

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 10/27/09
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Mayor Hickman.

Council Members Present: Clint Estes
 Vicki Hallowell
 Tom Gehring

Council members absent: Tom Mulgrew and Tina di Rienzo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Gehring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING RESOLUTION #09-449 TO DETERMINE AND FIX THE AMOUNT OF AD VALOREM (PROPERTY) TAXES TO BE LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2010

Mayor Hickman called the public hearing to order at 7:05 pm to discuss Resolution #09-449 to determine and fix the amount of ad valorem (property) taxes to be levied for the year 2010.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported the proposed increase in 2010 taxes would be 1% or \$1,527 plus the amount of taxes on new construction bringing the total to \$155,835. Storms explained the total amount collected of \$155,835 would be split between the street fund and general fund. Storms shared the revenue for sales tax is down this year considerably, so the increase of 1% is extremely necessary. John Lomison asked if this is a standard procedure to pass a 1% increase every year; Storms stated that State law caps the tax increase at 1% unless there is a vote taken and that a 1% increase has been passed by Council each year of the past 3 years she has been employed. Council Member Estes asked Storms if this levied amount, like the EMS levy discussed this summer, declines over time. Storms reported that the rate per \$1000 value does decrease and gave a brief explanation.

There being no further comment, Mayor Hickman closed the public hearing at 7:12 pm.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS &/OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Additions: None

Changes: None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the October 27, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam reported the following:

- Things are slowing down in the Police Department, due to the season.
- The police vehicle is almost ready for patrol.
- The hiring process for the Chief's position is underway; interviews will be held soon.

Randy Johnson, Public Works Superintendent

Public Works Superintendent Johnson reported the following:

- Public Works crew getting equipment ready for snow removal.
- The Hilltop Booster Station is due for start up on November 18, 2009. The interior is done, panels are being installed, reservoir repairs are being done, hydroseeding will be done soon and complaints are being addressed.
- Still not able to locate the leak at the pool. Rich Reeves and Council Member Mulgrew have been brought in to help troubleshoot.
- 3 hour parking signs are up on Glover Street between 3rd and 4th Streets and a new 20 mph sign has been ordered for Glover Street.
- Still working with the Association of Washington Cities on a claim for the lightning strikes that affected the treatment plant.
- Met with Gary Kominak regarding using their vacant lot on the corner of 2nd and Lincoln for snow storage. Council Member Gehring suggested contacting the Public Development Authority (PDA) regarding using land at the complex for snow storage.
- Discussed an article Johnson received regarding meth labs and treatment plants.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported the following:

- A City officials and Okanogan County Commissioners meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commissioners Office to discuss issues that may cause cities conflicts if the draft County Comprehensive Plan is passed.
- A reminder that the Short Course for Planning is being held on Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 6:15 at the Senior Center.
- Water/Sewer budget.
- General Fund hit hard because of the reduction of sales tax.
- Water rights - Storms said there is a real need for Council to understand the issues from someone who has a broad perspective, and then give the staff direction for our efforts. Storms suggested a workshop be held for Council to meet with Tim Flynn, Aspect

- Consulting. Flynn is developing several scenarios along with timelines and feasibility and we will schedule a workshop soon.
- IACC Conference – Storms reported on her attendance at the conference in Wenatchee on October 14 -16, 2009:
 - Economic effects.
 - Job creation.
 - A more cost effective way to draft and maintain a water system plan.
 - Trail planning funding – must first define our concept better.
 - Possibility of refinancing our water/sewer debt to get better rates on our debt.
 - Twisp received a transportation award for the 2nd Avenue Street Project.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Not present.

Dave Sandoz, Building Inspector

Building Inspector Sandoz presented Council with a Building Code Adoption Evaluation and Recommendation which outlined the International Building Codes (IBC). Sandoz recommended considering his proposal rather than passing the IBC as a whole because it gives the local government more control and does not impose rules on the Town that are not realistic. Sandoz went over his proposals as outlined:

- International Building Code (IBC)
- International Residential Code (IRC)
- International Mechanical Code (IMC)
- International Fire Code (IFC)
- Uniform Plumbing Code and Plumbing Code Standards (UPC)
- State Building Code Council (Rules adopted making buildings and facilities Accessible)
- The International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)
- Washington State Energy Code, Chapter 51-11 WAC
- Washington State Ventilation and Indoor Air
- Quality Code
- 1997 Uniform Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings (Board of Appeals)
- International Property Management Code
- General Requirements for all Referenced Codes

The Council agreed to accept Building Inspector Sandoz’s recommendation and instructed him to draft an ordinance.

Action: Sandoz will draft an ordinance based on his recommendation regarding the IBC.

PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE

Council Member Gehring shared that the Hopes and Dreams workshop held on October 24 – 25, 2009 at the complex was a success. Gehring reported the PDA is looking for partners. U of W is partnering with them and students are involved in the next phase of planning. Gehring prompted Council to see if there was any interest in relocating Town Hall to the complex in the future. Council Member Estes stated it makes sense especially for the public works department, having

their equipment under cover; Estes would like to keep the door open. Gehring urged Council that now was the time to consider having Town Hall and a visitor's center based at the complex.

OLD BUSINESS

SALMON RECOVERY – TRAILS PLANNING

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed a conversation she had with Chris Johnson requesting an acknowledgement from the Council that they would like to partner with Methow Salmon Recovery to incorporate their trail system into a plan for a trail system in Twisp. Storms reported the "rustic" trails they have can be insured through AWC with no increase to our premiums. Storms reported Johnson's group is interested in building a temporary bridge over the Twisp River and the town may be able to help with an easement.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve the request to partner with Salmon Recovery regarding a trail system. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

FARMERS MARKET PARKING

Council Member Gehring contacted Farmer's Market organizer Willy Getz regarding his help in directing traffic to other parts of town during the farmer's market. The Council discussed using temporary sandwich boards, making it apparent the Town parking lot on Lincoln is available on weekends, and using Glover Street.

Gehring also discussed a "loading and unloading zone" on the North side of the Commons Park. Council discussed if that was town right-of-way.

Action: Staff will research to see if the town has a right-of-way between the Commons Park (on the north side) and the businesses.

FIRE DISTRICT #6 CONTRACT

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported if the town allowed Fire District #6 to annex, the money in the Town budget for the department, and the amount that of levy that would be redirected is really close to the same amount. Council Member Estes stated the Council needs to decide, if they want to make a change, whether they would either contract with or annex into District #6. Estes pointed out the contract that now exists between the Town and the District #6 is not representative of how it works right now. Storms explained if annexed the issues would need to be agreed upon by both parties and then go before the voters. Chief Balam would like to schedule another meeting with the Public Safety Committee consisting of Council Members Estes and Mulgrew. It was also suggested to meet with the current volunteer firefighters to consider their opinions.

Action: Chief Balam will schedule a Public Safety Committee meeting and contact the current volunteer firefighters.

NEW BUSINESS

NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 2010 MEMBERSHIP

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed the Town's 2010 membership for the North Central Washington Economic Development District. Storms said although the Town has not received any direct grants through them, she shared her knowledge of the work this group is doing and said they offer opportunities for economic development for our community, especially for the PDA's plans for the forest service property.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to pay \$100 to the North Central Washington Economic Development District for the Town's 2010 membership dues. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

OKANOGAN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed the request of the Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition program for \$1,000 for the nutrition program and \$1,000 for the transportation vehicle replacement fund.

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to renew support of the Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition Programs in the amount of \$1,000 each. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

WATER RIGHTS PLANNING

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported Tim Flynn with Aspect Consulting, with the approval of the Mayor, has spent approximately 10 hours of preparatory work studying the Town's water rights situation. Storms explained Mr. Flynn was chosen because of his work in the valley with the Twin Lakes Coalition and the Methow Watershed Council and because of his positive working relationship with the Department of Ecology. Storms presented a draft contract between the Town and Aspect Consulting for water rights consulting services. Flynn will develop several scenarios along with timelines and feasibility for the Council's review.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve the contract between the Town of Twisp and Aspect Consulting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - TO DISCUSS WRITTEN LEGAL COUNCIL REGARDING POSSIBLE LITIGATION – APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES

Mayor Hickman adjourned into executive session at 9:10 pm to discuss written legal council regarding possible litigation for approximately 20 minutes.

Mayor Hickman reconvened into regular session at 9:30 pm.

There was no action taken.

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 27th day of October, 2009:

Checks/Vouchers	#26820 - #26820	\$222,643.39	10/14/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26821 - #26845	\$66,222.94	10/27/09
USDA	ACH	\$683.00	10/28/09

MOTION:

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

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Hallowell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor Stephanie Hickman

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen G. Storms