

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 6/08/2021

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Cordes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

Addition of Discussion: American Rescue Plan Funding

Public Comment:

Mayor-Ing Moody read aloud the following public comment:

Dear Members of the Twisp Town Council,

We understand and appreciate the fact that at this week's meeting you will be considering our recent proposal to turn the 2nd Street restrooms over to the Merc Playhouse Society. Before you discuss and consider this proposal, we would like to clarify several things.

First of all, it was never the Merc's intention to create "drama" around the restrooms. We have been working quietly behind the scenes since 2018 to work out a way for the restroom facilities to come under the Merc's purview. But having seen and heard inaccuracies repeated in community conversations, newspaper interviews and your meeting minutes, we could not stay silent any longer. One recent example reported is that we were notified by town staff that the restrooms would be reopened and that we "gave no response". In fact, we were notified that the restrooms would be inspected, but were advised by our lawyer not to respond, since talks between the Merc and town council were ongoing. We were never informed about scheduled dates and times for reopening nor any changes in the town's plan to maintain said restrooms.

Second, the contract makes it clear that the town is responsible for assuring clean and safe conditions in the restrooms. It does not, however, hold the town accountable for any standard for these conditions. It has been clear in the past that what the town accepts as appropriate maintenance does not meet the Merc's or other public facility standards for cleanliness or safety. Our Executive Director has pointed this out numerous times, both informally, and more recently, formally to the Town. The restrooms have been reopened for one week. There is no sign of any "deep cleaning". There are still repairs that have not been completed. The restrooms are currently so dirty that we would not allow our young campers later in June to use them. Please examine enclosed photographs taken on June 3rd, to illustrate this point.

Third, for comparison sake, it was reported in a recent *Methow Valley News* online article that the town of Winthrop is planning to open a new set of restrooms in the Confluence Park. This will be the **fourth** set of public restrooms available to visitors in Winthrop, none of which are attached to a business in town. We understand the need for public restrooms, but we also understand too well why no other business is vying to have them located in their facility.

Please consider accepting our good faith offer. The town of Twisp has options for restrooms ... porta-potties, bathrooms in the new town hall, a new stand-alone facility... the Merc has none. If nothing changes, in the interests of our staff, patrons, theater participants (including children) we will continue to report to the council any issues or concerns, documented with photographs and video footage, that we have relating to the restrooms. We will also continue to work through our lawyer to find a solution agreeable to all. A “partnership” must include voices on both sides!

Sincerely,

Merc Board Members: Anne Andersen (chair), Jane Orme, Jane Hill, Christine Kendall, Barbara Gohl, Linda Reese, Sol Gutierrez, Patsy Rowland

Mayor Ing-Moody commented that since the issue continues to be a legal one due to allegations made by the Merc Board, the Town is unable to provide direct comment since all communication is to be directed through attorneys, which she said is unfortunate.

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.

Public Hearing: 6 Year Transportation Improvement Plan:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the public hearing at 5:38pm. She asked if there were any members of the public that wished to speak. Clerk Treasurer un-muted all guest callers to ensure their voice would be heard if they wished to speak. No members of the public had any comment. Mayor Ing-Moody asked the Council members if they had any comments and would like to speak. No members of the Council had any comments. Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 5:40pm.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #21-679 – Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan:

Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution #21-679. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she has been attending a lot of meetings as usual. She said there are a lot of Town construction projects happening and will allow Director Denham to speak to those later in his report.

Staff Reports:

Council Member Easton provided feedback to Director Denham that he used the new crosswalk and center Island on Hwy 20 at the Canyon Street Project. He said it was beautiful and it’s going to work very well; he appreciates it. Denham responded that he had the engineers out to look at the drive through on the traffic lane because it seems as though it doesn’t drive properly. He said there might be additional funding available to grind that down and do some additional work to ensure it drives better. He said that

they are planning on getting the planting done and he thinks that once it's completed it will be a great asset to the businesses in the area.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports:

Council Member Smith attended the Public Works committee meeting where they discussed the many projects happening in town. He said that they are making great progress on all of them. He said he is happy to support Andrew on this work.

Council Member Cordes attended a Friends of the Pool meeting where they said they raised the additional \$30,000 and submitted a check to the town. This completes the total \$50,000 that was requested by the council to help reopen the pool. The FOP has asked Director Denham for a list of physical things needed for operating the pool this year; he is providing them a list. She also reported that they have discussed the potential of forming a Recreation District in support of a new pool, which would potentially require a new operating agreement between the town and FOP.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion: Planning Commission Interviews/Appointment – Monica Friggione and Jasmine Minbashian:

Mayor Ing-Moody as well as Council Members interviewed both candidates for potential appointment to the vacant Planning Commission position.

Council Member Smith moved to appoint Jasmine Minbashian to the vacant Planning Commission position. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously. Both candidates were thanked for their interest in serving.

Discussion/Action: Twisp Creative District Artwork Lease Agreement – Methow Arts, Bryan Putnam, Twisp Feed & Rental, LLC, The Cove, MV Senior Center, MVSD:

Mayor Ing-Moody said these contracts are for the installation of the art panels with private property owners within the creative district. She said that each contract specifically states which art panels are placed at each location. Director Denham said he has the artwork in the shop, which has been powder coated and protected – appearing as rusted metal with stainless fasteners. He said he has everything needed to be installed. Council Member Easton is concerned about the caretaking portion of the contract because he feels that we might not have the adequate funds to properly care for the pieces if they were vandalized in some way. Mayor Ing-Moody thinks there needs to be an outside fund set aside in case it is needed to maintain the artwork. Council Member Easton said that he doesn't like the wording "as necessary." He said as an artist his version of "repair and maintain the artwork as necessary" means something different to him than it would be to the town. He said it could require skilled repair, restoration and maintenance that would require additional funding. Council Member Smith stated that the agreements are for the space to hang the art, not necessarily for the art itself. He proposed to reword number 4 to say, "4. The Town of Twisp agrees to work in good faith to keep the Art Panels in a good state of maintenance with reasonable wear accepted."

Council Member Smith moved to approve all four contracts with the change in wording as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Current Airport Hangar Lease Rate Increase:

Council Member Smith stated that per the CPI-U, the current lease rate can be increased by 3.1% to \$407.25. He said that we must provide notice to the leaseholders 90 days prior.

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the 3.1% increase in rates on the Airport Hangar Lease for 2022. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion: Airport Hangar Lease Update:

Council Member Smith said that currently there are different active leases. He said there was a good conversion to the new lease with 33 out of 37 converting to the new lease. He said that the remaining 4 leases will all expire within the next couple of years. He would like to see a new lease amount charged for any new leases to help close the revenue and expenditure gap that is still occurring in the budget. He said that the Twisp Airport Advisory Board has not met to discuss how to help with expenditures as was previously stated. He said they haven't met since the end of last year and would like to hear from them on their thoughts going forward. Council Member Cordes said she understands the budget concerns and the importance of closing the gap. She said it would be hard to attract new leaseholders by having such an unequal range of lease rates and the concern would be that if the town made it so expensive for anyone to lease, then they wouldn't want to build a hangar. She thinks that they would go somewhere else that is less expensive and the Town would not have the desired outcome for the future of the Airport. Mayor Ing-Moody asked Cordes if she is willing to sit in on the next TAAB meeting if they get one together so that she can help communicate as a council member what is needed to bridge the gap. Council Member Caswell said he would gladly allow Cordes to attend a meeting in his place to allow the conversation to happen. Mayor Ing-Moody said she would like to see a TAAB meeting called within in the next month to 6 weeks. Council Member Smith said he would love to see a recommendation from TAAB to the Council.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #21-680 – USDA Grant/Loan Application:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that we need a new police vehicle to replace the existing one that has needed several costly repairs. She said the USDA is not the easiest to work with and there is a waiting period to get the funding needed for a new vehicle. She said she would like to get in an application and not delay any longer.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution #21-680 presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: TranGo Ground Lease:

This ground lease is the same as the previous one with exception to changes of the dates and signer.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the TranGo Ground Lease as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Discussion: American Rescue Plan Funding:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that the Town of Twisp is receiving some funds from the American Rescue Plan that would be available over 2 years with \$134,410 for each year totaling \$268,820. She said that in order to receive funds, the Council must first accept funds. At the next meeting she would like to discuss in greater detail potential ways to spend the funding and would like input from all on Council.

Council Member Smith moved to accept the American Rescue Plan funding as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Potential Litigation:

Mayor Ing-Moody called an executive session at 7:35pm and excused the staff and public. At 8:05pm Mayor Ing-Moody resumed the Council meeting 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 8th of June 2021.

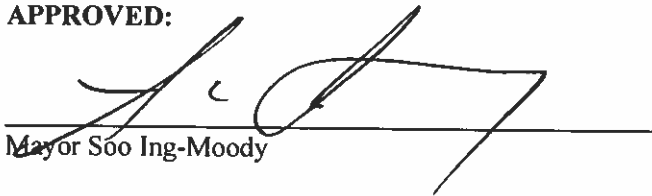
Payroll	EFT# 1080-1094, 1103-1107, 1117, 1083	61380.89	5/31/21
Accounts Payable	EFT # 1123-1124	751.68	6/8/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36217-36247	159677.35	6/8/21

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 8:08p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer