

**Town of Twisp  
Council Minutes 11/10/09  
7:00 PM**

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

Council Members Present:     Clint Estes  
  Tom Gehring  
  Vicki Hallowell  
  Tom Mulgrew

Council members absent:     Tina di Rienzo

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Estes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Mayor Hickman opened the public hearing regarding the 2010 preliminary budget at 7:03 pm.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms joined the public hearing via conference phone due to illness. Storms reviewed the preliminary budget by section with Council as follows:

- Summary of Revenues/Expenditures
- Sources of Revenue
- Salary Schedule
- Payroll Allocation
- Medical Benefit Schedule

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported the General Fund is low due to sales tax revenues being down approximately \$40,000 this year, the 2009 business license rebates we approved, among other items. The budget submitted for 2010 took a lot of trimming to balance; general fund especially is very tight. Storms stated in the water/sewer fund a proposed 3% increase in water and 5% increase in sewer is projected in the draft budget.

Barry Stromberger spoke out against the water increase. Mr. Stromberger asked Council to consider the economic situation and the fact people are trying to grow their own food. Mr. Stromberger volunteered to work on a committee to research alternatives to the increase.

Council Member Estes discussed the Methow Valley Irrigation District lease with the Town. The Town currently pays \$10,000 annually for an additional 200 acre feet of irrigation water for summer irrigating, whether they use the full 200 acre feet or not. Council Member Estes pointed out the Town is not profiting on the sale of water, rather the Town is collecting revenue to sustain our delivery system/infrastructure.

Superintendent Johnson suggested educating citizens on water conservation.

Andy Floyd addressed Council regarding his concerns about the fees he pays for his commercial building. Mr. Floyd explained his business utility account had been reevaluated and as a result he is now being charged per bathroom facility because his building is broken up into commercial rental units. Council Member Estes commented that there were several businesses previously not charged correctly according to our ordinance; when those accounts were identified they were corrected.

Mark Edson asked Council to consider small businesses in this economy and urged Council to consider finding a balance between Town and citizens.

Mayor Hickman stated the water/sewer fees fund only water/sewer and there are state regulations that govern the amount of money a municipality has to receive in operating monies to pay the costs of operations and have reserves for future maintenance and repairs.

Mr. Edson requested a meeting with Superintendent Johnson to discuss water/sewer related issues.

Leone Edson stated the meter at their business, Methow Valley Industrial is not being read accurately. Johnson mentioned there was a time period where the meter was covered up by logs and unreadable, but he would check with his crew.

Superintendent Johnson shared his work on obtaining and installing new source meters in Wells #2 & #3. Johnson explained the Town had received a grant for these meters.

Mayor Hickman closed the public hearing at 7:55 pm.

#### **REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS &/OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Additions: Jail Fee/Bail money – discussion – Council Member Gehring

Changes: None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no public comment.

#### **MINUTES**

#### **MOTION:**

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

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### **Rick Balam, Police Chief**

Not present.

**Randy Johnson, Public Works Superintendent**

Public Works Superintendent Johnson reported on the following:

- Chad Short with Evergreen Rural Water has been working with WWTP Operator Moriarty on the Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) tests.
- Bacterial Oxygen Demand (BOD) test numbers are good.
- Lids and grates have been replaced
- Shared pictures of the interior/new equipment of the Hilltop Booster Station.
- Shared pictures of the reservoir repairs; silicone still needs to be added to the tops of the reservoirs.
- KRCI is working on road repairs and restoration on the Hilltop Project.
- Source Meter Project – Palm Construction received the bid for the project, beating out one other bidder and coming in at \$15,225; the project should begin around November 19, 2009.
- Shared pictures of the pool leak detection project. The leak was not found, the pool has been winterized and leak detection will begin again in the spring.
- Snow removal equipment is ready for winter.
- Cascade Foam is making repairs to the Town Hall roof; approximately \$3,000.
- Attended a meeting in Omak where all the Public Works Superintendents met. Discussed volume buying and equipment sharing.

**Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer**

Excused for illness.

**Keith Comstock, Fire Chief**

Not present.

**PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Maggie Coon and Mark Wolf-Armstrong were present to give the Council an update on the Public Development Authority (PDA) and to request a letter of support for funding and rating purposes through the North Central Washington Economic Development District.

Ms. Coon described the PDA's progress related to their master planning. Ms. Coon stated there has been a great deal of interest in education that has come out of the planning meetings. Ms. Coon discussed plans for a design charrette, people to design and draw a site layout. This will be executed at a meeting on December 6, 2009 from noon to 4:00 pm at the complex.

Mr. Wolf-Armstrong shared they have been winterizing the complex and are drafting a prioritized preliminary proposal to the Okanogan County Economic Alliance related to heating and cooling, water/sewer lines, energy conservation and insulation.

Mr. Wolf-Armstrong stated the timeline for completion of the Master Plan will be 01/01/10. The PDA is currently working with the Town Planning Commission regarding zoning and staying compliant during planning with the zoning and comprehensive plan.

Ms. Coon announced the hiring of Angie Dahlstrom as the new office and site manager. Ms. Coon also announced two of the houses will be ready to rent by December 1, 2009.

**MOTION:**

Council Member Estes moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the Public Development Authority regarding funding and rating through the North Central Washington Economic Development District. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

**PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE**

Traci Day, Planning Commission Chairperson, was present to give the Council an update. Ms. Day began by announcing the new members of the Planning Commission were Tarrie Darwood, Carl Hubert and Pete Day. Ms. Day shared the Planning Commission is currently working on identifying any discrepancies between the zoning ordinance and the comprehensive plan.

Ms. Day reported she had recently attended a meeting with other town and city representatives of Okanogan County and the County Commissioners regarding the County comprehensive plan. The Commissioners did not solicit comments at the meeting but asked the representatives to report back to them regarding their municipalities' Urban Growth Areas.

Ms. Day reported on the Planning Commission's excitement over re-forming the Park and Recreation Board. Ms. Day asked the Council to consider changing section 2.30.020 – Commission positions, which requires the Twisp Planning Commission member who shall serve on the Board be a resident of the Town. Ms. Day shared Pete Day is very interested in serving on the Board as the Planning Commission representative, but lives outside town limits.

Ms. Day addressed the PDA rental houses, explaining to Council that even though the houses are non-conforming uses according to the zoning ordinance, they can remain rental houses because it has not been 2 years since they were last rented.

Ms. Day suggested the Town Council and Planning Commission meet for a joint workshop after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION #09-449 – DETERMINING AND FIXING THE AMOUNT OF AD VALOREM (PROPERTY) TAX TO BE LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2010**

Admin Asst. Moriarty reminded Council a public hearing was held as required at the October 27, 2009 meeting and reported, due to the sales tax revenue decrease and unstable economy, the 1% increase permitted by statute, which adds additional revenue of \$1527, is very much needed.

**MOTION:**

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve Resolution #09-449 determining and fixing the amount of ad valorem tax to be levied in year 2010. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REQUEST FOR WATER/SEWER INACTIVE STATUS**

Robert Smith, homeowner of a dual unit home at 313 S. Glover Street requested that, while he is renovating his second unit for damages done from the last tenant, his water/sewer bill on that unit be placed in the inactive status. Council reviewed Ordinance #563 and found that Mr. Smith's request was not a circumstance that fit the purpose of the ordinance, which would have allowed for a temporary stop to the charges for the unit. One reason the Council felt uneasy about granting the request was because the water/sewer could not be turned off to the unit to confirm there would be no use during renovations. Council denied the request.

**Action: Staff will contact Mr. Smith and relay the Council's decision.**

### **PROPOSED WATER/SEWER ORDINANCE REVISIONS**

Admin Asst. Moriarty discussed the following proposed revisions to the various sections of the Twisp Municipal Code related to water and sewer:

- Chapter 13.20 – Winter water charges –deleting references in this section to estimating and winter averaging.
- Chapter 13.25 – Section 13.25.010 – Metered service rates –adding June to the months that the usage amount allowed under the base fee increases to 1,200 cf. per month; making language consistent between ordinance and billing statements.
- Section 13.25.020 – Unmetered service rates – discussed the need for unmetered irrigation charges – Moriarty will check with Deputy Clerk Surface to see if there are any customers still being assessed an irrigation charge since the meters are installed.
- Section 13.25.030 and 13.25.030– Payment terms – discussed assessing a 60 day late fee of \$15.00 per statement in addition to the current 30 day late fee of \$5.00 per statement.
- Section 13.25.050 and 13.35.040 – Dishonored checks – change Non-Sufficient Fund language to coincide with the fee schedule passed by resolution; add language requiring any customer that writes more then one dishonored check to the Town to pay in the future by cash or money order.
- Add Sections 13.25.080 and 13.35.080 - Establishing an account – requiring accounts be only established in the property owner's name.
- Rescind Chapter 13.45 – Public Utilities Security Deposits – Fund Created

Council as a whole felt comfortable with the proposed changes.

**Action: Prepare ordinance for next meeting with proposed changes.**

### **JAIL FEE/BAIL MONEY**

Council Member Gehring discussed the letter sent by Mayor Hickman to the Okanogan County Commissioners requesting a portion (\$19,940) of the (\$66,800) forfeited bail money recovered by the County from the Kino Gomez case go to pay half of the Town's 2008 jail and court fees. Council Member Gehring asked what chance the Town had for this to take place. Council Member Gehring asked if Mayor Hickman thought a face to face with the Commissioners at a public meeting by one or two Council Members would help. Mayor Hickman stated she didn't feel like she and Chief Balam got too far when they met with the Commissioners previously. Council Member Mulgrew volunteered to go to a County Commissioners' meeting with Gehring.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009:

Checks/Vouchers	#26846- #26846	\$7,741.43	10/29/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26847 - #26851	\$4,500.84	10/31/09
AWC	ACH	\$9,071.03	
NCNB	ACH	\$8,931.05	
Cashmere Valley Bank	ACH	\$1,254.99	11/01/09
FP Francotyp-Postalia Inc.	ACH	\$500.00	11/03/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26852 - #26893	\$301,926.26	11/10/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26894 - 26900	\$6,900.00	11/15/09

**MOTION:**

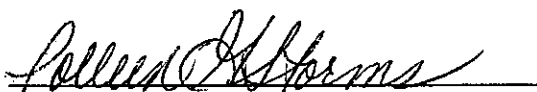
Council Member Estes moved to approve the current accounts payable and to disburse payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

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 Mulgrew and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
Mayor Stephanie Hickman

**ATTEST:**

  
Clerk/Treasurer Colleen G. Storms