

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 11/23/2021

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:33pm.

Council Members present via phone/video: Hans Smith
Mark Easton
Aaron Studen
Alan Caswell
Hannah Cordes

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

Addition:

Discussion/Action: Request for Letter of Support – PUD Broadband

Public Comment:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that while the town has received lots of comments for tonight’s meeting on housing, those comments will be read at the next Council meeting when the topic of housing will be on the agenda.

Pertaining to a Discussion Item in the last council meeting on November 9th which was titled – Committee Appointment and Communication Procedures, I was totally disgusted and surprised at how poorly the situation was handled. Not one person at the table had the wisdom or was wearing their “BEE” T shirt to see that all jumped on the bandwagon to throw the Board Chairman under the bus, not once, but numerous times. I could see by Sandy Liman’s letter that there was more to the story and that it could easily have been researched more. Even an easier way to handle this was – why couldn’t Randy have gotten them both on the phone to join the discussion or really, this should have been looked into more thoroughly by administration, which would have been Soo, and no need to be aired in public.
Leone Edson, Twisp

Mayor Ing-Moody responded to the comments to correct the false assumption that she and staff had not looked into the details around the incident before putting the item on the agenda. The decision to place the item on the agenda was to clarify Council expectations to provide future guidance on the authority, role, and expectations of committee chairpersons and members, not just for the airport committee, but all town committees. She expressed that the Town values all those choosing to serve on committees and as such strives to provide as much clarity and support to them as possible in their roles.

Dear Town of Twisp,

First let me say that I am surprised that the dissolution of the PDA is on the agenda as there has been absolutely zero follow-up communication since having a neighborhood meeting with the Mayor and Mr. Danison. There was talk of the possibility of perhaps creating a Planned Development which would help protect us neighbors. Also discussed was the need to address the failed swale prior to dissolution as

well as other topics of concern.

As I have not been contacted in regards to issues pointed out during walk around meetings with Mayor Soo Ing-Moody, planner Kurt Danison, Council members Hans Smith and Allen Caswell, I am wondering what the thinking is. What ideas have been considered? What decisions have been made that, once again did not involve those of us directly impacted by Twispworks activities?

In light of tonight's planned vote regarding dissolving the PDA, I have the following comments.

When the PDA dissolves and Twispworks campus is zoned C-1, it is my expectation that the Municipal Codes will be upheld. In attempting to look out for adjoining properties, I do however request that the Overlay remain intact lest we lose important protections like the 10' setbacks and increased traffic problems among other things. These greatly affect the neighborhood as a whole. As has been pointed out in public comments, emails, and meetings with town officials, the neighborhood bordering Twispworks Campus is and has, perhaps unknowingly, been negatively impacted. These issues have been brought to the forefront on several occasions and need attention. There seems to be a lack of concern and communication with those of us directly affected, and there is also a sincere concern over the impacts of potential continued growth and development.

It is my hope that all involved and affected, may move forward on positive and mutually agreeable terms, with potential impacts being considered and communicated with property owners that share its borders, prior to any permitting. These include but are not limited to the quality of life, property values, traffic flow and access designations, including traffic counts, future expansions and their impacts, campus open space requirements, garbage, dust, emissions, noise and appropriate use of space.

These issues, and more, are directly addressed in the Twisp Municipal Code and on the Overlay, and must be considered should the PDA be dissolved. In keeping, however, with the concept of being a "good neighbor" I ask that the current Overlay remain intact and that Methow Street be given serious consideration as to Twispworks affects on its surrounding area.

Thank you, Barbara Maygers

Dear Mayor Ing-Moody and Town Council:

I was disappointed to see that the PDA Dissolution is on the agenda for tonight's meeting. You may remember that my neighbors and I previously submitted a petition in favor of the dissolution. However, as stated in my public comment dated 10/12/21, that petition was based on erroneous information we received from Town Planner Danison. Mr. Danison had informed us that C-1 zoning—which TwispWorks would revert to if the PDA were dissolved—would be more restrictive than TwispWorks' current PDA Overlay zoning. Planner Danison later acknowledged he had made this statement in error, but by then the petition had already been submitted. In my public comment, I urged you to find a solution to the issue of TwispWorks' impact on its neighbors, and suggested retaining the PDA Overlay as one possible solution. I also suggested, in person, to the Mayor and to Councilmembers Smith and Caswell, that you examine this issue prior to dissolving the PDA. All three acknowledged that it should be addressed.

I do not believe that any discussion has taken place regarding how to address the zoning issues between TwispWorks and its neighbors. However, I also recognize that the entity that is the Public Development Authority would like to be dissolved. As such, I strongly recommend that you vote to dissolve the PDA, but KEEP the PDA Overlay zoning intact.

I should note here that the current interim director of TwispWorks, Sarah Brown, has proven to be extremely receptive to hearing concerns from nearby residents, and for that we are extremely grateful. Given that she is an interim director, however, it's possible that at some point in the future we will once again be faced with leadership at TwispWorks that does not have the interests of neighboring properties at heart.

Neighboring properties should not need to rely exclusively on TwispWorks' good will to ensure that their property values are protected. The Town needs to address both how TwispWorks will be zoned moving forward, and also how to ensure those zoning standards are upheld. If the zoning is not enforced, it is of

no value.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely, LaShelle Easton

Mayor Ing-Moody thanked all those who submitted comments and asked Clerk Treasurer Kilmer and Deputy Clerk Grennell if any other public comment had been received prior to the meeting. They both verified that nothing else had been received.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that everything is moving forward to finishing off the year on a strong note. In additions to many committee meetings, budget discussions continue to be of priority focus; she shared that the process is being wrapped up and will be ready for Council's review and approval at the next meeting.

Staff Reports:

Public Works Director Denham said that everything in his department is moving full speed ahead. He said the Town was awarded a grant for the Cascade Loop re construction and much needed overlay from TIB. He said they are still waiting to hear about the maintenance grant from TIB. He said the Wastewater Treatment Plant digester is close to being empty. He said the plant is running extraordinarily well. Council Member Easton said he was out visiting the new Sports Complex and said it is a beautiful place and they did an excellent job. He is wondering if TranGo is planning to have an outgoing stop there and if so, he would recommend that youth – under 18 would be allowed to ride free to the Sports Complex. TranGo liaison and Council Member Studen said he wasn't sure about the route change request but that he would bring it up to the operations department. He said sometimes those requests take time. Council Member Caswell stated that he enjoys using the track at the new facility and asked Denham if there was a final walkthrough yet? Denham replied that there was a walkthrough, and some items are being held over until Spring. He said that with the little funding remaining, they would like to use it to gravel the parking area. He also reported that the Civic Building is on track for a May 2022 completion. He said it is going well and is pleased with the project management and contractors working on the building.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Council Member Caswell attended the recent Planning Commission meeting where they continue to work on the Sign Code. He said they are working on defining illuminated signs and how they will fit into the code along with a possible amortization schedule for non-compliant signs. He said they are hoping to have a final draft ready for the Council's review very soon.

Council Member Cordes reported that she attended a Friends of the Pool (FOP) meeting where they discussed marketing ideas and ways to communicate with the public on raising funds. She said they were contacted by the Biochar group who reached out to connect about the pool and hope to be able to work together in the future.

Council Member Easton attended the Twisp Chamber of Commerce meeting where the items discussed are on the agenda for tonight's meeting. He also attended the Resilient Methow Implementation Hub meeting where they help guide and choose actions to implement from the Climate Action Plan. He said that the Tree Board has gone through the process and encouraged other committees to see how it can work to their benefit.

Council Member Smith attended the Twisp Airport Advisory Board (TAAB) meeting. He said it was the first meeting in several months. They took care of some housekeeping from prior meetings and discussed how to keep business moving in between meetings and how to keep the information flowing between the TAAB and councilmembers / staff. He said they also discussed the Capital Facilities Plan and how the board is tracking the priorities and if it's lining up with the airport plan. He said they also discussed hangar lease rates and would like to make a recommendation to the Town of the new lease rate moving forward. He said they plan to meet again in two months.

Council Member Smith attended the Public Safety Committee meeting where they discussed the potential annexation with Okanogan Fire District 6 and the Town of Twisp. They reviewed the terms between the Fire District and the Town of Winthrop, and he said there will need to be further discussion by the committee to decide how annexation will look. The committee reviewed the equipment / asset list. He said it was a good first discussion.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #779 – Municipal Judge Salary:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that Judge Ebenger is the town's Municipal Court Judge. He has requested a salary increase of \$75 per month for the next four years; she stated that it has been a few years since the position of judge has received an increase in pay.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Ordinance #779 as presented. Council Member Caswell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Twisp Municipal Court Judge Appointment:

Mayor Ing-Moody said she is appointing Judge Ebenger to a new 4-year term effective in 2022. Judge Ebenger said that he enjoys the work and that the town is growing and very active. He said that he has mostly handled traffic infractions and ordinance violations for the town.

Council Member Caswell moved to appoint Judge Ebenger as the Twisp Municipal Court Judge as presented. Council Member Cordes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution#21-681 – Twisp Public Development Authority Dissolution:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the discussion saying that there is a process to go through in dissolving the Public Development Authority (PDA). She said that during previous conversations about the PDA dissolution, there was an issue identified with a stormwater swale that needed a solution prior to moving forward with the dissolution. Director Denham stated that there was approval from a 3rd party engineering firm for the design and construction of the swale and that TwispWorks has committed to following through with the project. Councilmember Smith stated that as a Public Works Committee, they had made a recommendation to wait on the PDA dissolution based on wanting to see a plan for stormwater drainage. He would like the committee to make a recommendation only if the project is going to move forward. Mayor Ing-Moody said that TwispWorks is asking for additional considerations for dissolving the PDA. They said their insurance will run out by the end of this year and they are losing board members. They are afraid if this continues to carry on – they may not have a quorum to conduct anymore business. Planner Kurt Danison said that basically there are two options for the PDA dissolution. First is to retain the PDA overlay which makes the most sense but would require some language modification in the code and he recommends that we consult with our attorney. Second, the zoning code would revert to

C-1 which has some serious ramifications unless there were potential amendments to the zoning code. Mayor Ing-Moody concluded that in order to keep things moving forward as expeditiously as possible, that Council Member Smith and the Public Works Committee work with Planner Danison to ensure that there is correct language in the code for the overlay to remain in place. Council Member Smith said that he would like to see a long-term solution for the overlay with a process to include outreach and input from community members and the adjacent neighborhood.

Mayor Ing-Moody will bring this back to Council for action at a later date.

Discussion: WA ST Department of Ecology – Draft Shoreline Master Plan Grant Agreement:

Planner Kurt Danison said that the Shoreline Master Plan needs to be updated every 7 years to incorporate the State changes to statutes. He said this is for 100% grant funding for the update. He is proposing to make an amendment to his current agreement to complete the work rather than hire a consultant to do the work. Mayor Ing-Moody said this will come back at a later date for Council action.

Discussion/Action: Annexation Request – Parcels #3322170359, 3322160005:

Mayor Ing-Moody explained to council that this discussion is back on the agenda to see if council is open to pursue the idea of annexation. She said that the town needs to provide a definitive response to the Konrads in order to enable the process to move forward. Planner Danison stated that the town will continue to have a say in whether to accept annexation and determine conditions moving forward. He said the town is not fully committed until the annexation ordinance is accepted. He recommends that the town move forward in accepting the request as the Methow Valley is in a housing crisis. Mayor Ing-Moody asked each councilmember for their decision. Each councilmember was in support of accepting a petition for annexation which is the next step in the process. Council Member Easton raised concern as to whether there would be adequate ERUs available to existing property owners within town limits without adding on additional annexation properties. Director Denham responded by saying that there is quite a bit of room for growth and is not concerned at this time. He believes that an analysis can provide more details on available ERUs. Mayor Ing-Moody said that additional water rights will need to continue to be pursued.

Discussion/Action: AESI – 2022 Streamflow Restoration Grant Application (MAR):

Mayor Ing-Moody said this item is being brought back before council for action on a grant application for the MAR study from AESI. She said there is no cost to the town for application, AESI has agreed to assist with the application process, and the grant, if awarded, would cover administrative costs.

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the grant application for AESI Streamflow Restoration as presented. Council Member Easton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Tourism Promotion/LTAC Funds Agreement – Chamber of Commerce:

Mayor Ing-Moody said this is a request to allocate \$26,000 to the Twisp Chamber of Commerce as requested in their contract. Council Member Easton wanted to ensure that Council is aware that the Finance Committee has requested better details on how the funds are spent as required in their contract.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Tourism Promotion/LTAC Funds agreement as presented. Council Member Easton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Twisp Chamber of Commerce LTAC Funds Request – Mistletoe Madness Portable Bathrooms:

Mayor Ing-Moody said this is a request to provide 2% funds for portable restrooms for the upcoming Mistletoe Madness event as well as a road closure.

Council Member Easton moved to approve the request as presented. Council Member Cordes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Public Works Director Exempt Status:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that this is her request for the management position of the Public Works Director beginning in the new year. She said that the position currently enables for overtime and this change would eliminate that ability while desired to instead provide a competitive salary without being financially compromised by fluctuating overtime expenses. She is asking for the position to change to be Salaried Exempt.

Council Member Easton moved to approve changing the Public Works Director position to Salaried Exempt as requested. Council Member Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Utility Late Fees/Disconnect:

Mayor Ing-Moody explained that an ordinance had been passed sometime near the beginning of the pandemic that allowed the town to waive late fees for utility customers. She said that many municipalities are reverting back to pre-pandemic policies since the uncertainty of covid on the economy is not as severe as it was initially. The ongoing pandemic, though still considered a state of emergency, has proven to not be as impactful now as it had been, therefore it is being requested that Council reevaluate the ability for Town to issue late fees and act on disconnecting service for non-payment. Council Member Smith asked if there is a procedure for reverting back and if it would just be rescinding the temporary billing procedure. Mayor Ing-Moody asked Clerk Kilmer to follow up on the procedure for going back to business as usual for utility billing. The item will be brought back at the next meeting.

Discussion/Action: Interlocal Agreement for Building Inspection Services – Twisp/Okanogan County:

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Interlocal agreement for Building Inspection Services with Okanogan County as presented. Council Member Easton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Agreement for Technology Support – Simple Power IT:

Council Member Smith moved to approve the agreement for Technology Support with Simple Power IT as presented. Council Member Easton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Twisp Civic Building EOC SMP Access Control Contract – Securitas Electronic Security:

Director Denham stated that the contract has been approved by legal Counsel and that the procurement process was followed by obtaining three proposals; this proposal was the lowest of the three.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the agreement with Securitas Electronic Security as presented. Council Member Caswell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: North Central Washington Narcotics Task Force Agreement:

Chief Budrow stated that this is a process that happens every year to renew our agreement with the Narcotics Taskforce and that the police department continues to work with the taskforce to combat the drug problem. He said that with the new laws that have changed recently regarding drugs, it's become harder for law enforcement to perform drug stops. Council Member Smith would like to have more information before he can decide, he would like to have Chief Budrow attend a Public Safety committee meeting for further discussion.

Council Member Easton moved to approve the agreement with North Central Washington Narcotics Task Force as presented. Council Member Cordes seconded the motion and it passed 4-1, with Council Member Smith opposing.

Discussion/Action: Request for Letter of Support for PUD Broadband:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that PUD Broadband has asked for a letter of support that would greatly impact the citizens in the Twisp area; if awarded, construction would bring fiber optic network improvements to the Twisp area.

Council Member Smith moved to approve providing a letter of support to PUD Broadband as presented. Council Member Easton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes: 10/26/21, 11/09/21

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 November 2021.

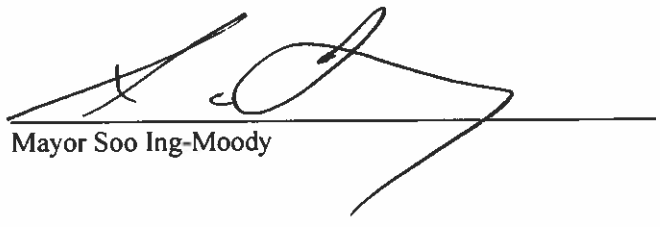
Payroll	EFT# 2390-2396, 2401	9171.18	11/15/21
Accounts Payable	EFT # 2424-2425, 2461	35270.16	11/23/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 37107 - 37130	391452.70	11/23/21

Council Member Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer