

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 3/9/2021

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:31p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Easton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

Mayor Ing-Moody read the following public comment out loud:

To: The Twisp City Council Members

We have gone through the last 2 council packets for meetings 2-23 and 3-9 and we have questions and serious concerns pertaining to the following:

In a Discussion Action there is written retention of legal counsel regarding PERC Petition, why do we have to retain Summit Law Group? Why are we not using Scott Detro? What is the cost? Is this a one time charge? How does this benefit the people? Why or what Public Employees need legal counsel? How are we paying for this?

Resolution 21-667 More money for the “Civic Building”?, what if the USDA Rural does not approve this loan? You already plan on approving the bid from Leone & Keeble, which we don’t have the money and then a loan from USDA Rural, which still doesn’t cover the bottom line on the cost, plus the negotiable items listed. And, once you sign you are contracted and stuck, whether the project goes through. But, way back when, if you would have taken a break, take time to breath and not be pushed, you could have purchased the River Bank Building next door, with a little bit of remodel for \$400,000! Wow... And once again, who’s paying for the Resolution 21-667? Why not ask the voters...

What is this warrant to Ambiance Construction for \$13,217.34? Who are they and what did they do on the Civic Building? We did not see anything put out for bid? How did we pay them? Did this come out of monies earmarked for the project?

Also, how it all the man hours being documented that Public Works employees have put in on “Value Engineering”? We do not see any accounting for this? Maybe we have overlooked something, but all of that would go against the cost of the Civic Building.

Has anyone of you taken the time to ask what our staff has to say? What they think of the upcoming projects? I'm talking about the 3 that work in the brick building on the corner, the ones that go unappreciated and underpaid, not the mayor.

In closing, please, please do what's right, rethink this process, you at this table (meaning the council) are in charge, not the mayor. She is just a facilitator, and somehow she has been allowed to change her job as she has seen fit. You need to do what is best for the residents of this town.

Mark and Leone Edson, Twisp

Mayor Ing-Moody provided responses that the retention of legal counsel to address the PERC Petition was upon recommendation by attorney Scott DeTro. She noted that the invoice for Ambiance Construction had been coded to the Civic Building incorrectly and would be corrected by staff. She expressed that though it may not warrant a response it should be recognized that staff in general perform their duties without the onerous requirement to provide a breakdown of daily hours spent on any specific tasks. Mayor Ing-Moody found the assumption that staff may not be in favor of the new facility to be a very uninformed. She shared that staff had not only been asked to provide input for the new facility, but are a key reason for the need of a new facility. The new facility would provide for a more efficient and healthy work environment for staff as they continue to provide essential municipal services. Staff have been involved throughout each stage of the planning and design of the facility. She concluded by correcting the false allegation that staff were not appreciated and expressed again her gratitude for the work they provide in service to the public.

Mayor Ing-Moody 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 gave a brief Covid update stating that it appears that beginning March 22, we will be moving to the Phase 3 in Washington State. The next tier B1 2 of eligibility for the vaccine will also begin. She said that since the Civic Building bids have come in, she has been working with staff to review project costs and seek alternative funding. She has been involved with the National League of Cities Congressional Conference as AWC President moderating sessions with our federal Senate legislators.

Staff Reports:

N/A

Commission/Committee/Board Reports:

Council Member Cordes attended a Friends of the Pool (FOP) meeting with town staff. They were able to ask questions to help them better understand how to move forward in drafting a proposal of a pool schedule. She said they have submitted the proposal to the Mayor and look forward to hearing back.

Council Member Cordes also met with Dwight Filer of the Tree Board along with the intern that will be helping out this summer. They discussed potentially having an adopt a tree program, a town nursery to provide a place for trees to start growing and to get more public involvement with trees.

Council Member Cordes attended the Parks and Recreation meeting where they continue to work on the draft of the Comprehensive Parks Plan. They are talking about how to get public input on the plan and are hoping to be ready to submit recommendation to council soon.

Council Member Smith said he attended the Public Works committee meeting where they discussed possibly not proceeding with the North Town Project this year. Director Denham said they are still moving forward with the project although there have been challenges with surveys. He said they are almost resolved so that the engineers can move forward. He said if it is not a favorable time to put it to bid, they might hold off until the fall.

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she attended the Okanogan Council of Governments (OCOG) where there was no quorum so no action could be taken. She mentioned the survey from SCJ Alliance for the backroads study that is still seeking input. She said the Town will be responding as far as our infrastructure goes. She said they also discussed water transfers which she will share later when the council discusses it later in the agenda.

Presentation: Skatepark Senior Project – Izze Klemmeck:

Izze Klemmeck, a 10th grade student, gave a presentation of his idea to build a skate park in Twisp. He said that this would be his senior project but he is starting to work on it now. He feels that kids need their own space to skate and he has been looking at other towns who have successfully created a skate park where all ages enjoy it. He said that he knows there is funding available. He was hoping that it could be part of the new Sports Complex in the future.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Interview/Discussion/Action: Tree Board Appointment – Tamar Baber:

Tree Board applicant Tamar Baber said she is delighted to be on the Tree Board. She has a love for trees and would like to see more places in Twisp incorporate trees.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Tamar Baber to the Tree Board as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Approval of Creative District Project Location & Final Artwork:

Methow Arts Alliance Director Amanda Jackson-Mott presented the final artwork and locations for the Creative District Art Project. She said the 5 locations identified by TERC to be preferred locations include: The Cove building, Earth & Sky Building, Twisp Feed Store and the Senior Center. There will also be a vinyl placement on the bus shelter at the end of Glover Street. She said that the TERC board met and have approved these locations and artwork.

Mayor Ing-Moody added that these locations were considered to be the preferred locations to initiate conversation with the property owners, but that if property owners are not amenable to the idea then the next preferred location in the vicinity would be considered instead and discussion initiated with that property owner.

Council Member Studen moved to approve the artwork and locations as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #21-677 – USDA Loan Application Amendment – Civic Building/EOC:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the bids came in higher than anticipated. She said that even with value engineering and bid alternates that the town would need additional funding than the previously requested \$750,000 loan request from USDA. She said that USDA has said there is the potential to borrow more

and by requesting to loan more there is no requirement that we have to use it all. It was shared that alternative funding options are being sought to minimize any additional debt. Council Member Smith stated that this additional loan request is within the parameters of acceptable debt limits for the town. There were no other comments from Council Members or staff.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution 21-677 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Crown Columbia Water Rights:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the Department of Ecology is asking for consultation feedback from local governments on the Crown Columbia Application for water rights transfers to create a water bank. The issue being discussed is currently considered to be adverse to the Methow Valley’s desire to retain water rights within WRIA 48 for local use. Council members were asked to consider their position. Mayor Ing-Moody provided language stating the Town’s concern for water rights leaving the valley to be sold to the highest bidder out-of-basin. The concern is that sales of this nature would create market costs outside the reach of local jurisdictions like Twisp. Mary McCrea, a former water law attorney had drafted some points that could be incorporated into the Town’s response.

It was additionally presented that a draft resolution passed by the City of Okanogan is available if the Council wanted to pass a resolution indicating support of a local water bank option. It was shared that the draft may not be exactly what the Town would pass since Okanogan’s version heavily referenced agriculture.

Council Member Cordes said she is in support of a letter being drafted to Ecology in response to Crown Columbia’s application as she is concerned about water rights leaving the local community. Council Member Smith said he would need to abstain from this conversation as it poses a conflict of interest with his employer. Council Member Easton said that he would much rather see water banking controls stay local and he likes the resolution that Okanogan but agrees that the reference to agriculture be replaced with water for the community. He would like to see a draft resolution for the town be presented for approval at a future meeting.

Council Member Easton moved to approve the mayor to respond to Ecology with a letter stating the Town’s position and concerns. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed with Council Member Smith abstaining.

Consent Agenda:

- Accounts Payable/Payroll

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 of March 2021.

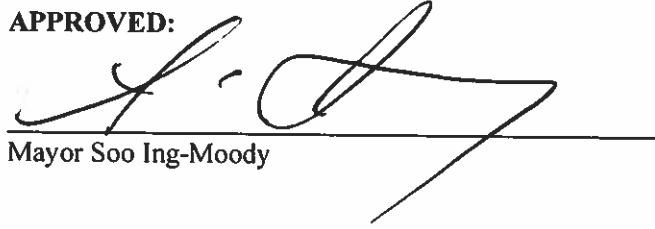
Payroll	EFT# 488-501, 509, 509, Warrant# 14450	59976.13	2/28/21
Accounts Payable	EFT # 552-554	1146.68	3/9/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36035-36057	45893.50	3/9/21

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer