

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 11/13/07
6:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm by Mayor Nations

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

Council members absent: Stephanie Hickman

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – PUBLIC HEARING

Town Planner Don Willson re-capped the staff report he had submitted to the Council at their October 23, 2007 meeting. Willson pointed out the major changes to the Comprehensive Plan as being: Low Density designations (10,000 sq. ft. lots) in the Painters Addition, Alder Creek and Anderson Lane areas; Downtown Commercial District allowing apartments above commercial businesses; Single-family Residential designation on Burton Street instead of the current Multi-family Residential designation; designating the Urban Growth Boundary east of the town limits as Residential on the north side of SR 20 and Commercial on the south side of SR20; east of the Methow River change from Industrial to a new designation “Commercial Riverfront”; change the bench above the East County Road of the Lloyd property to Multi-Family; and change a portion of the property south of the Methow River (Port property) to “Commercial Riverfront”. The Planning Commission would also like to develop pedestrian pathways.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Edson – Mr. Edson pointed out two areas in which he felt needed review: 1) The Industrial area where his business, Methow Valley Industrial, is located on the south side of the Methow River and; 2) the Conservancy areas, now referred to as Critical areas, in particular the steep slope on Highway 20 below his home. Mr. Edson stated his concerns regarding easements and right-of-ways near his business, explaining that according to his measurements Wagner Street is bottlenecked down to 23 feet and he claims that it is not enough for the Public Works Department to plow in the winter or for an emergency vehicle to get through. Mr. Edson discussed balanced zoning and noise conflicts when zones abut one another specifically industrial and residential zones. Mr. Edson stated that he likes the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Herb Rosenberg – Mr. Rosenberg commended the Planning Commissioners on all of the time spent on the Comprehensive Plan and hopes that the Town Council will support their recommendation.

Bill Moody – Mr. Moody stated that he lives in Painters Addition and echoed what Mr. Rosenberg previously stated.

Bob Lloyd – Mr. Lloyd stated that the Comprehensive Plan is a steering document to guide the Town into the future and urges Council to approve the plan.

Mayor Nations closed the public hearing at 6:30 pm regarding the Comprehensive Plan and stated more discussion would take place later in the meeting.

WATER SYSTEM PLAN PUBLIC HEARING/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT/RESOLUTION #07-410

Mayor Nations opened the public hearing to discuss the Water System Plan at 6:30 pm.

Mike Rohrich and Jim Bricel, representing Gray & Osborne Engineering, were present to discuss and answer questions regarding the proposed Water System Plan. Mr. Bricel began by distributing revised Executive Summaries to the Council. Mr. Bricel stated that he had worked closely with Clerk/Treasurer Storms and Public Works Superintendent Gary McConnell and thanked them for their hard work.

Mr. Bricel reported that the plan lays out a project list for a 6-year period and a 20-year period with projected population growth doubling the residency by the year 2027. Bricel pointed out areas in which Twisp and most small towns in Washington could improve, that being the fire flow, the aging infrastructure and some minor repairs to the water reservoirs. The largest project that is top priority in the plan is building either a new reservoir or a booster pump to raise the water pressures on the hill. He said that with that project, the mains on the hill would need to be replaced to handle the upgraded pressures. He said that required pressures per the State are currently not met in that location. Bricel explained to Council that in order to prepare for the needed upgrades he had figured that a \$6 increase to water would need to be put in place along with an approximate 3% increase each year after to fund the projects. Bricel touched on the benefits of installing a new telemetry system as part of future projects, pointing out the benefits of not having to rely on phone or electrical lines for the operation of the water system and reservoirs.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Edson – Mr. Edson questioned whether or not \$30,000 would be enough to repair the reservoirs. Mr. Rohrich stated that the Town’s reservoirs were structurally sound and in good repair internally but need some superficial external improvements. Mr. Edson asked about security measures for the water reservoirs. Rohrich stated that any security that could be added would be a plus and stated that fencing is a good start.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms thanked Rohrich and Bricel for their hard work on the plan and for coming to do the presentation.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve Resolution #07-410 regarding the Water System Plan. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brown and passed unanimously.

Mayor Nations closed this public hearing at 7:13 pm.

2008 PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING

Clerk/Treasurer Storms passed out the 2008 preliminary budget to Council. Storms pointed out the narrative in the packet that discusses the 2008 priorities such as: the hiring of a 3rd Police Officer; a chip seal program to start addressing street issues in residential areas in town; a possible increase of \$4.30 for water rates depending on the rate study now being done; and a study of residential utility fees versus business utility fees. Storms told Council that she would be preparing graphs and/or pie charts for the next meeting to better show how money is distributed between funds.

BUDGET PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Ebenger proposed a \$100 per month raise in salary for his services as Municipal Court Judge. Ebenger also requested up to \$100 per year be put in the budget for training. Ebenger explained that he serves as judge for three communities and the cost for the one time a year, 3-day training he must attend would be split three ways. Ebenger commended Chief Balam and his staff on the job they are doing. Ebenger gave Council a brief account of his job as Municipal Judge.

With no further public comment offered, Mayor Nations closed the public hearing at 7:28 pm.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

Request for additions or changes to the agenda:

- Change: None
- Addition: Old Business: Comprehensive Plan discussion
- New Business:

Council Member Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Rick Karro – Mr. Karro stated that he owns property and lives on the south side of SR 20 about half way between the town limits and Airport Road where the Planning Commission has designated the Urban Growth Area (UGA) as a Commercial area. Karro shared that he felt that with the current water moratorium in Twisp, growth would inevitably begin outside the town limits. Karro asked the Planning Commission and Council to reconsider putting any zoning designation on the UGA, pointing out he felt that this would encourage the County Planning Commission to develop his area as commercial because of Twisp’s recommendations. He would prefer to see the opportunity remain for residential development on the south side as well.

MINUTES

Council Member Brown pointed out an error on the last page of the minutes from October 23, 2007.

MOTION:

Council Member Brown moved to approve the October 16, 2007 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed by majority. Council Member Estes had not been present at the October 16th meeting.

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the October 23, 2007 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed. Council Member Brown abstained from voting because she was not present at that meeting.

MAYOR NATIONS UPDATE

No update at this time.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam reported on the stats that were included in the Council's packet. Balam reported that he, Officer Denham and Officer Redfield had responded to 53 offenses, had written 19 citations and 53 parking tickets (warnings only) the past month. Chief Balam stated that the one-way on 3rd Street is still a problem area because people are not going the right way. Council Member Gehring asked about the parking across from the Post Office in front of the park in regards to striping. Chief Balam stated that striping would not be done until the street was resurfaced.

Dale Hutson, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Hutson explained that there had been some confusion regarding the department moving the old pumper truck into one of the bays at the fire hall. Hutson explained that the department plans on selling the truck and moved it inside to avoid having it freeze up. Hutson stated that they do not intend to put it back into service as rumored. Mayor Nations questioned whether space is an issue and Hutson stated that it's a little crowded, but manageable.

Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent

Not present.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms passed out copies to the Council of the transcribed notes she took at the retreat for future reference. Storms shared that the Community Development Block Grant application for the booster station and water rights acquisition was due on November 15th. Storms stated that her hopes are that if the grant is received it will decrease the amount the Town may have to increase the water rates.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms requested a water leak adjustment for Cool Beans. Storms explained that they had experienced a water leak while the owner/bookkeeper was on vacation and did not recognize that the bill was too high. Upon the return of the owner/bookkeeper the problem was discovered and the leak was fixed. Storms explained that the overage was \$375.72 and by ordinance the Council could choose to credit up to \$250 for a leak.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve a \$250 credit for the water leak at Cool Beans. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brown and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mayor Nations continued discussion from the public hearing on the Draft Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Nations stated that he felt the Capital Facilities Element and Economic Development Element of the Comprehensive Plan should be completed before approval of the plan. Mayor Nations explained that there was still \$2,500 in the budget now and it is his understanding that the Comprehensive Plan can only be amended one time a year and voiced his concern regarding the importance of its completion. Mayor Nations stated he would like to see the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning be presented to Council for approval at the same time so that the Council could see how the documents would work together. Another concern of Mayor Nations is the possible issues that could come up by building on areas that were previously used as industrial areas. Mayor Nations suggested developing a new element; an Environmental section.

Planning Commission Chairman Terry Larson questioned Mayor Nations about starting the zoning without approval of the Comprehensive Plan. Larson stated he agreed with finishing the Comprehensive Plan with the help of the Planners.

Council Member Brown felt that the Comprehensive Plan needed to come first and should have all of the elements completed.

Council Member Hollowell requested more clarification regarding the differences between the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning. Willson explained to Council Member Hollowell that the Comprehensive Plan is a planning guide and that the zoning was the law. Council Member Hollowell reiterated her understanding to be that the vagueness shown in the description of the Riverfront Commercial designation in the Comprehensive Plan would be better defined in the zoning.

Willson stated that he would need to discuss the Economic Development Element further with Kurt Danison. Planning Commissioner Mike Port stated that they looked at other models from other cities and found them to not be useable for Twisp's situation. Port explained that he felt the Economic Development Element would be good to have in the plan but that it should be well thought out, not rushed.

Council Member Gehring stated that there was a lack of cohesiveness between the Riverfront Commercial designation and Mr. Edson's property. Mr. Larson stated that there are several areas currently existing in Twisp that have residential property abutting industrial property. Larson explained that the planning commission has provided that the new use adapt to the existing neighbors and provide mitigation or different buffers depending on the abutting use.

Mayor Nations requested that the Planning Commission discuss at their November 14, 2007 meeting the two missing elements, as well as the possible addition of an Environmental element, and bring a timeline for completion of those two elements back to Council at their November 27, 2007 meeting.

OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #6 – CONTRACTING FOR FIRE PROTECTION

Council Member Estes explained that he and Council Member Hickman had attended a meeting with our Fire Department and a meeting with the Okanogan County Fire District #6

Commissioners and Fire Chief Don Waller. Council Member Estes explained that he and Council Member Hickman developed a list of contacts and questions and divided that list and had not had a chance to meet again since. Council Member Estes felt that having Council Member Hickman present was important so the other members could get her perspective on this issue. Mayor Nations stated that he would be comfortable waiting for a year to see how things work out between the Town of Winthrop and Okanogan County Fire District #6 before we contract with them.

Council Member Estes discussed the lack of training provided to the Town's volunteers and that it could become a liability issue for the Town. Fire Chief Hutson explained that Fire District #6 provides some basic training for the volunteers but at this time there is no Safety Officer in the Town's Department to track who has or who needs training.

There was discussion regarding the terms of the current contract with District 6. The day-to-day operations as we currently work with them does not necessarily agree with all of the existing contract terms and needs to be reviewed. Hutson explained to Council that when there is a fire in the County the Town Department responds to honor their mutual aid agreement with the County. When the Town volunteers are at a fire in the County, Don Waller is in charge. Hutson stated that when the Town's volunteers have had issues to discuss that came up at a County fire, Mr. Waller tells them to address the issues with Dale. Council Member Estes stated that he feels that there is poor communications and conflicting personalities between departments.

Council Member Estes stated that he was not ready to take action on this issue and asked that it be discussed further when Stephanie is present at the next meeting.

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE SALARY

David Ebenger, during the public hearing for the 2008 Preliminary Budget, requested a \$100 per month salary increase bringing his salary up to \$400 per month and that up to \$100 be budgeted for training for the year. Clerk/Treasurer Storms had anticipated an increase and announced to the Council that it was in the preliminary budget for 2008 to pay him \$4,800 per year.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve a \$100 per month increase in the Municipal Court Judge's salary and up to \$100 for the year for training. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tina Comstock commented that she feels that the volunteers for the most part are happy the way things are at the Fire Department. She understands that the department may lose a couple of people to the County, but feels that all options should be exhausted before the Town considers contracting with the Okanogan County Fire District #6.

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 13th day of November, 2007:

Voucher/Warrant	24784 – 24788	\$18,629.23	11/01/07
ACH – AWC		\$6,525.26	11/01/07
ACH – NCNB		\$8,445.25	11/01/07
Voucher/Warrant	24795 – 24829	\$28,974.58	11/13/07
Payroll	24831 – 24838	\$8,130.00	11/15/07

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the current accounts payable and current payroll and benefits and to disburse payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brown 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 9:30 p.m.

Mayor Vern Nations

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms