

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 5/11/2021

Mayor Pro Tem Smith 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 Studen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comments:

N/A

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Pro-Tem stated that while he has been filling in he's enjoyed working with the Department Heads who have been busy running their departments and handling the day-to-day town business.

Staff Reports:

The Public Works staff report is included in the council packet.

Council Member Easton asked Director Denham about the WWTP influent loadings and if they are still showing higher than normal. Denham responded that they are monitoring the plant closely and are in compliance with room to spare. He said it was stellar last week but there are still signs that something is upsetting the plant and he is watching closely.

Police Chief Budrow said that the pass opened last week and instead of tourists slowly coming into town, he said they are already here and can tell by the increase in the traffic already. He said that there is a radar board currently on Twisp River Rd coming into the city limits to help slow drivers down. He said that it's being monitored by the Okanogan County Sheriffs deputies and it is a test site for them to try out the equipment. He said that the construction on Highway 20 at the Canyon St intersection is starting up and it will also slow drivers through town. He believes that it will be a repeat of last summer with extra bodies in town.

Council Member Studen asked why they chose the Twisp River Rd location instead of the highway for the radar test site? Budrow replied that the highway is monitored by WSDOT and it is different than it being put on a county rd.

Director Denham reported that they are still moving forward with projects to open the pool on time. He said they are seeing a limited number of applicants for lifeguards and is concerned that they won't have enough. He said they have a deadline for getting the lifeguards trained and certified and are hoping that more applications come in. He said otherwise everything pool related is on schedule.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Council Member Easton reported that he attended TERC (Twisp Economic Revitalization Committee) where they discussed the Art Installations for the Creative District. He said that Methow Arts Director Amanda Jackson-Mott will be creating a press release for the artwork which TERC will review prior to publishing. He said that he was working with TwispWorks Director Don Linnertz on creating an asset map for what Public Restrooms are available in town. He said they also discussed the Civic Building Community Plaza where they would like input from the community on what they would like to see there. He also attended the Resilient Methow Communications Implementation committee and are looking for input on the Climate plan. He said that it would be great if everyone would review the plan and comment if possible.

Council Member Cordes attended the Parks and Recreation meeting where they met outdoors for a tour of downtown parks, trail connectors and were able to get a visual on the places in the Parks and Trail Plan. She said they mentioned they would like to include pictures in the plan as well. She said that it was attended by the Parks and Recreations Committee as well as one community member.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Tree Board Appointments – Len Baublitz:

Council Members asked questions to Len Baublitz who is applying for an in-town Tree Board vacancy. His letter of interest is included in the packet.

Council Member Cordes moved to appoint Len Baublitz to the Tree Board as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed with Mayor Pro-Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Letter of Support – Methow Recycles Lease:

Mayor Pro-Tem said that this was discussed at the previous Council Meeting. He said the letter was drafted by himself and Methow Recycles Director Sarah Jo-Lightner. He said the bid is due by May 26th and the letter needs Council approval for Methow Recycles to send in with their application. Council Member Easton said he doesn't have any issues with the letter and thinks it expresses what needs to be said.

Council Member Caswell moved to approve signing the letter of support for Methow Recycles as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Studen and passed with Mayor Pro-Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Public Restrooms:

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith said there have been many previous discussions about the Public Restrooms. He said that based on Council's prior direction it is time to discuss reopening the leased facility at the MERC now that staff has visited the site. He said that previously it was closed per council action/recommendation due to public safety conditions and he would like to update the Council on the condition. Director Denham stated that there are several minor items that need to be repaired or replaced

such as a toilet, some flooring and a deep cleaning is needed. He said it will be around \$2000 to bring up to a standard of being open. He is recommending that he can schedule the hours as needed for Public Works to open the restrooms each day and have the Police Department close them each evening. He said they would be mindful of events taking place so that they are available to the public for use.

Council Member Easton said that he has worked with Don Linnertz to determine 3 public restrooms available for the public use. 1. TwispWorks – who will be opening their restrooms 7 days a week and is considering putting up signs, so people know they are there. 2. Community Center – currently not open to the public as they are for tenants use only but are not stopping the public from using them if they go in. 3. The Public Restrooms operated by the Town of Twisp. TwispWorks and the Community Center are seeking funding to help cover the cost of supplies for the use of their restrooms, but Council Member Easton believes that should be up to the Chamber of Commerce to facilitate and shouldn't be the Town's decision.

Council Member Caswell asked if the MERC had a position on the opening. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith said they had been notified of the town's intentions and that they were notified of the staff's recent inspection of the lease area. Except for previous comments from the MERC received by the town regarding safety concerns at the public restroom, the MERC did not respond to the town's recent notices of intent to consider reopening the restrooms. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith noted that with the temporary town hall directly across for the public restroom, and with the police department responsible for closing the restrooms in the evening, the MERC's previous safety concerns did not seem likely to be an issue going forward. Director Denham agreed to maintain the schedule of operation and adjust as needed.

Council Member Caswell moved to approve opening the public restrooms to support the downtown business core. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed with Mayor Pro-Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance # 770 – USDA Water Revenue Bond:

Council Member Studen moved to approve Ordinance #770 – USDA Water Revenue Bond as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed with Mayor Pro-Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance # 770 – USDA Sewer Revenue Bond Note:

Council Member Caswell moved to approve Ordinance # 771 – USDA Sewer Revenue Bond Note as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed with Mayor Pro-Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: North Cascades Bank – Sewer Bond Note Purchase Offer:

Council Member Easton moved to approve NCB Sewer Bond Note Purchase Offer as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Studen and passed with Mayor Pro-Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #772 – USDA Civic Building Bond Note:

Council Member Caswell moved to approve Ordinance # 772 – USDA Civic Building Bond Note as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed with Mayor Pro-Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: North Cascades Bank – Civic Building Bond Note Purchase Offer:

Council Member Caswell moved to approve NCB Civic Building Bond Note Purchase Offer as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Studen and passed with Mayor Pro-Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Wilson Engineering, LLC – Professional Engineering Services Agreement:

Director Denham said that this Engineering firm is going to design the well #4 replacement. He said they have hired a geologist (AESI) to do the well construction and they frequently work together quite often. The project will go to bid for the drilling and will also bid to make the connections. He believes that this is going to be a good long term well and be designed properly.

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the agreement for Professional Engineering Services with Wilson Engineering, LLC as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed with Mayor Pro-Tem 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 11th of May 2021.

Payroll	EFT# 900-901, 906-919, 922-924, 927-928	64804.15	4/30/21
Accounts Payable	EFT # 955-957	1087.25	5/11/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36162-36188	23711.76	5/11/21

Council Member Easton 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 7:05 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor Pro-Tem Smith

ATTEST:


Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer