

# Town of Twisp

## Council Minutes – 9/28/2021

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

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

Council Members absent: Hannah Cordes

### **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Council Member Easton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Council Member Easton requested to add the following to the agenda:

Discussion: virtual meetings

Discussion/Action: Resolution #21-681 – Twisp PDA Dissolution

Mayor Ing-Moody asked if another Council member would support the requested additions. Council Member Smith stated that he is not in favor of adding these items to the agenda without advance notice. Mayor Ing-Moody asked for any other Council input and there was no response. She said that since there is no other Council member stating support of the addition, these items will be added to the next agenda.

### **Public Comment:**

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that a public comment received for this evening is noticeably lengthier than normal and has brought to light the need to ensure that the customary 3 minute limit for regular public comment be mirrored for virtual meetings; effectively at the next meeting, she will be limiting written public comments to one page.

Mayor Ing-Moody read aloud the following public comments:

Mayor Ing-Moody, City Council Members and Town of Twisp Employees,  
On behalf of Okanogan County Transit Authority (TranGO), I would like to thank you for the partnership, time and effort you all put into the Canyon Street Bus Stop project. We have received multiple comments from riders and our drivers of how nice the project looks and the safety of helping get the buses off the road for passengers to board and alight as well as the detail to safety of the crosswalks. I am positive that passengers and drivers alike will appreciate the lighting of the bus stop area once the days are shorter. I thank you for your support of helping the transit system get started and look forward to many more years of continued partnership as we continue to grow and expand. If you have any questions or comments about the transit system, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you!

Brent Timm

Acting General Manager  
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As I read the agenda for the Council Meeting September 28, 2021, something catches my eye, once again, we are going into Executive Session with Legal Counsel Collective Bargaining for 45 minutes. Now we are all getting used to seeing the phrase "Possible Litigation" which is becoming a pattern with the Town and you think it's just the ongoing battle of the restroom. But, if you pay attention, not so, this is another issue that has been going on since early January involving the Police Department and complaints that have been filed. What I'm wondering is, why did you as the mayor and council feel that it was a better choice to hire a law firm from Seattle to fight against our police officers, rather than use my tax dollars towards their salaries. I don't get the logic in this thinking. And the councilman that is on the Public Safety Committee was the one that made the motion to hire the firm and it was voted unanimously. But yet, presently you are entertaining the idea of giving raises to the Public Works employees to make their wages more competitive. I think that our new part time Public Works employee can go around to the businesses that have a bumble bee sticker in their window and he can scrape them off. Town Hall talks the talk but doesn't walk the walk. I don't see empathy written on any of this.

By using taxpayer money for this litigation, you have essentially enlisted residents to work against our public safety officers, without their consent.

Leone Edson  
Twisp  
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Dear Town of Twisp,

I am disappointed to see that the subject of the dissolution of the TwispWorks PDA, as discussed at the last council meeting, is not on the September 28 agenda.

It would seem that the PDA could be dissolved with the stipulation that they be held accountable for activities during their overseeing of the TwispWorks Campus development. This would allow for the much-needed C-1 zoning to take effect.

As I have expressed in several prior communications, the impact of the overlay on bordering residential properties has been extremely negative and needs to be brought under control, as would happen were the C-1 zoning to be enforced from this point forward.

Thank you,  
Barbara Maygers  
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Dear Mayor Ing-Moody and Twisp Town Councilmembers:

RE: Response to letter from LaShelle Easton

On behalf of the Twisp Works Foundation, I would like to respond to a letter submitted by LaShelle Easton to the Town of Twisp. Mrs. Easton's letter was read at the September 14th Twisp Town Council meeting and is now part of the public record. The statements included herein are intended to provide 1) clarification of potentially misleading information provided by Mrs. Easton, and 2) perspective from the TwispWorks Foundation as we continue to improve the former USFS complex and create a model for sustainable rural economic development.

Twisp Works has no objections to dissolving the PDA and reverting to C-1 zoning and will continue to comply with all zoning and code regulations set forth by the Town of Twisp Municipal Code. We fully intend to continue open and consistent communication with our neighbors regarding future developments on campus.

As it relates to the 'profoundly negative impact on its residential neighbors,' Mrs. Easton included numerous concerns that have been addressed. TwispWorks does not wish to negate the impact of construction and new developments on campus but her letter makes no mention of numerous meetings

and conversations over the past four years with TwispWorks staff where she and her husband, Mark Easton, were given the opportunity to voice their concerns. Also not listed are the many corrective measures taken after those meetings. In summary, Mrs. Easton's letter describes TwispWorks in the most negative light possible and completely omits any of the remediation efforts and numerous positive impacts that Twisp Works has made in the community. In the thirteen years since acquiring the property, Twisp Works has transformed an abandoned property into a beautiful and well-maintained campus that provides a home for over 30 small businesses. This hub of business activity is essential to the economic health of our town. Our open green spaces are available for the public to use free of charge. The Independent learning Center has created an impactful model that connects local students directly to real-world learning opportunities on campus. The Methow Valley Interpretive Center provides a home for the Valley's original inhabitants to tell their story and advances reconciliation efforts with the Methow People. These are just a few of many positive contributions that the TwispWorks campus is making to the community.

I would like the opportunity to clarify several aspects of Mrs. Easton's original letter, which are copied below in blue, followed by my notes in italics:

improperly secured trash and recycling that has repeatedly blown into neighbors' yards, and is visible from nearby residences - This issue was addressed with a new, larger dumpster with a lock bar. We are no longer dealing with rogue trash dumping from tourists or other non-TW individuals. The larger dumpster handles the volume generated by our tenants and is adequately serviced by WasteWise on a routine basis.

noxious blue smoke pouring into nearby yards - In an outreach meeting in early December of 2020, I responded to this concern by acknowledging that the ventilation system from the old USFS 'Road Shop' does need to be upgraded. I stated our commitment to this improvement, which will be upgraded in conjunction with the proposed Vocational Tech. Education Facility expansion as a holistic building ventilation system. I am working with a mechanical engineer consulting firm to design code compliant ventilation solutions.

- excessive noise from: the Tap Room, - The 058 Taproom moved from a temporary location adjacent to the property line to its new home in 2020. The temporary nature of this arrangement was made clear from the outset and frequent updates were provided on the status of the project and timeline for the Taproom to move to its permanent location. Multiple improvements were made to mitigate sound during the temporary occupancy.

- concerts extending beyond quiet hours, - The few events held at TW since the Pavilion was constructed have either been held during the day or ended by 10pm. We are aware of one exception this summer that went beyond 10 pm by less than ten minutes. As a matter of process, we inform performers they must complete their shows by 9:30 to ensure we meet sound ordinance requirements.

- heavy machinery - Construction is necessary to improve the campus and it is no different than other projects in town, including road repairs. Projects are organized around normal hours of operation on weekdays only.

- exhaust fans - Necessary for business and compliant with the noise ordinance.

- open containers throughout the campus, where children play and go to

School - I have received no formal or informal complaints about this issue and we have made every effort to assist our Partners in complying with Liquor Control Board regulations.

- greatly increased vehicle traffic and dust through a driveway that is not intended as a primary entrance or exit to the property - The Methow Street exit is used by a small percentage of all TW traffic. There is no official designation stating that this is not an acceptable entrance or exit to the property, it is an established right of way dating back to the USFS. We intend to pave our portion of the traffic lane next year. This information was shared with the neighbors at the December 2020 meeting and has been updated on a regular basis.

- installing a bar 30 feet from the nearest residential neighbor, resulting in excessive noise, smoking within 25 feet of neighboring businesses, and

drunken patrons urinating and defecating in full view of the adjacent residential properties-TwispWorks responded to concerns from neighbors regarding Taproom patrons at the temporary location by installing special barriers to contain their outdoor area. With the Taproom at a new location in the campus interior, this is no longer an issue. The new Taproom location is in the center of campus, providing the most buffer from neighbors possible.

- a parking lot drainage basin that has failed on at least two occasions, draining sludge and parking lot runoff across the neighboring property -At the December 2020 neighbors meeting, I stated TwispWorks' commitment to evaluate and improve this swale in conjunction with the Vocational Tech. expansion project. We have accelerated this project and a civil engineer has designed a proposed solutions. Improvements will be completed as soon as feasible.

- jackhammering for parking lot construction which resulted in cracks in the foundations of neighboring properties - This is the first time TW has heard this concern. Without more information we cannot substantiate this claim.

- outdoor lighting without adequate screening- With the exchange of ownership from the USFS, TW acquired a facility with a long list of items in need of repair or improvement. Dark Sky lighting for parking lot lights is a priority and we will convert our lighting when funding is available. At least two dozen exterior lights above entrances to businesses have been retrofitted with down cast, dark sky compliant light fixtures.

- limited to no setback of structures from the Eastern boundary-A// four of the buildings on the eastern property boundary were built by the USFS, (three of them in the 1930's/40's). Any new construction will comply with the standard 10' setback required from property lines.

- concentration of all the light industrial uses on the campus against the nearest residential boundary, with a recently proposed intention to expand these buildings even further, rather than elsewhere on the 6.4 acre campus - There is one light manufacturing business at Twisp Works, eqpd, which began in 2014. They do not create emissions or excessive noise. The former USFS 'Road Shop' is now used for Vocational Tech. education purposes. Expanding this facility for additional education purposes makes the most sense due to compatibility of uses, shared equipment and a common Tenant

(Methow Valley School District). There are no industrial businesses located at Twisp Works.

In contrast to the picture painted by Mrs. Easton, I hope that Twisp Town Council members and elected officials can see that Twisp Works is a dedicated partner in rural economic revitalization and has made profound efforts to be a good neighbor and intends to continue working in good faith with our neighbor community.

Respectfully submitted, Tori Karpenko, Director of Campus Operations, Twisp Works

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: Resolution #21-682 Capital Facility Plan 2022-2027:**

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the Public Hearing at 5:51pm. She asked the Council Members if they wish to comment on the 2022-2027 6 Year Capital Facility Plan. There were no comments from the Council. She asked if any members of the public wished to comment. All phone lines were unmuted to allow the public to comment. There were no comments from the public. Council Member Smith asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission was able to review the CFP and had a chance to comment on it. Director Denham responded that they have not been given a copy. Council Member Smith would like to wait to vote until the Parks and Recreation Commission has had the opportunity to review the plan. Clerk Treasurer Kilmer stated that passing this plan is relevant to another item on the agenda as it involves a grant application that needs to be submitted by the end of the month. He said they can not submit the application without including some items that are on the CFP. Director Denham stated that it can be

amended later if there are changes from the Commission. Council Member Studen agreed that it could be amended later if needed.

Council Member Studen moved to approve Resolution # 21-682 2022-2027 Capital Facilities Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and passed unanimously.

Mayor Ing-Moody closed the Public Hearing at 5:56pm

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

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that it is once again budget season. She said that the Finance Committee meets this week and will begin discussions. She said Department Heads have been made aware and will be starting the process for each of their respective budgets soon since it takes several months to have the budget balanced and passed by the end of the year, as required by statute.

### **Staff Reports:**

Public Works Director Denham had an update on the SR 20/Canyon Street project saying that Central Washington Asphalt has been doing the grinding and paving, which is expected to conclude later this week. He reported that the Twisp Avenue project is nearing the end. He said all residents have been tied to the new service lines and the paving should happen Thursday by Okanogan County. He reported that the Sports Complex will have its final walkthrough on Thursday this week; he is happy with the project. He said that the new complex is going to be an incredible asset to the town and encourages anyone to go see it if they haven't already. He also reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Biosolids and Lift Station 2 project bids came in extraordinarily high, at more than a million over the engineers estimate.

Council Member Easton asked Director Denham if the lines and crosswalk will be painted at the Canyon Crossing once the paving is completed. Denham replied that it will be painted, along with a few other things which will be completed, including plantings and connection of the new lights.

### **Committee/Commission/Board Reports:**

Council Member Smith reported that he attended the Public Works Committee meeting. He said they did not make a recommendation based on the results of the paving/stormwater projects, at least he didn't feel there was enough information to make a recommendation. He said they are expecting additional information from TwispWorks and from their engineer. He said he remains in favor of dissolving the PDA. Mayor Ing-Moody added that all permits that have been submitted to the town are currently on hold and will remain on hold until the matter is resolved. She said that she received an email from Executive Director Don Linnertz who stated that the engineers have already been working on the plans and might have already sent them to the town. Director Denham confirmed that he has reviewed the plans and has already returned them with comments. He said the next step is to send them to the 3<sup>rd</sup> party engineering firm for review. Council Member Easton asked Council Member Smith who attended the Public Works meeting what information Council Member Smith is waiting for in order to feel comfortable enough to dissolve the PDA. Council Member Smith responded that he would like there to be a commitment for the problems to be resolved in a timely manner so that he feels the oversight role of the PDA is no longer necessary. He would like a committed plan and is glad to see they are already working on it. When asked by Council Member Easton who was in attendance at the public works meeting, he responded that the attendees of the meeting were himself, Director Denham, Mayor Ing-Moody, Don Linnertz, Tori Karpenko, John Battle and Council Member Caswell. Council Member Easton stated that for the record he is the resident that borders TwispWorks where this particular bioswale failed twice and affected his

property, so he has an interest in seeing what the outcome is. Easton asked Director Denham if this is the proper procedure for these kinds of projects to be handled. He asked if there is supposed to be a permitting process or if anyone could put in a bioswale? Director Denham responded that there is a proper procedure which includes an engineered set of plans for review, and they always go through a review process and use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party engineer to review.

Council Member Smith attended the Friends of the Pool kickoff meeting with Ballard King where they discussed the feasibility study which will include a site evaluation, and replacement of the town pool with another facility with the pool being the focus. He said on October 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a public meeting for review and feedback on the scope of work and site analysis. He said he is personally excited for this to happen as a replacement facility will be needed in the future. He would like to advocate that the town be part of this process.

Council Member Easton attended the Twisp Chamber of Commerce meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>. He said they had local business owners that are interested in membership. He said board member Meg Donohue has some concerns regarding COVID and what the protocol will be for how Chamber businesses handle COVID precautions moving forward.

Council Member Easton attended the Resilient Methow Climate Plan launch at the Art Walk. He said the plan is available online along with printed copies, if desired.

Council Member Studen attended the Public Safety Committee meeting where they discussed the possible annexation with Fire District 6. At a subsequent meeting, they will begin by reviewing the contract they currently have with the Town of Winthrop. A meeting will be scheduled with the Fire Chief and a Fire District 6 Commissioner. He stated his hope that everything go well; it might be included on the ballot next year. Studen also wanted to respond to the public comment that was made at the beginning of the meeting regarding the Police Department. He corrected the false assumption of the commenter that discussions are for litigation purposes rather than what they are, which is union negotiations. He said it would be imprudent for the town not to have legal counsel present during such these discussions as the contract being negotiated will be in place for years to come, having a lasting effect on both the town and its employees.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Discussion/Action: Ordinance #775 – Amending Ordinance #711 Sewer Revenue Bond Maturity Date:**

Bond Council Stacie Amasaki was available to explain the change in amending the previous ordinance. Clerk Kilmer stated that this term of the loan is better in line with the timing of the project. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that in the long run it saves the town money.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Ordinance #775 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Studen and passed unanimously.

#### **Discussion/Action: Grant Application – Complete Streets:**

Director Denham stated that this application is for three segments that will help finish up some of the projects remaining as identified in the town's Economic Revitalization Plan; the Civic Building Courtyard development, improvements to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave corridor and archway at SR20. Council Member Smith said that he feels these projects are consistent with the Economic Revitalization Plan. Director Denham was asked if the SR20/Glover St. roundabout is included in this application. Director Denham responded that

it is not. Council Member Smith moved to approve the grant application for Complete Streets as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Action: Avidex – Civic Building Audio Visual Systems Contract:**

Public Works Director Denham stated that the Department of Enterprise Services spent hours and hours reviewing how the integration of the Audio-Visual system will work for the building. He feels this is an excellent system, and it was well thought out. He said the main focus on the system was how the AV will last with the building and continue to perform in the future. He is recommending that Council approve the contract to include a 1-year service plan for the first year and allow all staff to become familiar with the system and ensure things are working properly. Council Member Easton asked how this system is being funded. Clerk Treasurer Kilmer responded that it is part of the state appropriations obligated for the building, specifically earmarked for the AV system so there is not an out-of-pocket cost to the town. Council Member Smith asked if more time could be given for review of the contract since he had not been able to read it all. Director Denham replied that there is not a lot of time as they need to know for the construction to continue uninterrupted, however, feels another couple of weeks would be fine. Council Member Smith said he would like to bring it back to Council at the next meeting for further review.

**Executive Session: Collective Bargaining (45 minutes):**

At 6:35pm Mayor Ing-Moody excused the Public and the Staff from the meeting for an executive session. At 7:20pm Mayor Ing-Moody resumed the Council Meeting with no action taken after executive session.

**Consent Agenda:**

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes – 8/24/21

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 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.

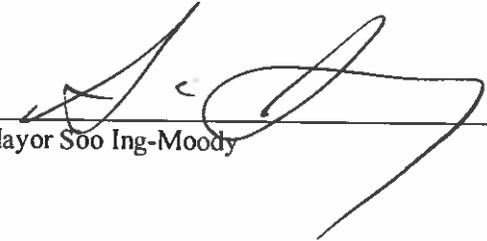
Payroll	EFT# 1861-1867, 1869	8764.32	9/28/21
Accounts Payable	EFT # 1943, 1958	5438.50	9/28/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36992-37014, 1575-1577	585291.54	9/28/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant # 37015	176127.91	9/28/21

Council Member Smith 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 7:24pm.

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer