

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 5/24/22

Mayor Pro Tem Smith called the video conference meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Auburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

N/A

Public Hearing: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan:

Mayor Pro Tem opened the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan at 5:34pm. He asked if any members of the Council have any questions about the plan. Council Member Auburn asked if what is included in the plan is concrete as if the Town must complete each project listed. Mayor Pro Tem Smith responded that his understanding is that the plan is used as a tool to help plan for planning future projects in town. It also helps apply for eligible grant funding on those projects. Council Member Studen responded that it helps identify possibilities of future projects. Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked the public if anyone wished to comment on the plan. He said to please state your name, address and comment and there is a 3-minute time limit. Resident Andrew Brandstetter of 324 W. Twisp Ave stated that he would like to show support for the plan, specifically the idea of building a skatepark. He said that he would like to be involved in the skate park planning and help facilitate the project. Mayor Pro Tem Smith responded that as the plan develops to stay in contact with the Parks and Recreation Commission for opportunities to help. Mayor Pro Tem closed the public hearing at 5:41pm.

Discussion/Action: Resolution#22-691 - Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan:

Council Member Easton moved to adopt Resolution #22-691 as presented. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion and it passed with Mayor Pro Tem Smith abstaining. Smith stated that it's great to see the plan adopted and thought it was excellent work done by the Commission.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Pro Tem stated that there isn't a mayors report tonight but said it was great to be doing another meeting with everyone.

Staff Reports:

Director Denham stated that he is close to having enough staff to open the pool and will making a decision by the end of the week. He said they do need another lifeguard or two, but that by altering the schedule it might be enough to open. He said they continue to work on the maintenance to get the pool ready for opening. He said he had a meeting with the Department of Ecology and there is funding potential for construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said that currently it's a design application that was available for funding but that they are altering the application to include funding the construction costs. He is excited to see that happen and will report more later as he knows more.

Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer reported that he filed the Annual Report today.

Committee, Commission and Board Reports:

Council Member Caswell reported that he attended the recent Planning Commission meeting where they discussed the Shoreline Master Plan. He said they reviewed the updated FEMA floodplain maps and were surprised to see how much of the town is in the floodplain. He said they are planning on having a Public Hearing in July for a new Planned Development. Council Member Auburn commented on the FEMA floodplain map saying that anyone wanting to invest in property in town would need to know this new map. She said that it was said that Real Estate agents are required to give full disclosure to those buyers but isn't sure it happens. She said she thinks that the Planning Commission has a lot on their plate that one meeting a month might not be enough for them to meet.

Council Member Auburn attended the Twisp Chamber of Commerce Retreat. She said they are going to start the sip and chat social again with the first one being at BlueStar. She said they discussed merging the Chamber of Commerce with Winthrop, but the board was not in favor of that. They are working on the mission statement to add in Twisp. They also discussed the events that the Chamber is involved in and that they want support from the Town.

Council Member Smith attended the Public Safety Committee meeting where they continue discussions with Fire District 6 for annexation. He said they have made good progress and the communications are going well. Smith also attended the Twisp Airport Advisory Board where they discussed topics that are on the agenda so he will not comment on that. He did want to bring up the conversation about a Fuel Depot at the airport and recommend that that discussion should be held in a Facilities Committee meeting to further that conversation.

Council Member Easton attended the Finance Committee meeting where they discussed agenda items. He said they had a meeting for the HAPI grant and it is still in the working stages.

Council Member Studen said that the Trango Board retreat is coming up on June 17th and to let him know if there are any wishes or concerns about Trango that he can bring up.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Airport Hangar Lease Rate:

Mayor Pro Tem Smith said that the letters included in the packet from the Twisp Airport Advisory Board were voted on to provide a Council discussion. He said that it is a formal recommendation for the Town to consider which would not affect the existing leases, only new leases going forward. He said that previously, the council has set the new lease rate at \$900 per year. Council Member Auburn wanted to

confirm that amount and asked if that equated to \$75 per month. Smith agreed that yes it was correct. TAAB member Clayton Chase explained that the Advisory Board feels that the new lease rate is out of line with other comparable airports. He said that within a 30/40 minute drive there are airports with better amenities that would attract more people to build hangars. He said that in the past 4 years the Methow State Airport has seen more development than Twisp based on their lease rates. He said that the market doesn't justify a lease rate of \$900. TAAB Member Dick Pattison commented that current lease owners were required to increase their insurance which increased by \$700-800 dollars per hangar for the lease holders. He said he remembers in a previous discussion that the lease should only cover 60% of the operating funds of the airport and that the new lease rate is too high. He said that the new rate was only meant to be temporary and believes it discourages new hangar development at the airport. He would like to find a more reasonable lease rate going forward.

Council Member Studen asked if other airports have been investigated to find out what the insurance requirements are along with lease rates? Chase responded by saying that Chelan, Brewster and more are approximately \$400-500 lease rates. Council Member Smith said he believes that more information is needed to verify those numbers. Council Member Auburn stated that larger areas have a higher population and might have more lessees where Twisp is considerably smaller and would still have the same operating costs to run the airport. Pattison commented that the Hangars are paid by the lessee and there are different levels of service offered by other airports and they would like to have the same options here but need a lower lease rate to attract that. Director Denham stated that most airports are federally funded where Twisp is not. He said it is not an apples-to-apples comparison and that funding levels as well as maintenance are not the same as other airports. Chase commented that the airport was donated to the town and the town needs to remember that.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith would like to redirect this topic of conversation to the appropriate committee to write a directive requesting what specific information they need to keep the conversation going.

Discussion/Action: Airport Courtesy Car:

TAAB member Dick Pattison stated that they have someone willing to donate a vehicle and pay for the continued maintenance so the airport can have a courtesy car for visiting pilots. He said they previously had a car that the Airport Improvement Board has been paying the insurance on and it's costing them too much money. He would like the town to see if they can put the newly donated car on the towns insurance policy. He feels that it would help generate money into the local economy by allowing visiting pilots to visit local restaurants and shops and even stay the night locally. Council Member Easton asked how many pilots visits per week and Pattison said he isn't sure although to expect the use to be 30-40 times per year. Easton asked about the expected use of the vehicle and Pattison responded saying that they would allow use up to 30 miles from town where they keep the keys in a lockbox that only pilots would have access to. He said that they've seen no other issues in communities that have the same program and that usually pilots are rule followers.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith has the same request for this conversation and would like to redirect the conversation to the appropriate committee.

Discussion/Action: SR20 Sidewalk Grant Application:

Director Denham said that this grant application is due on Friday. He received the draft plan and is comfortable with the draft as well as the complete application that identifies the need for the sidewalk. He said there is plenty of funding available and is hoping to receive the full amount. He said the new

crosswalk is going to have a flashing light and the sidewalk will have decorative lighting like the Canyon Street crossing area.

Council Member Easton moved to approve the submittal of the application for the SR20 Sidewalk grant as presented. Council Member Caswell seconded the motion and it passed with Mayor Pro Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Town of Twisp / WA Arts Commission Contract:

Council Member Easton asked if this is for the Civic Building artwork and if so, how much is going into the art creation. Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer stated that he wasn't sure exactly. Council Member Easton asked where the money is coming from and how did they happen up that dollar figure. Kilmer responded that it was excess funds from the capital fund that needed to be spent.

Council Member Easton moved to approve the contract as presented. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion and it passed with Mayor Pro Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #22-692 Salary Scale:

Director Denham reported that he has identified a need to increase the top end of the wage scale to be able to compete regionally for the Operator positions. He said that he would like to have the potential to recruit a higher skill level that would bring in more qualified applicants.

Council Member Eaton moved to approve Resolution #22-692 as presented. Council Member Caswell seconded the motion and it passed with Mayor Pro Tem abstaining.

Executive Session: Real Estate (20 minutes):

Mayor Pro Tem Smith excused the public and staff for an executive session at 7:10 pm for 20 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with no action taken.

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 24th day of May 2022.

Payroll	EFT # 1179 - 1186	9171.18	5/16/22
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36505-36531	282440.52	5/24/22
Accounts Payable	EFT# 1197, 1213	2183.00	5/24/22

Council Member Easton moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed with Mayor Pro Tem abstaining.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro Tem Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:33pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Pro Tem Smith

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer