

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 10/09/07
6:30 PM**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Nations - Adjourned at 8:31 pm.

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

Council members absent:

Public Hearing:

Mayor Nations opened the public hearing regarding the water moratorium at 6:30 pm.

Mayor Nations asked Public Works Superintendent Gary McConnell to present his staff report. McConnell presented the pumping records for 2007 up to September 30th. McConnell reported that the Town is currently 53 acre feet over their current water right allowance. Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms reported that the Town currently has 49 water connections committed to owners who have purchased the right to hook up to town services or short plats that have water connections promised to them because they have been approved through the town's process.

Mayor Nations asked for discussion from the council. Council Member Estes questioned the town's progress on the water project with the Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID). Clerk/Treasurer Storms gave a brief history and reported that Town Attorney Scott DeTro is hopeful that the deal is going through, however she reminded Council that there would still be a comment period in which individuals or groups could appeal the process. Council Member Gehring stated that he had input from individuals that don't feel that the Town has pursued all of the options available to them regarding obtaining additional water. Gehring also questioned the Town's record keeping in regards to water usage. Clerk/Treasurer Storms addressed Gehring's first concern relaying action that had been taken to purchase water rights by previous Council Member Sue Koptnak. Superintendent McConnell explained to Gehring that the base per household consumption totals are based on winter usage when citizens are not irrigating.

Mayor Nations called for public comment:

Jim Gerlach – Mr. Gerlach reported that in reading a specific but unnamed RCW his understanding is that water transfers can be done between governmental agencies. Gerlach stated that he would research this issue and report back to the Town.

Mark Edson – Mr. Edson discussed the amount of water he believes is available to the Town versus the amount of water the Town is allowed to use. Edson stated that the Town cannot sell what the Town does not own. Edson discussed briefly the amount of water returned to the Methow River from the Town's sewer plant, his estimate being 80,000-90,000 gallons per day.

Bill Fletcher – Mr. Fletcher questioned the Council asking if they thought that drilling a well in the Town limits would be an option in the future. Fletcher suggested that if property owners were able in the future to drill wells he thinks that a stipulation of drilling a well would be that owners would have to agree to hook up to the Town water system if the moratorium was lifted.

Melissa Larson – Ms. Larson asked the Council or staff to explain why people cannot drill wells.

Joni Hager – Ms. Hager stated that she would like to drill a well and to hook up to the Town's sewer system.

Terry Larson – Mr. Larson proposed that the Council lift the moratorium on drilling wells for the three following reasons: 1) If revenue on water hookups is an issue with the Town they should consider the revenue gain by property owners being allowed to drill wells and hookup to the Town's sewer system; 2) The Town should not be concerned about making the Department of Ecology unhappy, they don't care about Twisp; and 3) He would like to speak further with Superintendent McConnell on the issue regarding the possible contamination of the Town's water source.

Leone Edson – Ms. Edson also stated that the Town cannot sell what it does not own. Ms. Edson stated that where she lives in Painters Addition there is not currently adequate water pressure.

Mel Engelke – Mr. Engelke agreed with the opinions of the others regarding the lifting of the moratorium on well drilling. Mr. Engelke stated that he has had at least seven buyers for his commercial property but has not been able to sell it without water.

Tricia Eyre – Ms. Eyre stated that the Town should lift the moratorium.

Rusty Post – Mr. Post introduced himself to the group explaining that he was an employee of the DOE and that he was attending the meeting to listen and to support the Council in the decisions they make.

Mayor Nations suggested that the Council consider the proposed Ordinance that would extend the water moratorium for six months at the end of which time; if water was not available the Council would lift the moratorium on drilling wells.

Mayor Nations called for any further discussion from the Council and Staff. Council Member Gehring pointed out that if the Council was to choose to extend the moratorium for six months and then, if necessary at the end of those six months allow wells to be drilled, potential buyers would know either way that they would have water. Council Member Hallowell expressed her concerns that if well drilling is opened up and the Town is not given enough time to research the effects many wells could have on our water supply she would be concerned. Superintendent McConnell was questioned regarding his opinion on allowing well drilling. McConnell stated he would rather see the Town continue to provide service regardless of the amount of water the Town is allowed through its water rights then to run the risk of contamination to the Town's water source. McConnell briefly discussed the contamination issues faced when well drilling was previously allowed in the Town limits. McConnell shared that regulations that the DOE and the Department of Health (DOH) had in place were never enforced and that his concern remains that the Town's water source runs the risk of being contaminated each time a new well is drilled.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved not to extend the moratorium and we open up to hooking up in town limits. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hickman and passed unanimously.

Mark Edson urged the public present to support the Council on the decision they made in the future.

Mayor Nations closed the public hearing at 7:26 pm

Request for additions or changes:

Change:	None
Addition:	Old Business: None
	New Business: Council Member Gehring requested an agenda item be added to discuss yard debris.

Council Member Hallowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Janice Kasala – Ms. Kasala updated the council on additional research she had done on the issue of keeping chickens in the Town limits. Ms. Kasala continued her protest against the Town zoning requiring a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to own and keep chickens in the Town limits. Ms. Kasala explained that she felt that neighbors should have no comment about their neighbors keeping chickens unless the chicken owners become negligent about caring for the chickens. Ms. Kasala volunteered to bring a veterinarian to a joint Council and Planning Commission meeting to clear up any misconceptions about chickens. Council felt that was not necessary.

Mel Engelke – Mr. Engelke explained that his experience with chickens is that chicken coops attract rats and mice and coops stink.

Police Chief Rick Balam pointed out that since the Town did not have a leash law for dogs it could become an issue. Balam stated that he had already had one incident reported to him that he investigated in which two dogs dug under a coop containing both chickens and ducks and killed all of the fowl.

Mayor Nations requested staff to do some research to see what the reason was that this issue was classified as a CUP in the zoning ordinance.

Action: Clerk’s office staff will research the CUP process and how it came about.

Mel Engelke – Mr. Engelke updated the Council regarding him replacing the logs that run parallel to Twisp Avenue along his property line and asked about the proposed parking changes. Chief Balam told Mr. Engelke that the proposed parking ordinance, if passed, would require parallel parking both east and west on Twisp Avenue. Mayor Nations stated that a parking ordinance was on the agenda and would be discussed later in the meeting.

Minutes

Corrections to the minutes: Janice Kasala's name was spelled incorrectly on the first page of the minutes; and Council Member Gehring requested that the fact only one City applied for the DOE Waste Management Grant be placed in the report given by Council Member Hallowell regarding her report on the AWC Update in Chelan.

MOTION:

Council Member Brown moved to approve the September 25, 2007 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

MAYOR NATIONS UPDATE

Mayor Nations had no report.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Don Willson, Town Planner

Town Planner Willson reported that the Planning Commission was ready to recommend and present the Draft Comprehensive Plan to the Council at their next regular Council meeting. Willson stated that the Planning Commission had received comments on both the SEPA and Comprehensive Plan and that the comments would be provided to the council for their review along with the Comprehensive Plan. Willson stated that the Planning Commission had chosen not to act on the comments received regarding the Comprehensive Plan but plan to review at their next meeting the comments received regarding the SEPA. Willson stated that he and Planning Commission Chairman Terry Larson would be present at the council meeting to answer questions and if any Council member had comments or questions prior to the presentation to please contact either he or Larson so they could be prepared to address them at the meeting.

Council Member Gehring asked why there was no specific language in the plan for the Forest Service property. Willson explained that the Planning Commission did not feel there was a need to be specific in the plan. Willson asked Council Member Gehring if he had any specific section of the Comprehensive Plan that he felt the language should or could be added.

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam referred to the September stats for the police department, reporting to council that he and Officer Denham had responded to 40 criminal complaints and had written 39 traffic citations in the month of September.

Chief Balam announced that he had been appointed to serve as the Executive Director of the Northwest Drug Task Force for a 1 year term.

Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent

Public Works Superintendent McConnell reported that he had failed the monthly bacterial water testing. McConnell explained that he had to chlorinate the water and once that was done the water test came back satisfactory. McConnell added that the source of the problem had not been discovered.

Council Member Gehring questioned Superintendent McConnell in regards to his crew sweeping the streets so early in the morning causing so much noise. McConnell stated that they have to get out early and get the sweeping done prior to people parking on Glover Street.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms brought to the Council's attention a letter from Mark Edson regarding the Comprehensive Plan SEPA and an email from Planner Kurt Danison relaying that he and Town Attorney DeTro are researching the issue.

Dale Hutson, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Hutson was absent.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance #578 – Regarding Parking

Mayor Nations discussed Ordinance #578 regarding parking. Council Member Hallowell asked for clarification regarding the town parking/public on Lincoln Avenue. Clerk/Treasurer Storms stated that the parking area on the east side of Lincoln Street from the well house south is specifically for town employees and city equipment Monday – Friday days. The parking area from the well house north is for public parking. Council Member Estes questioned Chief Balam regarding Section 10.20.110, Balam explained that this section was put in place to deal with parking in poor visibility right-of-way areas primarily for safety reasons. Council Member Brown pointed out an error in Section 10.20.240 line eight replacing the word “in” with the word “or”. Chief Balam addressed the maximum fine for parking of \$250 explaining that the judge has the ability for habitual offenders to go as high as the \$250 but the normal parking fine is \$20-\$25.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve Ordinance #578 with changes noted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

Ordinance #580 – Amending the 2007 Budget

Clerk/Treasurer Storms pointed out the main reasons of amending the budget as follows: Hiring a third police officer; the purchase of a tractor for the Public Works Department; and to add in additional unanticipated grant funds received and spent. Storms explained briefly to Council that she is proposing that the Public Works truck be paid off with our cash reserves and that the tractor be purchased by obtaining a 10 year low interest loan from the State Treasurer's LOCAL fund.

Storms reported that she and the other department heads have met and begun preparation of the 2008 budget for council review.

The finance committee consisting of Council Members Hickman and Brown both gave their approval of the explanations Storms outlined in Ordinance #580.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve Ordinance #580 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brown and passed unanimously.

RH2 Supplemental Agreement

Council reviewed the proposed RH2 Supplemental Agreement. RH2 are the engineers on the Glover Street overlay project. The time spent on the job has exceeded the estimates and funding is available to cover the additional amount.

MOTION:

Council Member Hickman moved to authorize Mayor Nations to execute a Supplemental Agreement with RH2 increasing our contract authority with them by an additional \$15,000. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

Yard Debris

Council Member Gehring asked for other’s ideas about how the Council could influence citizens to use alternate means of disposing of yard debris other than burning. The ideas stated were: a designated area in which citizens could drop yard debris and others could come and retrieve if they were interested in composting; developing a list of citizens interested in getting yard debris for composting and share that with those that are trying to get rid of it; and use the newspaper to encourage citizens to compost rather than to burn their yard debris. There was also discussion about public works picking yard debris up, but they have had to burn the debris in the past, which defeats the purpose.

Council Retreat

Clerk/Treasurer Storms confirmed that the Council retreat will be held on the evening of Friday, November 9th and all day until 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 10, 2007 in Chelan.

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/warrants are approved for payment by a majority vote on this 9th day of October, 2007:

Voucher/Warrant	#24694 - #24697	\$3,393.57	10/02/07
	#24698 - #24743	\$25,028.48	10/09/07
	#24752	\$81.16	10/09/07
ACH-FP Francotyp-Postalia Inc.		\$500.00	10/09/07
ACH-AWC Insurance		\$6,148.61	10/02/07
ACH-941 Taxes		\$6,883.78	10/02/07

Payroll	#11653 - #11676	\$15,285.13	10/02/07
	#24744 - #24751	\$8,130.00	10/09/07

MOTION:

Council Member Brown moved to approve the current accounts payable and current payroll and benefits and to disburse payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:31p.m.

Mayor Vern Nations

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms