

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes 12/23/08
7:00 PM**

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

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

Council members absent: Tina diRienzo

EXECUTIVE SESSION – APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL

Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman adjourned into Executive Session at 7:00 pm for approximately 30 minutes to discuss personnel. Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman extended the session twice each time for 15 minutes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman reconvened into regular session at 7:54 pm.

No action was taken at this time.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Estes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions and/or Changes to the Agenda

Discussion regarding the appointment of the Mayor was added to old business.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mark Edson shared that he considers the proposed zoning changes to be unlawful and harmful to his business and taking property value from him. Mr. Edson then directed his comments to Council Member Gehring; Gehring replied that Mr. Edson's business will not be non-conforming and would be grandfathered in as is and that the new regulations would only affect new industrial business. Mr. Edson shared that he feels that the Council is protecting undeveloped property and property owners if they pass the proposed zoning ordinance. Leone Edson questioned whether they would receive the backing of the Council Members if in the future there were issues regarding their business.

Paul Christen discussed the importance of protecting the existing businesses as they are today to maintain a good business base in Twisp. He asked why we needed to have new standards for businesses. Mr. Christen asked that the Council Members keep an open mind while considering the proposed zoning ordinance.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the December 9, 2008 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rick Balam, Police Chief

Chief Balam did not have a report at this time.

Randy Johnson, Public Works Superintendent

Superintendent Johnson was absent due to the snow plowing schedule.

Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed a correspondence from Town Attorney Scott DeTro regarding winter flow impact on the Methow River. Storms reported that it could be 3 to 5 years before a study would be completed regarding the effect on fish of winter river levels and that the DOE may make any change of time of use of water dependent on that study. We are not sure what they will do, but they (DOE) will be consulting with the stream team from the State Wildlife Department. They said the discussion should be in January.

Keith Comstock, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Comstock reported that he is interested in moving forward with the pension issue, including meeting with the Pension Board. Chief Comstock reported that everything is running smoothly at the Fire Department.

OLD BUSINESS

DRAFT ZONING ORDINANCE #601

Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman shared that the Council would be reviewing the staff report prepared by Town Planner Sarah Schrock, but not taking action on Ordinance #601. Council Member Hallowell asked that Section II. 8 Performance Standards be checked for accuracy. Council discussed using a different method other than track changes to show changes on future versions or documents.

2009 FINAL BUDGET – ORDINANCE #602

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reviewed Ordinance #602 and related attachments regarding the 2009 Final Budget. Council Member Gehring asked Chief Balam if the amount in the budget for police services is typically 50-60% of the general fund budget for small towns. There was also discussion about the increased costs that are passed on to the Town for jail fees and court services. Chief Balam shared that because it is impossible to predict how many arrests will be made annually, it is hard to control that budget. Chief Balam spoke briefly regarding the calculations that Okanogan County currently uses to charge jail fees. Balam shared that the

calculation used was particularly unfair to Twisp and Winthrop this year. Council Member Gehring asked if more time could be spent on crime prevention with the assistance of the community; Balam replied that he and his officers do as much as possible with the time they have in way of community contact and crime prevention. One example is their work with the owners of the mobile home park.

Council Member Hollowell commented that Clerk/Treasurer Storms did a great job putting the budget together.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve Ordinance #602 adopting the 2009 Final Budget. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hollowell and passed unanimously.

SURPLUS VEHICLES

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that none of the vehicles that had previously been designated as surplus had sold. Storms shared the list and minimum prices advertised. Council Member Estes felt that the prices were too high and offered to check with local car dealer Gary Clark to obtain more accurate prices so we can try again to sell them.

GLOVER STREET PROJECT

Council discussed keeping the trees on the East side of Glover Street or removing them and replanting. It was decided that the Public Works Committee consisting of Council Members Hollowell and Estes would meet with the Tree Board to determine the health of the trees before a decision was made.

The proposed crosswalk crossing Glover Street east to west at Highway 20 was discussed. The Council came to the consensus that the crosswalk may be dangerous because of the cars coming off of SR20 and followed the engineer's recommendation to eliminate it since there is currently no sidewalk on the Forest Service side to use anyway.

Council Member Hollowell felt that diagonal parking between 4th Avenue and 5th Avenue would be beneficial because of the commercial zoning designation in that area. Council Member Estes shared that his main concerns are that the street width is consistent and that we consider public safety. Council Member Gehring shared that he wants to save the trees on the east side of the street that are in question. Council agreed to move forward with discussion on the trees after the Tree Board and Public Works Committee met.

MAYOR'S POSITION

Mayor Pro-Tem Hickman discussed the Council's acceptance of Vern Nation's resignation letter and the need to elect a Mayor to take his place.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to nominate Stephanie Hickman to the position of Mayor. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hollowell and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR USDA FUNDING FOR POLICE CAR

Chief Balam requested Council authorization to submit an application for a grant up to \$20,000 from USDA to partially fund a new patrol car. Chief Balam reported that the remainder of the cost would need to be financed, with the estimated total cost being \$33,000. Chief Balam explained that the car would replace the car currently driven by our third officer Matt Moen.

MOTION:

Council Member Gehring moved to authorize the participation in the USDA grant/loan process in the amount of \$20,000 for a new patrol car. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

2008 BUDGET REVISION 2 – ORDINANCE #604

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that a second budget revision was necessary to make sure the fund balances relating to the Methow Watershed and Streets would not show negative balances for 2008 while she is waiting for grant and tax monies to come in. Storms reported that approximately \$17,000 in inter-fund loans was needed to safeguard these funds and the final budget revision reflects those changes.

MOTION:

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve Ordinance #604 regarding a second revision to the 2008 budget. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously.

TEMPORARY TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS – RESOLUTION #08-433

Clerk/Treasurer Storms shared that Resolution #08-433 outlines the procedure in which inter-fund loans are to be paid back.

MOTION:

Council Member Estes moved to approve Resolution #08-433 relating to temporary transfers between funds. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Christen commented on the following issues:

- Alignment of Glover Street and supporting the replacement of the trees on the East side of Glover Street.
- The Building and Planning Department budgets and alternatives to the current contracts the Town of Twisp currently has.
- Suggested purchasing patrol cars from the Forest Service used vehicle inventory.
- Suggested on the East side of Glover Street between 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue (Comstock/di Rienzo property) that they consider providing access in the alley to those lots providing a more pedestrian oriented business environment off of Glover Street.

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 23rd day of December, 2008:

Checks/Vouchers	#25941 - #25976	\$129,144.42	12/23/08
Checks/Vouchers	#25977 - #25978	\$83.61	12/23/08

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 Estes 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 9:38 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mayor Stephanie Hickman

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen G. Storms