll taxes (See attached back up for more details) and disburse payment in the total of \$ 50,321.34. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts Payable Checks: # 24528 - 24528 \$ 4,776.63 Quarterly Excise Tax Return
Accounts Payable Checks: # 24535 – 24583 \$ 37,134.71 A/P Current
Accounts Payable Checks: # 24584 - 24592 \$ 8,410.00 August Midmonth draw

Note: this run of payroll tax and benefit checks was omitted from the approval packet 8/14/07 and will be submitted to Council on 8/28/07 for approval.

Accounts Payable Checks: # 24529 – 24534 (\$18,988.28) Payroll Taxes & Benefits

Council Member Brown moved and Council Member Hallowell seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms

Mayor Vern Nations