

# Town of Twisp

## Council Minutes – 8-9-22

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

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

Council Members absent:

### **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Council Member Auburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:**

### **Public Comment:**

No public comments were given.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that the move in date for the new building is still scheduled for the end of September, and that the celebration is still on for October 7<sup>th</sup>. She said that it has come to her attention that some members of the public have inquired on the process of public comment during meetings. She shared that it has been a while since it has been explained in public session and wanted to take the time to review the process once again as she feels that public comments are a vital and important part of our democracy.

She reviewed the process, noting that this is also to be found detailed on each agenda as they are posted. Commenters are encouraged to provide comment either in written form (to be included in the packets), or verbal comments of up to three minutes at the Council meeting; both comment types will be captured in the minutes. She explained that the time limit is to ensure that everyone receives equal opportunity to comment and ensures that business can still be completed in a timely manner, even when there are a lot of comments from the public on a given topic of interest. She stated that comments need not be in reference to anything on the agenda as the public comment period is simply a way for members of the community to be heard by the Council, regardless of whether the matter is currently a topic of discussion. She stated that another question which she's heard raised, is why the Council at times responds to public comments during the session, while at other times not. Mayor Ing-Moody explained that the purpose of the Council meetings is for the Council to conduct Town business in open public sessions to enable the public to witness the work being conducted. It remains each Council member's privilege to exercise their right to

engage and ask further clarifying questions or make comment in response to a comment, if so desired. Public comment is seldom an appropriate time for in-depth conversations, nor should it be expected that Council respond or start a dialog on each comment. Responses to public comments remain at the Council's discretion. As the legislative body of local government, the Council's responsibility is to review codes, approve contractual agreements, and warrants. The more meaningful conversations, the Mayor shared that she and Council are always available to meet with members of the public on any given topic outside of meetings, and the Town's clerical staff are available to assist in setting up meetings.

### **Staff Reports:**

Director Denham reported that the chip seal project is scheduled to happen starting in the afternoon of 8/10 through the day of 8/11 for the Painters Addition neighborhood.

Clerk Kilmer reported that the new Administrative Assistant is scheduled to start on 8/15. Progress is being made on the Town's new website and it should be live in the coming weeks.

### **Committee, Commission and Board Reports:**

Council Member Smith reported on the Public Works Committee meeting. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and Civic Building exterior work will be combined and proceeding through September. The grant for airport crack sealing was not awarded. The committee will be discussing ways to preserve the current surface. Discussions are being had on future TIB grants. It is worth noting that at the conclusion of this year's streets work, approximately 85% of the street surfaces in Twisp will have been restored in the past ten years. The sewer collection system projects continue, however cost overruns on the current projects and struggles with existing lift stations that require immediate attention will need to be addressed with reserve funds or additional grant/loan funding. An oxidization ditch mixer is being purchased and installed. The old one will be rehabilitated to be used as a backup in case of future emergencies. Work is being done to identify next steps on priority projects per the comprehensive plan. Requests from the Friends of the Pool for events after the normal pool season are being discussed. Work is being done on developments in Twisp and it was recognized that subsequent need for additional language on development standards addressing one-way surfaced roads.

Council Member Studen reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting with Fire District 6. Promising progress on the pre-annexation agreement is being made, eventually to result in the matter going out to the voters. At this time, it is expected to be on the February ballot. Both parties are very agreeable, but the sheer number of points to discuss involving property, assets, and protection make this a time-consuming process. The draft agreement is in final stages of review from both parties and will soon come to the Council and the Fire District Commissioners for their approval.

Council Member Smith reported that the Finance Committee had met regarding the Milltown annexation proposal. Progress is being made by the committee to address calculations for the sewer mitigation fee to ensure annexation doesn't have undue impact on the life of the future wastewater treatment system. Their next scheduled meeting should result in a calculation to be brought back to the Milltown party for review and discussion.

Council Member Studen reported on the HAPI grant committee who interviewed and selected Beckwith Consultants to administer the study under the Commerce grant contract. Three consultants were interviewed, but the committee unanimously decided on Beckwith Consultants. The consultant will be developing a plan to meet housing needs in the valley, identifying who might build them, how and where to build them, and other impacts. Beckwith Consultants presented a very comprehensive action plan to

facilitate the study, including extensive public outreach. Both Twisp and Winthrop representatives on the committee stressed to the consultant the need for two separate plans of action even though there are shared components. The agreement with Beckwith Consultants will come back to council at a subsequent meeting.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion/Action: Resolution #22-695 - Adopting OK County All Hazard Mitigation Plan:**

Council Member Smith gave a recap of the plan and his observations during his review. He recommended adoption of the plan, as well as a recommendation that members of the Council Public Safety Committee potentially be involved in the annual review process to ensure Twisp’s needs are accurately represented and addressed.

Council Member Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution #22-695 as presented. Council Member Studen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Action: Resolution #22-696 - 2021 Twisp Ave. Water & Sewer System Improvements Project:**

Council Member Smith questioned the punch list on the recommendation from the engineer. Director Denham responded that he agreed with not correcting the items as they would require ripping up the street and digging. Staff will be inspecting the identified deflection with CCTV and determining if correction is required, and if so, it will be the responsibility of the contractor under the warranty. Director Denham said he would keep an eye on whether to exercise repairs.

Council Member Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution #22-696 as presented. Council Member Auburn seconded the motion. The motion 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022.

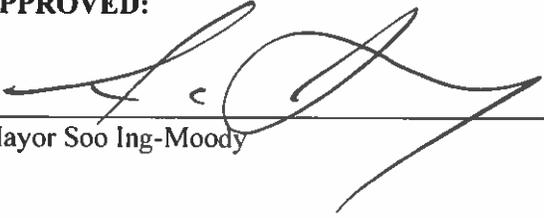
Payroll	EFT # 1765-1780 Warrant # 36669	56,108.42	08/08/22
Accounts Payable	Warrant # 36670-36709	318,536.64	08/08/22

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 6:22 pm.

**APPROVED:**



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Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

**ATTEST:**



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Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer