

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 5/10/22

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:32pm.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Caswell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

Additions: Discussion/Action: Civic Building / EOC – Plaza & 3rd Ave – USDA Funding.

Public Comment:

The following Public Comment was in part given verbally and submitted in writing.

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to share a few of my thoughts on active transportation planning in the town of Twisp.

I am excited, first, that Twisp is applying for some of the WSDOT funds being offered in the form of grants for projects that improve and support active transportation facilities. These funds are unprecedented in their amount, and also in their flexibility of use. I have a specific recommendation regarding that application, later in my comments.

I am also excited that you will be discussing Twisp’s really beautiful new Parks and Recreation plan this evening and have a couple of recommendation regarding that plan as well.

But first I just want to encourage you to read Washington’s new State Active Transportation Plan, and to highlight a few items in the plan that are particularly pertinent to the Town of Twisp. The plan is available online, and you don’t need to read all of it—if you read the executive summary, and then look through the chapter sub-sections you will be able to go to the places in the document most pertinent for some of the decisions coming before you this year. Here is a link to the plan:

<https://wsdot.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/ATP-2020-and-Beyond.pdf>

It is a really amazing plan, with a much broader focus than state-wide planning for active transportation has had in the past, and specifically addresses active transportation needs as a “network” as opposed to just ped and bike facilities “along and across” state highways.

Two recommendations in the plan are particularly pertinent to Twisp:

1. (This one is in the “top 7” listed at the end of the Executive Summary):
“Address gaps located on or created by state highways by identifying the best available locations to close those gaps. These locations may be on or off the state highway depending on local plans and facilities.”
2. (Though this did not make the “top 7” it is discussed throughout the plan and is a particularly innovative focus): Leverage our state’s 1.7 billion dollar network of regional trails as part of the active transportation network.

Now, onto my specific recommendations, of which there are five:

First, as you consider proposals for new developments, remember that streets, and particularly sidewalks, walkable shoulders, pathways and bike lanes, are part of the fabric of public open space. Thinking about where people will walk (and roll) within those developments, as well as how they can get to them on foot, by bike, wheelchair, etc. really makes them a part of the town as a whole and helps ensure that they contribute to expanded active transportation opportunities, rather than increasing levels of traffic stress.

Second, as you get into the “nitty gritty” planning details, include a walking audit as part of your planning process. A walking audit is when a group of people gather to “ground truth” the experience of walking in a specific place, paying attention to facilities that might need improvement, blind spots, crosswalk placement, etc. Notes are taken, and a summary is prepared.

Third, when it comes time to approve Twisp’s thorough, well-thought-out, and upbeat Parks and Recreation plan, don’t worry too much about how much public input you have on the plan itself—in my experience, it is hard for people to imagine, and provide feedback on, large planning documents. Once you are planning for specific projects—and again, a walking audit is a really good way to do so—you will be able to receive meaningful feedback from the folks most invested in those particular projects.

Fourth, see those WSDOT active transportation grants as a potential source of funding for some of the trails and pedestrian and bike facilities that serve planned park and recreation facilities.

Fifth, and finally, be prudent in your request for those active transportation funds. One of the foci of WSDOT’s active transportation plan is also equity—and the design proposal recently brought before Twisp City Council included two possibilities: a very functional and comprehensive approximately 2 million concept that included sidewalks and signalized crossings, but not a ped/bike bridge; and a second approximately 4 million concept with a ped/bike bridge attached to the existing vehicle bridge. Ped/bike bridges are often seen as a sort of “holy grail” in the active transportation world, but they are expensive to build and difficult to maintain. Rather than requesting the more expensive option for this sidewalk project—and possibly make future requests for funding (for example, for a trail to a park) less likely to be approved—I would strongly encourage you to focus on the design without a separate bike/ped bridge facility.

Thank you for your time and listening ears and good decision making—all are greatly appreciated!

Ellen Aagaard

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported an update on the Civic Building / EOC and hoped to have a firm date to provide for a ribbon cutting ceremony. She said that due to supply chain issues, it's been hard obtaining some materials and that it could delay the ceremony. She said that staff will still be moving in sometime in late June and will be in the building before the plaza is completed. She said that town staff remains busy and working hard. She said there are a couple of job openings, one in public works and that interviews will take place soon for the Police Clerk position.

Staff Reports:

Clerk Kilmer reported that the PDA submitted their annual report and will be having an audit soon.

Chief Budrow said that the pass opened today, and he has already had to educate a few speeders so far.

Director Denham reported that the playground work is set to be completed this week. He said they had to replace a couple of posts that were discovered to have been rotted underneath the bark. His department is down an operator right now, so they are doing their best. He said the pool commissioning work will begin this week and will continue for approximately 2-3 weeks. He said there is cracking to the shell and coating that will need to be repaired. He said there are only 2 lifeguard applications right now and is unsure of the status of the returning pool office staff. He said that they need more lifeguards and staff to be able to open and operate the pool this summer.

He said the biosolids and lift station projects are still on schedule although they have run into supply issues but are finding workable solutions. He said he was hoping to have a draft plan for the bike and pedestrian project with WSDOT to show but he said hopefully he will have it ready for the next council meeting. Council Member Easton wanted to thank Director Denham for fixing the sidewalk at the Canyon Street crossing, he said it turned out really nice.

Committee, Commission and Board Reports:

Council Member Caswell attended the Planning Commission meeting where they held the Public Hearing for the Planned Development which has already been discussed. He also attended the Tree Board's Arbor Day Celebration along with Council Member Easton and he said it was a great event, very successful.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Preliminary Approval – Twisp Townhomes Planned Development 22-01:

Planner Kurt Danison stated that the letter of transmittal is in the packet and indicated the proposed modifications that would be required to move forward. Council Member Smith inquired about the number of parking spaces that have been proposed. Danison replied that there are 2 per unit and 4 visitor spaces as required. It seems as though the 2 spaces per unit may be placed under the unit of the townhome.

Council Member Smith wondered about the comment on the snow storage and how that will be managed?

Danison replied that the applicant knows of the comment and isn't sure if the town requires it. Director Denham responded saying that snow storage is not in the code or the development standards.

Council Member Smith asked when the applicant will need to apply for a variance if they seek one?

Danison replied that they would need a variance for any preliminary and final approval.

Council Member Easton asked if there is concern about the entrance being too close to a major intersection and how that will affect the traffic flow? Director Denham replied that WSDOT did review and provide comment on the project. He said they believe it is far enough away to not cause an issue and the potential of having a new crosswalk located there will help. Council Member Easton asked if the issue of nightly rentals had come up in the public comment for the PD. Danison replied that yes it did come up

and while there is a moratorium in place it is a moot point. He said it is covered by the moratorium until the moratorium concludes or the zoning is changed. Easton asked what the process is for a Planned Development? Danison replied that the applicant must address each condition prior to moving forward. Once they meet all of the requirements, then the final approval is brought to the Town Council. Council Member Caswell asked Danison what happens to the concerns that the MVID had over their easement? Danison replied that the owners and MVID must come to an agreement and the town must have a sign off from MVID prior to final approval. Caswell asked if that is the same for the cultural study as well and Danison confirmed yes. Council Member Smith wanted to point out that within the language of the staff report it says that commercial zones are not subject to the nightly rental moratorium. He said that now that the moratorium was passed by Council that the language needs to be updated in the report. Mayor Ing-Moody confirmed that she will have staff update the report.

Council Member Smith moved to grant preliminary approval for the Twisp Townhomes PD as presented. Council Member Caswell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Town of Twisp Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan:

Commissioner Hershenow and Commissioner Liman were in attendance to introduce the Parks and Recreation Plan and answer any questions from the Council. Commissioner Hershenow hoped that everyone had a chance to read the plan and likes it. He said they received public comments on the plan, although they didn't receive as many as they would have liked. Commissioner Liman said this is a broad plan and the Commission was hoping to establish safe transportation routes for walkers and bikers, linking the parks together.

Director Denham wanted to point out that the plan states there is a sewer line that crosses the river but in fact it is a water line. Staff will have that updated on the plan before adoption.

Council Member Auburn asked about how the overall trail connects as she is having a hard time envisioning it. She also asked about the maintenance of the projects listed.

Discussion/Action: Civic Building/EOC – Plaza & 3rd Ave – USDA Funding:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that town staff has been working on securing funding for some of the pieces of the project that were removed due to the high cost of the original bid. She said that certain elements had been temporarily pulled out while additional funding was sought. She said that these elements include the Civic Building Plaza, the 3rd Avenue project and the Creative District art panels. Director Denham gave a presentation of what the changes in the plaza would look like with some preliminary drawings. Mayor Ing-Moody said that with the use of the USDA loan, the town has been able to lock in a low interest rate. The approximate total cost needed is \$854,000 which would be paid back over a 30-year term at \$40,000 a year. It also includes many of the interior components such as security access and video that were previously removed and since have been added back in. All components had been part of the original plan. Council Member Smith is supportive of finishing the plaza, he feels that it is a good investment.

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the Civic Building USDA funding as presented. Council Member Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #22-689 – Twisp Municipal Court Ticket Write-offs:

Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution #22-689 as presented. Council Member Studen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #22-690 WSDOT Aviation Grant Application – Runway Pavement Maintenance:

There was discussion about the amount of the grant and confirmation that the Airport Improvement Board will be providing the match for the project.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution #22-690 as presented. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Data Sharing Agreement – State Auditor’s Office/Twisp Public Development Authority:

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Data Sharing agreement between the State Auditor’s Office and the Twisp PDA as presented. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Open Public Meetings Update:

Clerk Treasurer Kilmer stated that as of June 1st, 2022 we are required to identify a location at which to meet openly, publicly and in person. He said that he will move forward with researching a place to meet and plan to have the June 14th meeting in person. He said that staff will work with the town attorney to draft a policy. It would cover the need to meet or attend remotely due to unforeseen circumstances such as fire, smoke or other such instance. Mayor Ing-Moody said this will be brought back to Council at a later date once there is a policy drafted.

Consent Agenda:

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes – 4/26/22

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 10th day of May 2022.

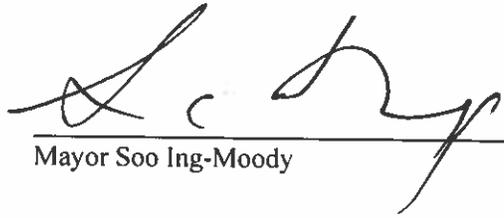
Payroll	EFT # 1066-1083-1089	64283.51	4/29/22
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36504	222292.62	5/10/22
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36470-36503	329701.11	5/10/22

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer