

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes – 6/23/2020**

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Cordes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

Mayor Ing-Moody read the following Public Comments that were issued to the Clerk’s office in writing:

Public Comments were as follows:

I recently found out that the Town really doesn’t have a permitting process for public events, which surprised me after all the recent protests. Any cities that I have worked for there is a process and fees in place for law enforcement, EMS and fire, verification that state permit has been approved for blocking state route etc...and they have been charged accordingly and it’s not what the applicant wants, it’s what the Town desires and what is the most common sense.

So now, in light of one of the agenda items for a wine tasting event, how about that it’s held at Twisp Works, which has been basically turned into the hub for the town. There would not be an issue with traffic control, other than making sure we have police on duty for enforcement. Parking is taken care of and you would not be stepping on the toes of neighboring businesses. And whatever guidelines there are for Liquor Control Board.

Thank you
Leone Edson

Twisp,

In an effort to allow for greater social distancing and emotional calm, I am curious to explore the possibilities of alternative use of North Glover Street as a place that allows space for commerce and safety for our public. What does it look like when we have 100% of locals and travelers looking to our businesses for food, supplies, health, exercise, recreation and all things Twisp when these same businesses are restricted to lesser occupancy, when these same businesses are working to keep their spaces safe, welcoming and productive?

I am currently unable to host wine tastings in the cellar at Glover Street Market under these physical and emotional parameters. I am of the mind that creating a space in our street to allow for our citizens to breath fresh air, practice social distancing and generally feel more at ease is possibly one way we can

create greater and safer commerce while mitigating the added stresses and anxieties of the many people who will be in our town as we move through the phases of Washington States Safe Start plan. In this space it could be possible for me to host wine safe, profitable, and fun wine tastings. It could be possible for our downtown businesses to offer food and drink to patrons while not needing those patrons to be in their stores. It could be possible to host Yoga classes in this space. It could be possible to host dance classes in this space. This space could allow for our citizens and visitors to have a safe space to wait, feel good and be safe while members in their party may be shopping or dining so as not to fill our stores unnecessarily. This added safety, both physically and emotionally is of paramount importance in this time, in this place for all of us.

Thank you for your time and your thoughtfulness as we look to new ways of working together to strengthen the vitality of this community.

Colbey Breed
Wine Director
Glover Street Market

I spoke with Mayor Soo briefly yesterday about providing comments in support of allocating \$7,500 of Twisp's CARES Act Funding to the Methow Valley Small Business Emergency Grant program. I know I am beyond the 24 hour deadline and these comments may not make it into the June 23 meeting, but wanted to provide a brief statement. Since we implemented the Methow Valley Small Business Emergency Grant program in March, over 65 businesses in the Methow Valley have requested funding and a majority of the businesses are from Twisp. To date, we've funded 25 \$1,500 grants with 16 of them being for Twisp businesses. While we have many more requests than funding, the selection committee has been careful to prioritize businesses based on their inability to access other forms of emergency support, the uniqueness and relative need of their service or offering to our community and their likelihood for future success if offered a small amount of immediate relief.

As we understand the limitations on the State allocated CARES funding, we would place certain restrictions on funding from the Town of Twisp. First, the funds could only be used for Twisp Businesses and second, the funds could only be used for rent and utility relief. One possibility we are considering is creating a new application and a new program that will help small businesses and sole proprietors evaluate their cash flow position and plan for the potentially slower Winter and Spring months ahead. Funds would be awarded to businesses who can demonstrate need based on reduced business volume/cash flow in the May – August 2020 timeframe and funds would be distributed before the October 31, 2020 deadline. We will continue to monitor the most urgent needs through our regular outreach to the business community in Twisp and respond accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Don Linnertz
Executive Director
TwispWorks

Mayor Ing-Moody asked if there were any other public comments submitted. Clerk Treasurer Kilmer responded that no other comments had been received.

Public Hearing – 6 Year Transportation Improvement Plan:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the public hearing for the 6 Year Transportation Improvement Plan at 5:41 p.m. She asked the public for comments. There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 5:42 p.m.

Discussion/Action: Resolution # 20-660 – 6 Year Transportation Improvement Plan:

Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution #20-660 – 6 Year Transportation Improvement Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that it is business as usual – though not exactly normal, given the Covid-19 pandemic. She has been busy keeping up with various meetings. She reported that the North Central Regional Library will be installing Wi-Fi extensions at the library in Twisp. The extension would enable an approximate area of 400-600 feet outside of the library to have internet connection capability for free to anyone who needs internet. She reminded Council that the AWC annual business meeting will be taking place during the AWC Annual Conference, and that there have been three voting delegates for Twisp, as volunteered by Council, who are expected to attend and vote on all positions and other business. She also stated that on Thursday during the conference there will be a panel conversation about race, equity, and leadership, hosted by her as the new President.

Staff Reports:

Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer reported that he had a meeting with USDA regarding the funding gap for the Civic Building Project. He said they will review an application when submitted. There is a possibility that it will be a loan instead of a grant as their resources are tapped out this year. They don't have an accurate guess on grant funding that will be available in the spring. If it were a loan the Town would only have to pay back what is used on the project and not the total funding amount. He said it was a positive meeting and is working on submitting the application.

Director Denham reported that the North Town Project contractor is requesting to close Ainsworth Ave for travel while they start work on the project. The residents will be led down Burger St. and through the side streets for access to Hwy 20. Council Member Cordes asked how long the closure would take place and Denham replied that it's a 60-calendar day project so more than likely during that duration. He said they are slated to start digging on Ainsworth tomorrow.

Denham also reported that they have continued to prepare the pool for opening should it happen this summer. The pool has been repaired and filled although they continue to work on a rusted-out pump. He said it is ready to be heated anytime. He heard that the Okanogan Pool got approval to open their pool at 50% capacity in the near future. He said he continues to work on a detailed plan for if / when it is able to open so they will stay in compliance of health department regulations.

Denham said that he reviewed the USDA Sewer Collections System application that was completed by Varela. He stated that he is impressed with Varela's funding team and it should be ready on July 1. He said the Town meets the criteria for maximum grant funding.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports:

Council Member Easton attended the Twisp Chamber of Commerce meeting on June 11th. He said they continue to work in partnership with TwispWorks and Methow Arts Alliance. The Methow Arts Alliance received a personal donation of \$30,000 to help financially during this time. This has allowed them to give out approximately \$1000 grants to 30 local artists. He stated that the Chamber has decided to extend the contract for one year with the Community Center for the Visitor Center. He reported that the Chamber

has money in their budget for an alternate 4th of July installation working with Methow Arts. Mayor Ing-Moody responded that Methow Arts have withdrawn their request for the art installation and has asked Council Member Easton to follow up with the Chamber on any other plans they may have.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Action: Varela Contract Amendment – North End Water Main Replacement:

Director Denham stated that it is just a formality to amend the general services contract with Varela.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Amendment to the Owner-Engineer Agreement with Varela as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Okanogan County Public Works Agreement – Northtown Project:

Director Denham stated that this is an approval for Okanogan County to complete the chip seal bid alt that would allow them to complete the project up to \$35,000 maximum. He stated the County requires Council approval on the agreement.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the signing of the Request to County Road Department for Reimbursement of Work as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion: CARES Act Funding allocation: Local Small Business Grant:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the Town has \$29,400 allocated from the State under the Cares Act, based on population. The timeframe to expend the funds is by October 2020. She stated that some of it will be used for communications and purchasing technical equipment. She recommended that \$7500 of the funds go to local small businesses under the Methow Valley Small Business Emergency Grant Program that is being run by TwispWorks. She said it might be better to use that platform as there is already a vetting process in place. She also would like to retain some of the funds for the “BEE (Be Empathetic to Everyone)” program.

Council Member Smith asked if there is a clause that would ensure that the Methow Valley Local Small Business Grant must be used for utilities and rent and if the businesses would be located just in Twisp or whether it would be open Valley wide? Mayor Ing-Moody responded that it can be stipulated for any allowable purposes as desired by the Council, who would be able to restrict what they can and can't do with the funds.

Council Member Smith stated that he is in support of allocating the funds but would like to see a contractual agreement between us for the fund allocation.

Council Member Easton stated that they have given funds to 16 businesses already and asked if these new funds would be going to the same businesses or would they be going to new businesses? He is asking what the criteria is for the award of funds.

Mayor Ing-Moody responded that there can be further discussion on the criteria and the awarding of funds. She stated she will speak with Don Linnertz and bring more information to the next meeting.

Discussion/Action: Wagner Memorial Pool:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that during the meeting she was able to reach out and inquire about the permission by the Department of Health regarding the Okanogan Pool. She shared that Okanogan County DOH, Lauri Jones confirmed that there has not been any permission granted to Okanogan to open as previously stated by Director Denham. Jones also stated that the County is not yet ready to move to phase 3 and currently does not meet the requirements for application as numbers continue to increase. Council decided to revisit this topic at the next Council meeting.

Discussion: AWC Legislative Priorities:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the Association of Washington Cities is working on legislative priorities. They provide advocacy, services and education for cities and towns in Washington State. They also provide Risk Management which is our insurance to help protect the Town. She wanted Council to be aware of the priorities and the possibility of a special session convening in August. Council Member Smith wanted to acknowledge the importance of working with AWC.

Discussion: Glover Street Business Alternative Use:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that at a previous department head meeting there was a discussion of potential options for providing a safe space including a partial closure of Glover Street with barricades, as brought forward by the Glover St. Market. All department heads were in agreement, as confirmed by RMSA, the importance of not mixing vehicle traffic with pedestrians and potentially alcohol. It was agreed that there would need to be a plan in place, approved by the various department heads, prior to allowing any event or alternative use to take place.

Council Member Smith had a few questions about the proposal. He stated that he feels it's important to look at ways to support businesses with creative spaces. He asked if there had been a sketch drawn up yet for potential use? He asked if there has been an application yet? He said they should make a decision based on a specific proposal to the Town and what that would look like? Who will determine the use of the right of way and shutting down the street to create a walkable space for businesses?

Mayor Ing-Moody responded that there has been no formal request to close Glover Street. It was an inquiry for consideration that asked to use the parking spaces in front of a business. She believes that there should be an inquiry of local businesses potentially affected to see how they feel about it. She welcomes innovative thoughts and is open to any ideas as long as health and safety remains a priority. Council Member Easton agreed that it would be good to think outside the box. He is curious to know what type of burden this would place on the Police Department or Public Works. Chief Budrow stated it will take a couple of extra bodies to get used to the idea and support the traffic flow that will need to be monitored in the beginning. Director Denham said it depended on what type of barricade was used to block traffic, and if it would require him to staff someone to install and remove it regularly. He said that public works is on board to help in any way. He said that it might be a good idea to start with ecology blocks and then transition into bollards in the future.

Council Member Studen believes we need the support and buy in from the businesses in the area of concern. He doesn't think that allowing other vendors to come in and set up from outside the area would be a good idea. He would like to see support from brick and mortar stores on Glover Street. He thinks the biggest concern will be parking. Mayor Ing-Moody asked if he thinks that Town staff should look into contacting each business in that area to see if they are interested in the proposed idea? Council Member Studen responded that he thought Colbey Breed from Glover Street Market has spoken with business owners that have expressed interest in the idea and was willing to do the ground work.

Mayor Ing-Moody invited Colbey to speak on that topic since he was in attendance. He stated that he had spoken with business owners that have expressed some interest and they are curious for more information.

They are looking for more ways to feel safer with social distancing while still being able to sell their products and services.

Council Member Easton asked if the town would poll all the businesses on Glover Street as it would affect all business owners due to parking constraints?

Council Member Smith asked if the Twisp Chamber of Commerce contacted any of the businesses? He is wondering if this is a real need or is just one business proposing the idea? Council Member Easton responded that it did come up at the last Chamber of Commerce meeting and it was undecided if they support it or not.

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that it would help to have the Chamber weigh in on the discussion. She stated that since there is not a formal request in writing for this proposal, this discussion will be tabled for future discussion.

Executive Session: Potential Litigation:

Mayor Ing-Moody excused the public and staff at 7:07pm for an executive session. At 7:37pm, 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 23rd day of June 2020.

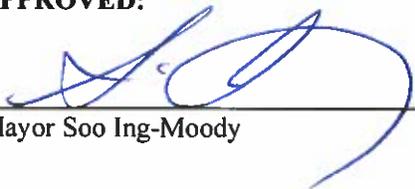
Payroll	EFT# 1274, 1282-1288	16730.98	06/15/2020
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 35550-35570	12252.46	06/23/2020
Accounts Payable	EFT # 1311	683.00	06/23/2020

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer

