

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 10/23/07
6:30 PM**

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by Mayor Nations.

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

Council members absent: Shari Brown

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

CDBG handouts related to the availability of funds were handed out. Mayor Nations opened the public hearing to discuss the following: 1) Participation in the Community Development Block Grant process to fund a booster pump and water acquisition; 2) Ad Valorem Tax/Property Tax Levy; and 3) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy.

Resolution #07-407 - Regarding Participation in the Community Development Block Grant Application Process (CDBG)

Clerk/Treasurer Storms explained to Council that participation in the CDBG process would fund a portion of the proposed booster pump project. Storms explained that the total for both the booster station and the water rights acquisition projects was approximately \$1,500,000 and that the Town is eligible for approximately \$486,000 through this grant. Storms told Council that the rest of the funds for the two projects is proposed to come from a USDA loan/grant package, but that USDA grant funding was contingent upon our water rates. We are applying for the CDBG grant to lessen the impact to our water rates. Council Member Hickman stated that the amount we would be applying for on the Ordinance was incorrect. Storms explained that the figure for the Ordinance had been changed at the last moment because of the cap we can apply for, and would be corrected on the Ordinance.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve Resolution #07-407 allowing the Town of Twisp to participate in the Community Development Block Grant application process with the amount change mentioned above. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

Ordinance #581 – Setting the annual Ad Valorem (Property) Tax Levy & Ordinance #582 - Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy

Clerk/Treasurer Storms explained to Council the process in which Okanogan County bases the amount that Twisp receives each year in property taxes and explained that this money is distributed into the General Fund and Street Fund. Storms provided the Council a comparison of

funds received in 2007 and showed the amount of money that will be received in 2008 as being slightly higher.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that the EMS Levy funds are collected at the County level, distributed to the Town and then passed on to Aero Methow.

There was no public input.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve Ordinance #581 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hickman and passed unanimously.

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve Ordinance #582 regarding the Emergency Medical Services Levy as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

There was no public input.

Mayor Nations closed the public hearing at 6:44 pm

Mayor Nations called for a short recess and explained he would open the regular meeting at 7:00 pm

Request for additions or changes:

Change: None
Addition: Old Business: Council Member Gehring added a yard debris discussion.
New Business:

Council Member Gehring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Kate Jones, a member of the Forest Service Advisory Committee, was present to give the Council an update of the committee's progress. Jones reported that seed money had been donated to begin phase one of a Feasibility Study. Jones explained to Council that she was doing a verbal presentation before a board soon regarding obtaining Federal and State funds for this project and came to request written support for the Council. Council Member Hallowell volunteered to work with staff to prepare the letter of support naming each Council Member. Jones touched briefly on the advantage to having language in the proposed Comprehensive Plan, which she felt would solidify the interest the Town shows in preserving this property.

Airport Design Engineering – Selection of Most Qualified Firm

Airport Manager Morgan Smith was present to recommend an engineering firm for the upcoming Twisp Municipal Airport design and improvements project. Smith explained to Council that initially he, Council Members Hallowell and Estes, Airport Board Member Mike Palm and Public Works Superintendent Gary McConnell had met to rate the three proposals the Town had received based on the criteria from the Request for Proposals. The engineering firms that sent in

proposals were: USKH, Inc., Gray & Osborne and Riedesel Engineering, Inc. The committee narrowed the selection down to two engineering firms. An interview was held on October 18, 2007 with USKH, Inc. and the other interview was held with Riedesel Engineering, Inc. on October 22, 2007. Morgan reported that based on the interviews he would like to recommend Riedesel Engineering, Inc. for the airport design and improvement project. Council Member Estes stated he was supportive of the recommendation made.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve the recommendation made by Airport Manager Morgan Smith to select Riedesel Engineers, Inc. for the airport design and improvement project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

Ordinance #579 – Water Moratorium

Attorney Scott DeTro presented Council with Ordinance #579, stating that Association of Washington Cities Attorney Carol Morris had also reviewed the ordinance. DeTro explained to Council that the previous action taken by motion ending the water moratorium was not done correctly therefore did not actually end the moratorium. Ordinance #579 is an emergency moratorium ordinance, which if passed by Council, would continue the moratorium. The Council would then need to hold a public hearing and research the findings of fact within 60 days of passage. DeTro went through Ordinance #579 explaining everything in detail. DeTro explained that if the Department of Ecology (DOE) finds the Town out of compliance with our current water rights, that is “pumping more water than our rights allow”, they can impose sanctions on the Town, including a possible per day fine.

Council Member Hallowell asked for more clarification regarding a concurrency ordinance previously discussed. DeTro explained that the Town could adopt a concurrency ordinance, which would look at each proposed project/development individually and provide a checklist of criteria that the Town would have to consider with each project, including water availability, and if there was not adequate water available at the time the project would be denied.

Council Member Gehring suggested advertising to citizen’s ways to conserve water. Gehring also questioned Attorney DeTro about well drilling in Town. DeTro stated that the Council could allow well drilling in Town and that residential and industrial uses could be eligible to drill, however, DeTro cautioned the Council about allowing well drilling because of the restrictions the DOE could put on drilling in Town. DeTro explained that just because the Town allows wells does not mean that the DOE will in every case.

Attorney DeTro gave a brief history on the Town’s loss of water rights in the 90’s clearing up some misconceptions of the Council Members and the attending citizens. DeTro did share that the DOE is considering credit for discharge of the Waste Water Treatment Plant in their proposed solutions they are taking to fisheries and are studying Twisp’s situation to try and solve this issue with us.

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve Ordinance #579 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

Minutes

Council Member Hickman pointed out one error in the minutes; the change will be made on the original signed copy.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the October 9, 2007 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

MAYOR NATIONS UPDATE

Mayor Nations had no report.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Not present

Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent

Not present

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms announced that she would be leaving for a two-week vacation after the meeting. Storms reported that she and Chief Balam had discussed the upcoming retreat and were making preparations.

Dale Hutson, Fire Chief

Not present

OLD BUSINESS

Presentation of the Draft Comprehensive Plan

Town Planner Don Willson, Planning Commission Chairman Terry Larson and Planning Commission Member Mike Port were present to discuss the proposed Comprehensive Plan. Larson began by discussing the Letter of Transmittal that was presented to the Council with the proposed Comprehensive Plan. Larsen stated that in the process of developing the Plan they had a tremendous amount of public input. Council Member Gehring questioned the language added in to the Plan for the Forest Service property, Gehring is not convinced that the language is sufficient in order to find funding and show support of the Forest Service Advisory Committee. Willson explained language was place in the Plan and that a better description could be added in the zoning. Larson explained that being general in the language of the Plan is better.

Larson reported that the Planning Commission would be joining the Council at the Council Retreat in Chelan on the evening of November 9, 2007 to discuss issues regarding the Plan.

Council Member Gehring questioned why Okanogan County would disregard what the Town has suggested in the Urban Growth Area (UGA). Dave Schulz, a member of the Okanogan County Planning Commission and Twisp citizen, was present and stated that the Town is encouraged to attend meetings or submit in writing their comments regarding any project in the UGA and that the County does take those comments into consideration.

Council discussed the long plat at the end of the runway on Airport Road. Don Willson stated that he had prepared comments to the County urging them to take into consideration the airport restrictions. Schulz briefly explained the County Planning Commission process and stated that in-person testimony carries more weight than written comments. Council Member Hickman commended Willson on the comments that he submitted.

Purchase and Finance of a Tractor for the Public Works Department – Resolution #07-408, Resolution #07-409 and Ordinance #583

Clerk/Treasurer Storms explained the process in which she had to go through to exchange the financing of the new tractor for the previous proposal of financing the truck, which includes Resolutions #07-408 & #07-409 and Ordinance #583. Storms reminded Council that initially the Town was going to finance the new Public Works Ford truck for the maximum of 5 years, but since having decided to also purchase a tractor she had found that financing the tractor for a 10 year term, and paying for the truck with reserves, would be best. Financing the tractor would only impact the budget by approximately \$200 per month and that would be split between the Water/Sewer, Street and Park funds.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve Resolution #07-0408 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve Resolution #07-409 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve Ordinance #583 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

YARD DEBRIS

Council Member Gehring asked if there would be a fall cleanup done by the Public Works Department. Mayor Nations suggested that Council Member Gehring speak to Public Works Superintendent McConnell when he returned from vacation. Council Member Estes suggested that the Recycling Center be contacted regarding a community composting site. Terry Larson stated that he was on the board and that had never been discussed before.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A brief discussion was held on the SEPA review process and how appeals were to be handled. Storms stated that Deputy Clerk Janie Surface would have Kurt Danison interpret and instruct the Town on this process.

Mark Edson questioned Council as to whether or not a fence required a building permit. Mayor Nations told Mr. Edson that the Building Inspector would be in on Thursday at 1:00 pm and to contact him about fence requirements.

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 23rd day of October, 2007:

Voucher/Warrant	#24753	\$2.58	10/17/07
	#24754 - #24783	\$213,305.04	10/23/07
ACH – Cashmere Valley Bank	#991107	1,254.99	10/23/07
Payroll	#11677 - #11696	\$19,036.68	10/23/07

MOTION:

Council Member Hickman 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 Hickman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Mayor Vern Nations

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms