

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 09/08/09
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Hickman.

Council Members Present: Tom Gehring
Vicki Hallowell
Tom Mulgrew
Tina di Rienzo

Council members absent: Clint Estes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Hallowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS &/OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Additions: Discussion of Okanogan County Jail Fees

Changes: Delete Airport Sub-Lease – This document was not prepared in time for proper Council review.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

John Lomison questioned why the Council chose to stop recording Council meetings; Mr. Lomison questioned if anymore consideration had been made regarding the Airport Manager being paid; apparently this was discussed at a previous meeting and Mr. Lomison wanted to know if action was taken at a later time. He questioned if Resolution #08-424 (CERB Grant) had been passed and if the Town had received the grant funds.

Mark Edson was present to commend Officer Ryan Marshall in regard to a situation he had witnessed. Mr. Edson shared that Officer Marshall when confronted with a hostile and impaired person behind the Branding Iron on Glover Street, conducted himself in a professional manner showing courage, restraint, understanding and compassion even while being verbally assaulted.

Dan and Chris Doran were present to discuss an issue concerning their property located on May Street regarding connecting to the Town sewer system. Mr. Doran referenced Twisp Municipal Code (TMC) sections 13.30.135, 13.30.140 and 13.30.145 when describing to Council his objection to having to hook up to Town sewer instead of being able to install a septic system. Mr. Doran explained he does not agree with staff that he is required to hook up to the town system.

Action: Staff will research this issue and return with a recommendation to the Council.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the August 25, 2009 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam reviewed the monthly police department stats; 6 arrests, 9 criminal (non-booking) citations. Chief Balam shared it had been a busy month including participating with the Okanogan County Sheriff's Department in 4 busts of growing operations that netted approximately 30,000 marijuana plants and resulted in 4 arrests and also working on a missing persons case.

Randy Johnson, Public Works Superintendent

Public Works Superintendent Johnson reported on the following:

- Receiving the Chemical Oxygen Demand equipment ordered for new testing at the treatment plant.
- Working on an insurance claim regarding the damaged computer equipment at the treatment plant.
- Updated Council on the Hilltop Booster Station Project
- Reported the #2 Well pump should be repaired by 09/11/09.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms presented Council with a Snapshot Financial report showing 2006-2009 (to-date) revenues.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported:

- The pool had closed as of August 30, 2009 and was approximately \$1,600 under budget for salaries; utilities were still high until repairs are made.
- There are funds left over in the Hilltop Project that can be used for reservoir repairs and to add telemetry to the second reservoir.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Not present.

Sarah Schrock, Town Planner

Not present.

Public Development Authority Update

Council Member Gehring reported the PDA will be holding a work party at the complex on Saturday, September 12, 2009 to clean up the landscaping, start a compost area, trim trees and clear weeds. Everyone (over the age of 14) are encouraged to come and participate. Council Member Gehring requested permission to place weeds in the town burn pile. Superintendent Johnson reported the town no longer has a burn pile due to the problems generated from illegal dumping and then permitting problems with the DOE last year.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #09-446 – 2010 CENSUS PARTNER PROCLAMATION

Steve Pasco, representative of the 2010 Census Bureau had appeared at the August 25, 2009 Council meeting requesting passage of the 2010 Census Partner Proclamation. Staff brought the proclamation back to Council in resolution form for their consideration. Council Member Gehring asked if there would be much staffing time required if the Town entered into this partnership. Clerk/Treasurer Storms felt the only obligations would be for simple signage and ads.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve Resolution #09-446 regarding the 2010 Census Partner Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Council Member di Rienzo and passed unanimously.

METHOW VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER/TOWN OF TWISP – LIBRARY SUB-LEASE

Based on a meeting held between the Facilities Committee, Council Members Hallowell and Estes, 4 members of the Methow Valley Community Center Board and a member of the Friends of the Library Clerk/Treasurer Storms presented the Council with an updated version of the Library Sub-Lease previously considered and passed by the Council. Clerk/Treasurer Storms explained the group reconsidered the proposal issues including the term, the rental fee and utilities.

MOTION:

Council Member di Rienzo moved to approve the sub-lease as revised. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

NUISANCE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

The Public Safety Committee consisting of Council Members Mulgrew and Estes along with Clerk/Treasurer Storms and Vicki Hallowell, Police Clerk at Chief Balam's request in his absence, met to discuss the noise ordinance. The group reviewed some noise ordinances from other communities and a state WAC. Storms explained this WAC refers to the minimum State standards for noise control, to be enforced by local jurisdictions first and the DOE if the local agency doesn't enforce the standards. The group looked at decibel levels, start and end times (of day) and the option of reducing the decibels at a certain time rather than restricting events. Council Member Gehring requested information and costs on the purchase of a dosimeter. The

noise ordinance group will meet again soon to try and put together some written options to discuss in a public forum.

RENEWAL OF THE GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF TWISP AND THE COVE dba METHOW RESOURCE RECOVERY

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported on the renewal of the Ground Lease Agreement between the Town of Twisp and the Cove dba Methow Resource Recovery. Staff prepared the lease based on changes directed by the Council at the previous meeting. Storms reviewed the changes, term of lease, rent and the approval to add electricity to the property.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the Ground Lease Agreement between the Town of Twisp and the Cove dba Methow Resource Recovery as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNITY SOLAR – GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported Ellen Lamminen an Energy Consultant has requested the Town serve as the government lead on a community solar energy project. Storms explained there are two possible grants available through Recovery Stimulus for this project. The project would consist of community members who buy-in, but the Town would own/maintain the equipment.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms pointed out Ellensburg is a great example of how this type of project can work. There are state credits available now that make the investment even more inviting for the community. Storms explained the Town would have to explore other possible leads/consultants with experience with this type of project to comply with procurement rules and the application would have to go forward soon regardless of having a consultant agreement in place. Council asked staff to continue researching this opportunity.

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN DISCUSSION – COMBINED LISTING

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed the Capital Facilities Plan which highlighted the accomplishments of the Town since 2008. Storms announced a public hearing would need to be held at the September 22, 2009 meeting to receive comment before we finalize this plan prior to beginning the budget process. The Council discussed adding the following items to the plan:

- Portable Chipper
- Water line improvement to North Glover Street
- Backhoe
- Public Works vehicle
- Police Department generator

Clerk/Treasurer Storms asked Council Members to contact her if they had other additions to the plan prior to the September 22, 2009 public hearing.

OKANOGAN COUNTY JAIL SERVICES CONTRACT AND TERMS OF PAYMENT - DISCUSSION

Clerk/Treasurer Storms briefed the Council on the issue of the Okanogan County Jail Fees. Storms explained the cities and towns in Okanogan County formed a group and came up with a formula wherein the County allocates the cost of the jail and district court to each entity. The cities then developed an alternate allocation because of concerns that the very small towns might not have enough money to cover the cost of a single incarcerated person who had a long jail stay. This alternate allocation did not affect the County; it only reallocated the jail costs based on number of district court cases instead of the actual days in jail. Storms said this alternate formula has not proven to be fair for the City of Oroville, or the Towns of Twisp and Winthrop. The amount due for the Town exceeds the budgeted amount for 2008 and 2009. Clerk/Treasurer Storms suggested writing a letter to convey these concerns to all of the cities, including those that are benefiting from the formula, and to ask the cities to allow Twisp to opt out of the alternate allocation for 2008 and 2009. We had already warned the group that we wanted to opt out (as did Winthrop) for 2010 forward. Chief Balam suggested the Town just pay for Twisp's actual costs for 2008 and 2009.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms shared that up to this point the County has been behind in their billing of these fees and are now trying to catch up, which for Twisp means paying half of 2007, 2008 and 2009 out of its 2009 budget. This is going to have a huge impact on the Town's 2009 budget, especially in light of the alternate calculation that moves about \$17,000 of other city's inmate costs to Twisp.

Chief Balam also reported the Washington Association of Police Chiefs and Sheriffs (WASPC) is working on a contract with Okanogan County which would provide for a home monitoring system for some defendants. A defendant would be responsible to pay for this service. This could offer some savings in the future.

No action was taken by Council on this matter.

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 8th day of September, 2009:

Checks/Vouchers	#26680 - #26684	\$25,006.15	08/31/09
Payroll	#12237 - #12270	\$28,904.90	09/01/09
Cashmere Valley Bank	ACH	\$1,254.99	09/01/09
FP Francotyp-Postalia Inc.	ACH	\$500.00	09/01/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26685 - #26724	\$255,161.13	08/08/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26725 - #26731	\$6,900.00	08/15/09

MOTION:

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

Council Member di Rienzo moved to approve the current payroll and benefits and to disburse payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mulgrew and passed. Council Member Hallowell abstained from voting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member di Rienzo moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mulgrew and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

APPROVED:


Stephanie Hickman
Mayor Stephanie Hickman

ATTEST:


Colleen G. Storms
Clerk/Treasurer Colleen G. Storms