

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 4/13/2021

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Cordes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comments:

Hello, I am writing today because I heard that there is to be a meeting soon regarding whether or not to open the pool this summer.

My family is very hopeful for swimming lessons at the pool this year to help our children learn to swim safely and confidently. I hope very much that the pool will be open for this.

After an amazing and safe season at the Ice Rink in Winthrop I am a strong believer that the pool can be safely open.

Thank you,
Rachel Carmichael

Town of Twisp Council,

I am writing in support of the council deciding to open the Twisp Wagner Pool this summer and following state protocols and guidelines for COVID-19 safety.

The pool funding and operation is always in question and this year is no different, but I believe it is especially important to find a solution and deal with the complicating COVID health concerns this year in order that our children have a safe place to again improve their swimming skills. Two years without access to a pool will have a deep impact on our young community as they again miss out on swim lessons, swim team, and a safe place to play during free swim.

Our community has worked hard to keep COVID 19 infection rates low and our school district has been exemplary in operating safely, and I believe the pool can as well, especially with limited indoor facilities and ample outdoor deck space.

Please consider working together to find the solutions needed to open the pool safely this year.

Thank you,
Janelle Delfino

Good Morning,

I just wanted to send a quick note to show my support for the Wagner Memorial Pool opening this summer. I know that it has been a difficult year, and that the measures to open the pool

safely with COVID protocols must be difficult and costly. But the kids of our valley desperately need some level of normalcy and the ability to "just be kids" in this world we are living in. The stress that children must feel with not only the pandemic, but current state of the world is too much for those little shoulders to hold. The pool is an excellent escape for all in the valley. I know that the Winthrop Ice Rink was able to provide this safe space all winter by creating safety measures for all participants to follow; and the Town of Winthrop was able to show their support for the Rink by helping to provide funding to adequately cover the cost associated with creating these safety protocols. Hopefully the Town of Twisp shares the same support for the Pool this summer.

Thank you,
Kirsten Vanderhalf

Hello Mayor and Town Council.

I am writing to ask that you support the opening of the Wagner Pool this summer. The pool has been an integral part of my family's summers for the past 10+ years. I have so many amazing memories of my kids growing their swimming skills year after year, from splashing in the kiddie section, to getting up the courage to pass the swim test to be able to use the slide and diving board. We missed the pool tremendously last year and are hoping we won't have yet another summer where we are unable to use it.

As a member of the Friends of the Pool, please know that we are ready to help the town in any way required in order to get the pool up and running in a covid-safe manner. The valley missed the pool last year and I have no doubt will rally to help in any way they can.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jacque Wilk

Hello Councilmembers!

Heard through the grapevine you will be discussing tonight the potential opening of the pool this year. It sure would be great to get the kids outside to enjoy the pool, just as the Methow Trails and hockey rink remained open over the winter. Outdoor recreation is safer than indoors, and by swim season so many more folks will have had the vaccine. Please consider a yes vote for the pool opening!

Thanks for your time,
Linda Flynn

Hello,

I wanted to send a quick note in support of opening the Twisp Pool this summer. The pool is such an important asset to the community and beneficial to a variety of individuals.

Thank you,
Katie Hover

It is important for kids to learn to swim and for all to know how to swim. it is important for adults who use swimming as part of their "be healthy plan" to have access to the pool. I think you need to charge enough to pay all your expenses and for taking the extra precautions that are warranted...more cleaning, limiting the number/type of users at any time and other measures you deem necessary....

Ardis Bynum

Hello,

As a Twisp resident and donor of Friends of the Pool, I am writing to urge the council to open the pool this summer. I recently stayed at the Furnace Creek ranch in Death Valley National Park and was delighted to see the pool open. It was very easy to socially distance on the pool deck and in the pool. When a patron needed to use the restroom, masks were required. It is

also easy to limit the number of patrons if the pool becomes overly crowded.
As you know, the pool provides an essential place for our little ones to learn to swim and for many of our young people to hang out. Many of our valley youth do not have the opportunity to vacation with their families all summer and the pool provides a healthy, equitable opportunity to recreate.

Thank you,
Brynne Edwards

Dear Mayor and Twisp town council,
I am writing to encourage you to open the pool this year.
I believe measures can be taken to do it safely and keep everyone safe.
The pool is greatly missed by those who exercised there and enjoyed afternoons swimming in a safe environment. Not to mention learning to swim as well. For many kids it is one of the few fun things they might get to experience during the summer.
It is a great place and loved by many!!
Agnes Almquist

I am writing to voice my strong desire to see the town of Twisp consider ways of opening the pool for the summer 2021 season.
Our community has survived a year of pandemic living, found ways to protect our neighbors and are slowly finding ways to return to a joyful life rather than holding pattern. Many businesses are re-opening, re-structuring and finding ways to serve our community safely while increasing opportunities. We continue to see data from the CDC and DOH around the lowered risk when outdoors and we are learning how to naturally, constantly social distance when outdoors socializing. Indoor gyms are opening with capacity regulations and I would like to know why the pool couldn't do similar, a lowered capacity and even floating dividers to ensure groups or a certain number of people were in their designated area. There also seems to be ways to make entry/exit happen mostly outdoors.
There is a childcare crisis in our valley at all times, especially during the summer, and the pool is often a refuge for activity and connection, helping our families make it through the tough summer months.
I fully support protecting our community from COVID-19 in any way possible and recognize that there are risks of reopening the pool but to take the possibility off the table entirely, seems short sighted. I hope that this can be reconsidered and a larger conversation, including the community, can be had around how to open safely.
Geva McAdow

Hello,
Please reopen the pool for summer 2021. The research is all showing that outdoors, especially when we can choose to maintain distance from others, is safe. You could choose to keep the locker rooms closed, and we could dress at home.
Thank you!
Lurline

Please open the pool this year! We love to bring our grandkids!
Victoria Soodak

Dear Sirs and Madams...
I am totally in Favor of opening the Twisp Pool this Summer...

If it's COVID related that total Our kids need fresh air and exercise after all this unnecessary 'lockdown' ...Mentally (all this ridiculous mask wearing shut-down Government control has killed their natural curiosity) they need it!!!!

If it's a funding issue. how about working a volunteer plan?? Etc...

I thought it was being re-built...

Anyways you have a "Yes" vote to open it from me

Signed

Sharon Newcom

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she has been very busy with Town business. The staff has been busy with getting Town Hall and the Police Department moved into the temporary location. She said the Audit continues in the Clerk's office although it is winding down. She continues to attend many meetings, both Covid and non-covid related which she will report on later in the meeting.

Staff Reports:

Council Member Easton thanked Director Denham and staff for a successful chipper event. He said that it seemed to go really well for his neighborhood and can only imagine that it was the same for the rest of the town as well. Director Denham responded that they are not quite finished yet. He said they had a huge turnout and it has taken two full days to get through all of the yard debris. He is very glad to have been able to provide this service to the residents and looks forward to more in the future.

Director Denham said the Wastewater Treatment Plan is experiencing a current high load. He said there is no indication that it is coming from OSB and are investigating to see where else it might be coming from. He wanted to point out that illegal discharging is against state law and will know soon if that is happening. He said it is causing an upset at the treatment plant as the digesters are full. He is waiting for some results on Thursday.

Council Member Caswell asked for an update about the SR20 Sidewalk and the incorrect survey that was done by WSDOT. Denham replied that he had a good meeting with WSDOT and the survey might be in error from 2003. He said they might have to re-survey the area and the project is currently on hold.

The Public Works staff report is included in the packet.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Council Member Cordes attended the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting and shared that no meeting was had due to lack of a quorum. She said Izze Klemmeck was there to give a presentation on his Skate Park proposal and that the members in attendance discussed some possible dates for the Park Plan timeline.

Council Member Cordes also attended the Friends of the Pool meeting where they are anxiously awaiting any information from Town that would indicate the need for them to start fundraising to open the pool this year. They have committed to donating \$20,000 to the Town this year to get the pool open and are willing to continue fundraising more money if needed. They also believe that the pool needs a better Point of Sale system to help better track expenses.

Council Member Smith attended the Finance Committee Meeting where they discussed the current budget position and where they ended 2020. He said that revenue seems to be tracking well and in a positive

direction. He said it seems that the expenditure side is going ok, although projects are affecting spending. He said overall the budget looks in good shape and to anticipate some budget amendments going forward.

Council Member Smith also attended the Public Works Committee meeting. He said most of which was touched on is in the public works staff report and more will be discussed as agenda items tonight.

Mayor Ing-Moody chaired the Okanogan Council of Governments meeting last night. She said they had an action item to adopt the 2022-2023 WSDOT planning document for the RTPO. She said they will continue with the two projects, the Backroads Study and the Main Street project if funding allows. Additionally, they were asked to write a letter of support to bring more healthcare higher education to the Wenatchee Valley College in Omak with funding for infrastructure upgrades to the campus, which the Council agreed to do. Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Management Director, gave a report on vaccinations stating that they are now open to all ages, 16+ and is encouraging people to continue to sign up via the online portal.

Mayor Ing-Moody also attended the Methow Watershed Council where she was elected Chair. She said the application for Crown Columbia has been put on hold by the Department of Ecology for now. She said she is happy to chair and intends to run the meetings differently and focus on tangible and timely items for the year. Ashley Thrasher will be Vice-Chair.

Council Member Smith attended the Finance Committee Meeting. He said they discussed the USDA Loan application and while USDA has made a good amount of progress, the Town has not been provided a funding letter yet. He feels that there might need to be a special meeting called once the letter is in possession so that the contracts can be signed and construction can begin.

Executive Session:

Mayor Ing-Moody excused the public and staff at 6:00pm for an executive session. At 6:45pm, Mayor Ing-Moody asked for an additional 15 minutes. At 7:00pm Mayor Ing-Moody resumed the Council meeting with no action taken.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Arbor Day Proclamations:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that this is the 20th year as a Tree City. There will be a celebration on Thursday April 15th in the Commons Park where they will read the Arbor Day Proclamation. Council Member Cordes will be in attendance and said that Classroom in Bloom, the Methow Conservancy, Tree Board members, among others will be there to help celebrate with educational opportunities.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Mayor to sign the proclamation for Arbor Day 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Pool Reopening:

Staff has been working on a plan for the reopening of the pool including scheduling and staffing needs. Currently in Phase 3, there is a path to move forward in opening. From a budget standpoint, it will be a higher operating cost than normal due to current restrictions and space capacity. Council Member Smith said we do not have a surplus of funds and it's difficult to know what the revenues will look like from the user fees. He said the town has \$15,000 from the Wagner Fund along with \$20,000 from the Friends of the Pool to start the opening process. He believes it will take \$65,000-\$67,000 in operating costs without

a contingency. He believes that an additional \$50,000 is needed in a possible reimbursable donation, where the remaining funds would be returned to the donor. Council Member Cordes said she will convey the message to the Friends of the Pool and go from there.

Council Member Studen supports handing over the fundraising to the Friends of the Pool. He thinks they can deal with the issue of returning the funds.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked Director Denham how soon he needs an answer to start making plans to reopen the pool. He responded that he could wait until the next meeting but the sooner the better as he needs to start putting staff on projects to move forward. Council Member Cordes said she will convey the message to the Friends of the Pool and follow up with staff as soon as she knows something.

Discussion/Action: Public Restrooms:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the Farmers Market is open again and the need for public restrooms is growing. She said that as a County we are now entering phase 3, with nicer weather and more people expected to visit the area, the need for a public restroom in town remains a topic of conversation.

Council Member Easton said he has been hoping that the Chamber of Commerce would help brainstorm some ideas and was hoping for input from them. He said that TwispWorks has said their restrooms are only open for events. Mayor Ing-Moody asked if the restrooms at the Community Center have been reopened to the public. Council Member Caswell stated that there are porta potties located in the Commons Park and wasn't sure who put them there. Mayor Ing-Moody replied that Director Denham ordered them and another on Glover/Twisp Ave. to temporarily address the current problem. Director Denham said he also has put them at the park to help alleviate the strain on local businesses, but it is not a long-term solution. Mayor Ing-Moody said that with the temporary Town Hall being right across the street from the public restrooms it might help deter suspicious activity. Council Member Easton believes the Town needs a separate standalone restroom which he said is a separate conversation for a later date.

Discussion/Action: Architects West Addendum – USDA Requirement:

Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer stated this form is a formality, there is no financial change. He said this form is a standard form as part of USDA approving the contract with Architects West for the Civic Building.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Mayor's signature on the Architects West Addendum as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Varela Contract Amendment 2021-001:

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Varela Contract Amendment as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #769 – TMC 14.05 Permitting & Administrative Procedures:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated this was a topic at the previous council meeting; this is just the formal ordinance to repeal and replace TMC 14.05.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Ordinance #769 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #USDA Water Project Additional Funding Request – Twisp Avenue Improvements 2021:

Director Denham said he believes the town is approximately \$240,000 shy of the engineers estimate to complete the project. He believed that part of that is because they added Canyon St to the water systems project, and he was saving and planning for those costs. He said that he can request the additional funds from USDA and would like approval to submit an application. He said that it's crucial to finish the water systems project correctly by replacing the 70-year-old piping while they are replacing the sewer lines and a new road surface.

Council Member Smith moved to approve submittal of the application for subsequent funding of \$250,000 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed with Council Member Studen abstaining.

Consent Agenda:

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes – 3/23/21

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 13th of April 2021.

Payroll	EFT# 698-711, 720-724	65446.61	3/31/21
Accounts Payable	EFT # 766-768	1146.68	4/13/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36084-36137	95848.34	4/13/21

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

Adjournment:

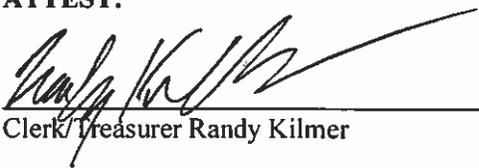
There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

APPROVED:



 Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



 Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer