

Town of Twisp
Council Minutes – Regular Meeting
08-28-2007
7:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Mayor Vern Nations -- Adjourned at 9:15 PM

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

Council members absent: None

Request for additions or changes:

Change:

Addition:

New Business: Increase municipal judge service fees.

Discussion of DOE grant application for solid waste.

Old Business: Add approval of creation of Task Force to develop a strategic plan for the Forest Service property.

Discuss a possible grant application for solid waste reduction.

Council Member Gehring led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Period: None

Meeting Minutes:

Council Member Brown moved and Council Member Gehring seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2007 meeting. Motion passed.

Mayor Nation's Update to Council:

- Gary and Vern spent time with the engineers looking at the Glover St. work from 3rd to Hwy. 20.
 - Price of project estimated at \$800,000 so it'll have to be shortened to apply at this time.
 - All the trees on the south side of Glover would have to be removed to put sidewalk there, so they've proposed putting sidewalk on the post office side of the street only and do a bump out around the tree on that side. There could be loss of that tree if the root system is damaged over time.
 - There will need to be an elevation change in the road for the section to allow for proper drainage.

Department Heads & Committee Reports:

➤ **Don Willson, Planning**

- He talked about the public hearing that was held the week prior on the proposed updates to the Comprehensive Plan.
 - There were two official negative comments on the Plan including one by Mark Edson regarding the riverfront area that has been discussed in the past and one from Rick Karro regarding the designation of the South side of Hwy 20 as commercial in our proposed urban growth area.
 - The SEPA process on the Comp. Plan will be next; comments will be accepted that relate to the environmental impacts of the changes.
 - Council will likely see the Comp. Plan back for approval in early October.
 - The Planning Commission is now starting work on the proposed zoning ordinance.
- Don received a request for comments on a proposed land use project outside of City limits near the airport planned by Paul Christen.
 - He explained where the land lies in conjunction with the airport.
 - It appears the plan is to take airplanes across the County road and enter through a now non-existent through-the-fence access to our airport.
 - Don said the subdivision itself isn't something that would raise flags.
 - But, he wants to ensure that the landowner seeks approval through the right processes for this access and proposed filing comments that say the Town doesn't support approval of the subdivision unless the other approvals are sought first by the landowner, if indeed this access is the plan.

➤ **Rick Balam, Police Chief**

- It has been relatively quiet with the exception of the tragic death of a child in the community that our forces also responded to. There was counseling offered afterward.
- He is in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding that will allow them access to a national database of crime data at no charge.

➤ **Dale Hutson**

- Everything has been quiet for them.

➤ **Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent**

- He met with a guy from a funding agency about replacing our source meters, but he may be able to get funding for a telemetry system from them as well.
- He will be going to the Biosolids Conference in Chelan to talk about alternatives for our sewer plant and from there he'll go to Ellensburg to apply for another grant to get the belt press.
- They have one water meter left in Town to put in.
- Tom Gehring asked him if there have been any comments about the confusion with the crosswalk at Glover and Hwy. 20. This was discussed by Council and several agreed it's a confusing intersection currently. Vern recalled that there was a reason for this design that had to do with trucks turning at the corner.

➤ **Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer**

- The pool will be closed after Sunday. She believes Gary will be working with Friends of the Pool on a plan of what to do about the gutter leak next.
- Audit is done and the draft audit report was presented at a meeting between the Auditors and the Town audit committee. The Clerk drafted a response to the single finding and provided it to the Council in their packets for their review.
- She pointed out also in the written Clerk's report she supplied to Council that there are several active grants and 3 grant applications in the works.
 - Draws need to be processed and final negotiations completed with Wilder to close out the job. Other close-outs are pending as well.
 - The application for the Glover St. Phase 2 job is still over \$700,000, even with the shorter scope, which TIB said was unlikely for funding without finding another source to cover part of it.
 - We are re-strategizing on the funding on the reservoir or booster station and will probably put in a couple of applications to soften the blow to rates.
 - Grants are just a very active area right now and with the budget process starting, their department will be very busy.

Old Business:

- Don Waller for Fire District 6 requesting a contractual agreement with the Town.
 - Clerk Storms pointed out that the Winthrop agreement with District 6 is in the packets to give us an example of what they're requesting.
 - Mayor Nations said he has real concerns about this contract.
 - He said a majority of our volunteers are not for the contract and would like to maintain the separate city department.
 - Response time has been one reason suggested for the change, but if we lose volunteers response time isn't likely to improve.
 - Don Waller commented that he didn't understand what the volunteers' concerns were, but because they are volunteers and have to work elsewhere, response time has been a problem.
 - Mayor Nations also commented that he didn't believe the Town's insurance rating would be improved necessarily as the County has a lower rating than the Town. Don Waller responded that some of the services they would provide impact rates, as well as issues like the Town's water supply, which the County doesn't have, so he still hoped for a positive rate impact for the Town with their help.
 - Chief Waller said volunteer departments worked for years, but there is more need for paid personnel now and they can help provide that.
 - Volunteer firemen addressed the Council
 - Les Stokes expressed concern about how the chain of command would work and that the earlier contract with Fire District 6 had not been complied with historically.
 - Officer Gene Austin asked whether Twisp would still have officers and Waller responded that there would be a Captain and Lieutenant, but not a Chief.
 - Gene expressed he had concerns about command decisions at County fire scenes he's been on. He has 28 years of experience with the Twisp force.

- Council Members Hallowell moved and Brown seconded a motion to approve the increase to \$300.00 per month starting August and payment of \$150.00 for the special court held in July. Motion approved unanimously.
- Council Member Tom Gehring – Solid Waste Grants.
 - Tom had discussed the current grant opportunity with Sue Christopher of the County and the application process is fairly labor intensive. They need a lot of information about long term operation and maintenance of the equipment, replacement etc.
 - Council discussed that it might be better to contract with someone to provide chipping services instead of buying and operating the equipment.
 - Clerk Storms said she will ask Jackie to call Sue Christopher on Thursday and work with Tom to see if there are other alternatives for an application this year.

Public Comment

- Tina Comstock of Lincoln Street had several issues to present.
 - She asked if alleys should be kept clear and said there was a problem between Lincoln and Glover last winter. **Action:** Gary McConnell said he would talk with people in that area and also behind the Sun Country building and explain the alley is not to be used for parking. Putting signage back was discussed also.
 - Tina asked if businesses conducted on Glover Street from residences that are in the commercial zone needed business licenses. She said it appeared that Sharon Beatty was operating an antique business. Clerk Storms said she would follow-up with a letter to Mrs. Beatty explaining the need for a license.
 - Third, Tina asked if Glover Street businesses are responsible for keeping the sidewalk clean in front of their business. She said the cigarette butts are awful in some places and people are allowing smoking on benches too close to entrances. Mayor Nations said he has seen the mess on the sidewalks and he agrees business owners need to be reminded of their responsibility and they also should not dump the waste in the street. **Action:** He plans to have Lori Rodio distribute a flyer to all Glover Street businesses about maintaining their sidewalk areas.
 - Last, Tina asked why first-time animal licenses are not prorated for the part of the year that is left. She felt \$20 for a license now to the end of December was steep.

Routine Approvals:

The accounts payable, previous payroll draws, payroll and payroll taxes (if applicable) were briefly discussed.

Passed: Council Member Hallowell moved and Council Member Hickman 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 \$ 28,474.08. plus \$18,988.28 for 8/14/07 vouchers missed in previous approval. Motion passed unanimously.

Accounts Payable Checks: # 24593 - 24616 \$ 27,219.09 A/P Current
 Accounts Payable Checks: # ACH 990907 \$ 1,254.99 A/P Current (Cashmere Bk)

Note: this run of payroll tax and benefit checks was omitted from the approval packet 8/14/07 and was re-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 Estes seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms

Mayor Vern Nations