

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 2/22/22

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Council Members present via phone/video: Mark Easton
Aaron Studen
Alan Caswell

Absent: Hans Smith
Katrina Auburn (partially)

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Easton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

Addition: Discussion/Action: Creative District Grant Application and Town of Twisp/Methow Arts MOU

Public Comment:

The following Public Comment was received in writing and included in the Council packet.

Dear Town of Twisp Mayor and Council Members

I am submitting this letter as a form of public comment for the 2.22.2022 council meeting.

The purpose is to ask for the opportunity to present grievances associated with the construction of the Twisp Civic Building that adjoins my building at 114 South Glover. The two things I ask is for additional time beyond the normal 3 minutes and if possible, to make this presentation in person to the council. The information I would like to present needs to follow chronological order and has photos and letters as supportive evidence along that timeline. To do this via zoom would be difficult and likely take longer. I understand meetings have been virtual, but with vaccinations, masking and easing restrictions we all have been interacting more in our personal and business lives so I think it can be handled safely.

I would like to make this presentation at the March 22nd Town Council Meeting.

Thank You, I hope these arrangements can be made.

Jerome Thiel
509.341.4440

Mayor Ing-Moody asked Clerk Treasurer Kilmer and Deputy Clerk Grennell if anyone had signed up for public comment prior to the meeting. They verified that no public commenters had signed up.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that this is a busy time with many different projects happening in town. She stated that recently, there have been many conversations regarding the need for more housing. A recent article has led some to assume that the town has not been doing anything to address housing concerns. Mayor Ing-Moody wanted to clarify some misperceptions and share some of the proactive ways in which

the Town has been working behind the scenes in support of additional housing within town. She shared that she and certain members of Council have been involved in the valley-wide housing conversation as early as 2014 following the Carlton Complex wildfires. Together with other local organizations and citizens, she participated in some of the groundwork conversations and meetings leading to a focusing of local efforts to tackle the housing problem. To support local housing efforts, she has continued to participate in these meetings, while ensuring that the Town consistently and proactively work to improve and bolster much of the water and sewer infrastructure needed to support additional housing developments. Additionally, in recent years, the Town has adopted new development standards as new subdivisions and neighborhoods have been developed to enable safe and consistent development for our neighborhoods and enable continue capacity to enable healthy growth within the Town. She shared that the Town has been working with property owners on a potential annexation that would lead to a significant increase in more affordable housing within town. She said that she has worked with both private landowners and non-profit partners and recognizes that great collaboration will be needed to meet the challenging valley-wide housing situation. She said that she supports intentional and mindful planning by the Council and the Planning Commission regarding work on zoning and policies to help the town specifically meet the future planning needs of Twisp. She said that there has been a lot of talk in recent times about the housing crisis; she wants to assure the community that the town has been aware and been making progress for nearly a decade already to address the growing problem and is heartened to acknowledge that due to the diligence to ensure the infrastructure is capable of carrying additional capacity, that there are now several potential new housing projects are currently being worked on. She said that though this is the case, she believes there is more work to be done as more and diverse housing options need to be made available, which she said will require more partners to step up. She said she welcomes all the interest on the topic and thanks the Planning Commission and volunteers, and community partners answering the call to work collaboratively with the town to create viable housing solutions. She said that the Methow Valley is the place we all call home and encourages constructive conversations in support of our community all working together to solve the complex housing challenge.

Staff Reports:

Director Denham said that the Public Works committee held interviews with engineers for the WWTP design and for On Call Services. He said they are finalizing a scope and contract with the selected firm which will be presented soon. He said they are working on installing new equipment at the WWTP which will help with the increased flow/loading that he started seeing at the end of 2020. He is working with the suppliers to obtain the equipment as soon as possible. He reported that the Civic Building is making good progress and is on schedule for completion around the middle of May, at which time owner installs will take place to finish up the building before it's ready to move in June.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Council Member Caswell attended the Public Works committee meeting where they interviewed the WWTP Design and On-Call Services Engineers. He said that Director Denham and the team will have a hard time choosing from several good firms. He also attended the Planning Commission meeting where the Shoreline Master Plan and the Sign Code were discussed. He said these items are on tonight's agenda so he did not get into the details. He also attended the Twisp Airport Advisory Board meeting where they discussed a potential Fuel Depot. He said conversation centered around decisions as to whether the Town or a private company should own it. He also said they discussed crack sealing and striping of the runway at the airport. The TAAB has matching funds for a grant match. He said they discussed the Capital Facilities Plan and the desire to have a helipad. He said other topics discussed were hangar lease rates and the courtesy car.

Council Member Easton attended the Twisp Chamber of Commerce meeting. He said they are in the final edits of creating a new Twisp map that will be available to all visitors as a way to guide them around town. He said that TwispWorks is going to be offering more emergency grants to businesses. He said the Chamber will be hosting the Art Walk on May 14th and that Methow Arts has announced that it will be holding ArtsFest this year. He said the Chamber is starting to work on planning for the 4th of July Parade and is setting up an event committee to help with the planning of Chamber events.

Council Member Studen attended the Public Safety committee meeting where they had a positive conversation with Fire District 6 regarding the possibility of annexation. He said that they are hoping to have a pre-annexation agreement by April for Council to review.

Mayor Ing-Moody attended the recent Watershed Council Meeting where the Council asked the Water Banking committee to revisit and review the list of priorities presented by the County and Okanogan Conservation District. She said that the new member on the Watershed Council, Jean Bodeau, would like to participate on the Waterbanking committee so there will be a reworking of committee members to ensure there is no quorum.

Presentation: TranGo Park & Ride Project/Regional Mobility Grant – Brent Timm:

TranGo manager Brent Timm wanted to share some thoughts that he has for future planning of TranGo and is requesting feedback from council members. He said that he would like to do some expansion of services including the potential changing of some of the hours of operation to include commuter's hours before and after business hours that would enable more residents to ride the bus. In addition to the change in hours, he would like feedback on installing a park and ride location in Twisp. He was hoping that it could be in the same location as where the current bus parking is now. He said that he is in the planning stages of applying for a Regional Mobility Grant from WSDOT that would cover the cost of implementing the creation of a park and ride and would cover all of the necessities including paving, lighting, and electric vehicle charging stations. He said it would be great to be able to park at least 10 cars to start and have room for expansion. Council Member Easton asked Timm about the possibility of expanding hours on the commute between Twisp and Winthrop as he has heard that it would help those commuting in between the towns. Timm said that is very possible to do. He was asked about the current ridership numbers and Timm responded that prior to Covid, it had increased dramatically but that ridership fell during the pandemic and they are trying to get their ridership numbers back up. He said they only have about 4 – 5 riders per day between Twisp and Okanogan and he would like to see that increase. TwispWorks Director Sarah Brown said that they would support the effort.

Discussion/Action: DNR Urban Forestry Grant – Dwight Filer, Tree Board:

Tree Board Chairman Dwight Filer said that this is a grant to update the urban forestry plan. He said matching funds will come from volunteer hours from the Tree Board. Council Member Easton said he read through the Forestry Plan and said it is very extensive.

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the application for the DNR Urban Forestry Grant as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Shoreline Master Plan Public Participation Survey:

Planner Danison said that as part of updating the Shoreline Master Plan they have to include a public participation plan and survey. He said that the Planning Commission approved the plan and the survey.

He said the next step would be to post it on our website and have a link to the survey for the residents to complete.

Council Member Easton moved to approve the Shoreline Master Program Public Participation Plan and Survey as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Studen and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Planning Commission Draft Sign Code Responses:

Planning Commissioner John Battle explained to the Council that in the packet is a letter in which the Planning Commission responds to the Council’s inquiries to the current Draft Sign Code. Planner Danison explained the possibility of having an intern from WWU this summer to help with sign inventory and the Shoreline survey. He said that the intern would help gather the information needed to move forward in knowing which signs are non-compliant and to report the information back to the Planning Commission and Sign Committee. Council Member Easton asked for the next steps in working on the Sign Code. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that Danison should continue to process sign permits with the current sign code. Then a Sign Committee would need to be created and hopefully be able to use an intern to gather the needed information to guide Committee discussions.

Discussion/Action: Town of Twisp/Methow Arts Alliance – MOU Creative District Grant Opportunity:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that a new grant opportunity became available that would award a grant of \$13000 towards a capital improvement project. She said she would like to see it be used for the outside façade of the corner of the Civic Building. She said it is a shovel ready project so it’s perfect for qualifying for the grant. She said it is less than a \$5000 grant match and efforts could meet the timeline for completion. She said that we have had an MOU in the past with Methow Arts for the Creative District and it would work similar in those applications for previous grants. Council Member Easton asked if we need to have Methow Arts be part of the process as he wasn’t sure that the artwork had already been chosen to go into the space. Mayor Ing-Moody clarified that the work was to be commissioned along in the original Civic Building plan but was cut due to increased construction costs. The contractor has specification details and the framework will be constructed by the contractor to receive the commissioned art panels.

Council Member Easton moved to approve the grant application and MOU with Methow Arts Alliance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

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 22nd day of February 2022.

Accounts Payable	EFT# 557-559	11892.43	2/22/22
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36315-36344, 1589-1591	277642.84	2/9/22 2/22/22

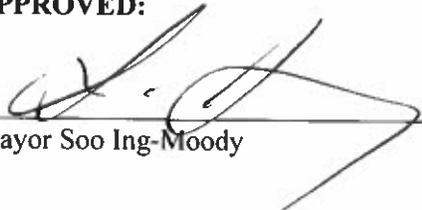
Payroll	EFT# 512-520	10672.79	2/15/22
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Council Member Caswell moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Studen and passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer