

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 12/09/08
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman.

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Stephanie Hickman
Clint Estes
Tom Gehring
Vicki Hallowell
Tina diRienzo

Council members absent: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL

Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman adjourned into Executive Session at 7:02 pm for approximately 20 minutes to discuss personnel.

The Executive Session time was announced and extended by 10 minutes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman reconvened into regular session at 7:32 pm.

There was no action taken.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Hallowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions and/or Changes to the Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda except the order was changed to allow the engineers to present before the Routine Items.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Vince Friggione – Mr. Friggione read aloud a letter submitted by the Schoolhill Homeowner’s Association Board Members dated 12/08/08 regarding the draft zoning ordinance. One question asked in the letter was when the old school building would be demolished. Mr. Friggione personally addressed the issue of accessory dwelling units, sharing that he felt that if allowed one dwelling should be occupied by the owner of the property.

Paul Christen – Mr. Christen, co-owner of the previous grade school building and surrounding property addressed the issue of condos no longer being an approved use for his property. Mr. Christen shared that those uses were eliminated from the current use chart in the draft zoning ordinance and he is unhappy with that decision. Town Planner Schrock believed it was a clerical error. Council did not object to allowing condos in that area under planned developments.

Bill Bates – Mr. Bates, owner of the Branding Iron, thanked Council for putting up the lighting in the alley behind his business.

Mr. Bates asked that the Council budget carefully because of the economy.

Mr. Bates discussed the police patrol in his establishment. Mr. Bates feels that the police are acting prejudicially against the Branding Iron because they are only patrolling his establishment. Chief Balam reported that the officers prepare a report each time they do bar checks and attempt to check all establishments. There are times that other establishments are closed when the officers are available to do the checks; the Branding Iron and Mick and Miki's are often the only ones open late. Mr. Bates disagreed with Chief Balam. Robin Madison, owner of the Antlers Tavern, stated that the officers are welcome in her establishment at any time and said further that if you are not doing anything wrong, you have nothing to worry about.

Vaughn Jolley – Mr. Jolley, co-owner of the previous grade school building and surrounding area agreed with the statement that Paul Christen made regarding condos and townhouses. Mr. Jolley wants the Council to consider a more diversified housing type with more flexibility in the area.

Mr. Jolley addressed the Schoolhill Homeowner's Association's concern regarding demolishing the old building by sharing that as soon as they can move forward with development it will be taken down. Mr. Jolley acknowledged the difficulty and amount of work that Town Officials and staff have put into the zoning and comprehensive plan.

John Hanron – Mr. Hanron, editor of the Methow Valley News, questioned the recent resignation of Vern Nations as Mayor. Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman shared that the replacement of the Mayor's position had been tabled by the Council stating they were not ready to officially fill the position at that time. Clerk/Treasurer Storms explained the legal process to fill the Mayor's position as well as the vacated Council Member position created by the new Mayor's appointment.

Robin Madison – Ms. Madison, owner of the Antler's Tavern, stated she was saddened by Vern Nations' resignation. Ms. Madison pointed out Vern Nations' accomplishments while he was Mayor, and shared how much Nations cared about the people in Twisp.

Ms. Madison cautioned the Town Council to budget carefully in these hard times.

John Lomison – Mr. Lomison asked the Council to consider the Town budget carefully due to the economy.

Mr. Lomison stated he was shocked by Mr. Nations' resignation and that he considered him a gentleman.

Mark Edson – Mr. Edson shared his unhappiness with Mr. Nations' resignation.

Mr. Edson discussed the current economy and asked that the Town Council watch the budget regarding wages.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve the November 25, 2008 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hollowell and passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam went over monthly stats and shared that incidents are up over last year at this time. Council Member Gehring suggested based on prior costs related to crime in Twisp and jail fees that the Town makes known to the citizens how much this activity and behavior costs the Twisp residents.

Randy Johnson, Public Works Superintendent

Superintendent Johnson went over his written report with Council. Johnson suggested that the Town needs an ordinance addressing fire flow. Johnson shared in part the State standards in WAC 246-293.

Superintendent Johnson reported that Richard Marcley is very happy with the Wastewater Treatment Plant numbers. Mr. Marcley asked that a sign be placed near the location of the outflow diffusers that go into the river to discharge effluent.

Council Member Gehring asked Johnson if the DOE was satisfied with the work the Town had done at the treatment plant. Johnson replied that the belt press is still an issue but other than that, the new computer will resolve most of the remaining issues at the plant.

Council Member di Rienzo asked if a street light could be added at the crosswalk between Canyon Street and Hank's Market parking lot. Johnson informed Council Member di Rienzo that the lighting there would be a PUD issue. Council Member di Rienzo will call the PUD.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that a Fire Department Pension Board had been reestablished. Storms stressed the need to have a policy outlining who qualifies for pension through the Fire Department along with an active volunteer definition. Storms announced that a meeting of the Pension Board would be held on Tuesday, December 23, 2008. The Board consists of the Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem, the Clerk/Treasurer, the Fire Chief and a representative of the Fire Department elected by the volunteers.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms is currently and will continue to work on grant draws to tie up projects for the year end. Storms also shared that she and Chief Balam would be working on a USDA grant to fund a replacement police vehicle.

The Finance committee consisting of Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman and Council Member di Rienzo will meet soon to review the 2009 final budget.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Comstock shared that everything at the Fire Department is quiet. Comstock plans to move the Crown Victoria that is up for bid down to the WWTP.

Fire Chief Comstock announced that the Annual Fire Department dinner would be held on Friday, December 12, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the Senior Center. Comstock invited the Council Members and staff to stop by.

Sarah Schrock, Town Planner

Schrock had nothing at this time.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN ON GLOVER STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - RH2 ENGINEERS

Angi Waligorski and Will Vicik, RH2 Engineers, were present to discuss the Glover Street Improvement project. Ms. Waligorski presented the Council with two alternative concepts for each of the three blocks from 3rd Street to SR20. The project proposes a sidewalk on the West side of the street and curbs and gutters on the East side of the street. The Council discussed in part various issues: bike lanes, additional access driveways not shown on the plans; diagonal versus parallel parking; parking spaces versus saving trees; signage; retaining wall; and alternative drainage.

The issue of the trees along both sides of Glover between the 4th and 5th Street intersections was discussed at length. There are some differences of opinion regarding the importance of trees and parking spaces. Keith Comstock shared that the Council should consider the life of the trees in question, and possibly consider a well thought out plan of removing the current trees and planting new trees in a way not to impact current and future infrastructure.

Ms. Waligorski will prepare an alternative concept that shows diagonal parking on the West side of the street and parallel parking on the East side of the street for all three blocks. This alternative will also show access options for undeveloped property on Glover.

OLD BUSINESS

DRAFT ZONING ORDINANCE #601

Mark Edson presented the Council with a letter dated 12/09/08 outlining his concerns regarding the draft zoning ordinance. Mr. Edson discussed in part the following: welding light; vibration; non-conforming uses; interior lot line buffers (footnote addresses this issue); overhead lighting; rebuilding in case of structure damage; building openings; and access easements.

Council Member Estes revisited Accessory Dwelling Units in regards to owner occupancy and adequate parking. Planner Schrock shared that her main concern regarding the requirement of the owner of the property having to live in one unit was enforcement. Schrock agreed to revisit this issue.

Planner Schrock confirmed that the Planned Development issue correcting the building of condos in the R1 and R2 zones would be done.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman closed the public hearing at 10:15 pm.

TWISP LIBRARY EXPANSION REQUEST

Clerk/Treasurer Storms shared that the Friends of the Library are asking for support to increase the square footage of the library by incorporating the room next door to them at the Community Center. This task would require a small amount of construction to join the rooms together. Council Member Estes shared that he would like to support the library and the Community Center in this project. The Friends are asking for direction because they also knew the Forest Service had been considered as a location for an expanded library.

Council Member Gehring reminded the Council that the Public Development Authority (PDA) has a plan to accommodate the library in a room at the Forest Service Compound if the property is acquired. Council Member Gehring shared the PDA status regarding the Forest Service Property. Council Member Gehring reported that the PDA should have a decision by the Federal Court regarding the Forest Service Property in January. Gehring requested Council hold off on their decision to support any expansion of the library by the Friends of the Library until the end of January. Clerk/Treasurer Storms stated that in order to hold the space \$380 would need to be paid by the Town for the January rent. Council agreed to wait until January and pay an additional month-to-month rent payment for the space.

2009 FINAL BUDGET – ORDINANCE #602

Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman stated that the final budget discussion will be postponed until the December 23, 2008 Council meeting so that she and the finance committee can get up to speed on the details.

NEW BUSINESS

HIGHLANDS ASSOCIATES 2009 CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

Clerk/Treasurer Storms stated she'd contacted Kurt Danison, owner of Highlands Associates to discuss the proposed 2009 Contract for Services. Storms stated the proposed contract amount of \$20,280 would cover a planner for 6 hours per week, preferably 4 set hours in the office and 2 hours for meetings and Kurt's consultations; special projects would cost extra.

Council pointed out one error in text on page 2 of the contract and one error in Attachment "A", #5. Staff will make the corrections

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the 2009 Highlands Associates Contract for Services as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

NUISANCE ORDINANCE REGARDING JUNK VEHICLES

Chief Balam discussed the current Nuisance ordinance in regards to junk vehicles. Balam shared that Lori Rodio as Code Enforcement has been identifying and sending out notices to those who have junk vehicles on their property. Chief Balam explained that some vehicles, by ordinance, should be removed because they either are inoperable or are not licensed however they may be considered antiques or collector's items by their owners. Balam asked Council for direction

regarding the appearance of fairness and how, if at all, the Town would define value. Council Member Estes shared some history and the intent of the ordinance as it was developed. After a brief discussion the Council agreed that the nuisance ordinance defines junk vehicles well and that they do not want to revise it.

STONEGARDEN FEDERAL GRANT – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Balam requested authorization from the Council to participate in the Stonegarden Federal Grant process. Chief Balam explained the Stonegarden Grant is a homeland security grant through the Border Patrol and because of Twisp’s close proximity to the Canadian border and our airport we are eligible to apply. Balam shared that some of the equipment that we may be able to obtain is surveillance cameras at the airport, GPS for tracking, and night surveillance equipment

Council Member di Rienzo moved to authorize participation in the Stonegarden Federal Grant process. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB – REQUEST TO USE THE TOWN PARK

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed a written request the Town had received from the Cascade Bicycle Club to use the Twisp Town Park to camp on August 3 – 4, 2009.

MOTION:

Council Member di Rienzo moved to allow the Cascade Bicycle Club to camp in the Twisp Town Park on August 3rd and 4th, 2009 with the stipulations that they provide proof of insurance and they work with the Town on health and safety issues. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman asked Mark Edson if he was satisfied with the outcome of the Zoning Ordinance discussion. Mr. Edson stated he was not sure.

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 9th day of December, 2008:

Cashmere Valley Bank	ACH	\$1,254.99	12/01/08
Checks/Vouchers	#25896 - #25900	\$22,529.18	12/02/08
Payroll	#12017 - #12038	\$18,460.80	12/02/08
Checks/Vouchers	#25895	\$15,000.00	12/02/08
Checks/Vouchers	#25901 - #25932	\$53,344.88	12/09/08
Checks/Vouchers	#25933 - #25940	\$7,810.00	12/15/08

MOTION:

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

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Gehring moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor Pro-Tem Stephanie Hickman

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen G. Storms