

Town of Twisp Council Minutes – 6/09/2020

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:30 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:

Mayor Ing-Moody requested to add a Discussion/Action: 4th of July Parade, after the Discussion/Action on the Wagner Memorial Pool.

Public Comment:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated and asked the Clerk Treasurer to confirm that the Clerk's Office did not receive any public comment for this meeting. Clerk Treasurer Kilmer confirmed that no comments had been received.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she is still attending a lot of remote meetings due to Covid19 with local, regional, and state agencies. Today she held a Department Head meeting to collectively discuss departmental needs and outlooks moving forward. She continues to confer with staff about options for the Civic Building in consideration of how to bridge the funding gap. She reported that the Finance Committee met last week with details to be reported later in the meeting by a member of the Council committee.

Staff Reports:

The Public Works report is included in the packet.

Council Member Easton asked Director Denham if they were able to find the leak that he spoke about in his report? Denham reported that they borrowed leak detection equipment from the Town of Winthrop and were not able to find the size of leak they are looking for, but did find a small leak that will be repaired. He said Evergreen Rural Water will be also be helping them with leak detection.

Council Member Studen stated to Denham that he has a question from a community member. He asked what the status of the Parks are now that were moving into Phase II. He feels that we need to give the public a clear message if parks are open or not. Denham stated that the signs are up at the park and the playground should still be taped off, although it appears some community members are removing the tape around the playground. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that there will be an internal discussion about the Parks and more clarification will be coming out soon.

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that this is currently a challenging time in our country, especially for Police Departments. She said there is a lot of behind the scenes work happening with the Sheriff's office and other jurisdictions to ensure safety for all community members and Officer safety. She said that being in a small community where we all know each other, we value our officers and value the impact they have on our community. Chief Budrow said he attends many meetings remotely to stay informed of everything happening during this time. He said that the current topics surrounding "use of force" puts extra stress and is more energy taxing on officers. He is thankful to have the support of the community in the Methow Valley, but he worries about tourists that visit who may not know the officers and it places more undue stress on everyone. He said that they are carrying on with routine business as usual right now. Council Member Smith stated that he appreciates all the work the Police Department does on public safety in the Town. He hopes that they feel appreciated. He asked Chief Budrow if the Police Department has seen an uptick in petty crimes happening in Twisp that usually comes with tourism? Chief Budrow responded that they have seen a lot of weird things happening, with everyone having pent up energy that are resulting in more medical calls. There have been a lot of mental health calls where people have cabin fever due to isolation. He said that there has not been an increase in Domestic Violence as they were anticipating, but that there is an uptick in Juvenile suicide threat calls. He stated that it is an interesting time in the world as we see these changes happening.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports:

Council Member Smith stated they held a Finance Committee meeting last week. He said that the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer did a really good job putting the materials together. He said they reviewed the revenues and expenditures for the last 3 years in comparison to where we are now. He said they are preparing for a budget amendment to tie into actual balances for 2020. He feels good that the reserves are intact and that we are not financially in a deep hole. Council Member Easton said that he believes the next 3 quarters could look different as we do not know where the economy is going to land, but the town is in a good place right now. Mayor Ing-Moody said that she did speak to Department Heads today and everyone will continue to be cautious and prudent, while staying the course of being financially conservative.

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she had chaired the Okanogan Council of Governments (OCOG) meeting last week. She reported that the Okanogan County Public Health, Emergency Management and Sheriff's office were there, as well as our District Representative from the Governor's Office. Many board members had questions pertaining to safe re-openings of outdoor recreational activities or areas. She said that they also learned more about the process of moving on to the different phases and how the approval process works from the State Department of Health.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Action: WA State Creative Arts District Contract:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that that we have been accepted as the 5th Creative Arts District in Washington State; we need to finalize the contract. She said this contract enables the 1st grant award of \$5000 that will be a passthrough used by Methow Arts to create a strategic plan for the District. She said the plan is a 5-year plan and the first year is to develop wayfinding signs. Council Member Smith was concerned with the timeline between signing the contract and the turnaround since the fiscal year ends June 30th, 2020. He was reassured that the work has largely been done and that the contract would enable for the funds to be received to cover the work.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the contract between the Town of Twisp and the Creative Arts District as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: WA State Department of Commerce – Coronavirus Relief Fund Contract:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the discussion stating that this discussion is regarding the Cares Act Funding from Washington State. She said that based on our population we are eligible for \$29,400. The contract would enable the Town reimbursement of expenses related to the Covid emergency. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that no grant application is needed as this is a reimbursement situation only. We would only be reimbursed for what we have already had to expend monies on. She said we have already accumulated some expenditures such as remote meeting services that would be eligible for reimbursement. Council Member Smith asked if it will be a budget amendment now or at a later time? Mayor Ing-Moody responded that because it is a reimbursement, the budget amendment would likely come at the end of the year, along with any other amendments needed. Council Member Smith stated he feels that for tracking purposes a new fund should be created with coordinating line items.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the signing of the Department of Commerce Coronavirus Relief Contract as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion: Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)– Resolution #20-660:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that this is a routine item that gets updated every year. She asked Council if there were any questions on the plan. Council Member Smith stated that he doesn't have any questions on the plan, he is supportive of the items in the order listed on the plan.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution #20-660 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Studen. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that this is a discussion only and no action is needed at this time. There will be a public hearing at the next Council Meeting and will require action at that time. Council Member Smith and Council Member Studen respectfully withdrew their motions.

Council Member Studen asked for clarification on the differences on the two plans. Director Denham was able to point out the differences in the years for each plan in the packet. He stated that there is not a single street in Twisp that is not on this plan.

Discussion/Action: USDA Grant Application – Twisp Civic Building:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that she has met with both the Civic Building Committee and the Finance Committee regarding the Civic Building. She feels that the gap needs to be bridged from the previous bid to the rebid. Director Denham has been working with the Architects to come up with creative ways to help bridge the gap. Applying for USDA funding would be a stop gap for the funding needed without taking any extra. She wanted to stress that just because we apply for funding does not mean we will get it or that we must accept it. This conversation is for approval for submitting the application package. She said that more details will follow.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the USDA Grant Application for Civic Building funding as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Wagner Memorial Pool:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the discussion on the feasibility of opening the pool this summer. She stated that she just got the guidance that she was expecting on water recreation today. She said that according to

the Safe Start Plan, it would not be allowable to open the pool until Phase 3. She said that even in Phase 3 there are many requirements that must be followed, or the pool would not be allowed to open until Phase 4. She said that currently, based on guidance from the State Department of Health, to get to Phase 3 you have to wait at least 3 weeks to apply, then it will take some time for the application process to be reviewed. She thinks it's safe to say it's almost 3 ½ to 4 weeks in-between Phases with the overlap in time, if all goes well. Council Member Easton asked if it's possible to get to phase 4 in 6 weeks if everything went perfectly. The Mayor responded that she said maybe more like 7 or even 8 if it went smoothly. He stated that he feels like opening the pool at Phase 3 would put an excessive burden on everyone working at the pool. Mayor Ing-Moody said that Public Works is still working hard at getting the pool ready to open, in the event that Council decides to open it. She stated that the Friends of the Pool have given a donation that is helping to make it possible to be ready.

Director Denham stated that his crew has been working on the pool this year more than last year. He said they have almost finished the reconstruction of the slide – which the Friends of the Pool funded – and have tried to minimize expenses this year. He plans to start filling the pool tomorrow as they are done with the repairs. He reported that they have noticed cracks surfacing when the pool shell is dried out, so he feels the pool shell is better when it's filled with water regardless of whether the pool opens or not. He believes that if the pool was able to open in 3 weeks at Phase 3 then there would be plenty of time to be open all the way through Labor Day weekend. They have worked out a plan to have the Pool Manager do most of the policy policing.

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that several requirements would have to be followed, including: specific Lifeguard Covid training, plexiglass installation in the check in area to protect both employees and citizens, and the adherence of 6' social distancing would be required in all areas, even in the water, showers, pool deck, anywhere on the premises. Council Member Easton asked if the Town would be responsible for patrons waiting outside to get into the pool? Mayor Ing-Moody responded that it would be town property and as such would warrant some conversation on how that would look and whether we would have to place another staff member outside or have stickers on the ground to ensure everyone is maintaining proper distance. She feels that it's not an easy decision to open the pool and it possibly needs more conversation internally. Council Member Easton appreciates all the work that has already gone into working on the pool and commends Andrew and the Public Works Crew, the Mayor, and Friends of the Pool.

Council Member Smith asked that he would like to refrain from making a decision tonight until we have a chance to look at the resources available to us. He feels like we need to make an attempt to review the recommendations and requirements and see if funding is available for some of the changes that need to be made. Mayor Ing-Moody thanked everyone for their input, and stated that this will be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

Discussion/Action: 4th of July Parade:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that Methow Arts has cancelled the 4th of July Arts Fest this year. She asked the Council if they have any thoughts about how to safely conduct a parade this year or if they have any other ideas to celebrate the holiday. Council Member Easton stated that he has thought about having art installations at the intersections on Glover St. He was thinking that if it was set up correctly, you could drive through downtown to view the art. He said that he has spoken to Methow Arts and they are willing to help coordinate and implement whatever is decided. Mayor Ing-Moody liked the idea and said it would be a safe alternative, while still honoring America and the 4th of July holiday. Council Member Cordes asked if the art installations would be set up on street corners? Council Member Easton replied that he would believe so. Chief Budrow raised the awareness that they need to think about potential vandalism if the art would be left out all the time. Council Member Smith stated that he does not see how we can

commence with a parade and expect people to socially distance without enforcement. He thinks that we should do something else to claim our community and support the 4th celebration, of who we are and where we are going. He thinks there could be donation stations to give back to essential entities to help the community give back and show support for our small town. Council Member Easton will be attending the upcoming Chamber of Commerce meeting and will collaborate with Methow Arts to come up with an alternative solution to having the parade this year. He will report back at the next Council Meeting.

Discussion: Masks:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the discussion on wearing masks. She said that recently at the Twisp Chamber of Commerce Q&A session, that the town will not be enforcing businesses to wear masks. She said that the State Health Department is requesting that all people wear masks, although it is not yet a requirement. It is different than the requirements from L&I, where there are specific criteria for businesses to wear masks to protect their employees. She said that each business' requirements may be slightly different. She said that the Town of Twisp employees have been provided masks to be in compliance with requirements. She also acquired masks for all Council Members. She said that there are some people that are unable to wear a mask due to health conditions and she asks that everyone have compassion on those people. She feels that it is a respectful thing to wear masks as it protects yourself and others. Council Member Smith thanked the Mayor for her summary and for putting the topic on the agenda for discussion. He sees the heightened, emotional reaction that people are having on the topic of masks. He feels it is important for Council to have this discussion. He feels there is a difference between the law, guidelines, and requirements and he is not supportive of the town in making an ordinance for masks specifically. Council Member Caswell also thanked the Mayor for putting the topic on the agenda and appreciates the conversation about not being judgmental about people unable to wear masks due to health reasons. He stated that he had an experience where he was wearing a mask in a meeting and it was an unpleasant time for him and he appreciates peoples' consideration.

Discussion: BEE Kind Campaign:

Mayor Ing-Moody introduced an idea to start a campaign to help rally the community into supporting one another in the BEE kind Campaign. She explained that the impact of Covid-19 is beginning to affect people's behaviors as there is a lot of anxiety and uncertainty causing stress and people to act out against their community members. Her own experience at a heated and potentially hostile meeting with some essential businesses resulted in the collective recognition that people are becoming 'cruel' in their attitudes toward others and that we should be nicer to each other during these difficult times. "BEE" (aside from being a symbol for Twisp's namesake) is an acronym for: "Be Empathetic to Everyone". She said that more information will come and is excited to have the Councils' support for this campaign and the use of a portion of the Cares Act funding for this purpose. The Council approved the idea of the campaign.

Discussion: AWC Voting Delegate Appointment:

Mayor Ing-Moody asked if any Council Members would be interested in attending the AWC Annual Conference Business Meeting and be a voting delegate. Council Member Caswell, Council Member Smith and Council Member Cordes all stated they would be willing to attend and be voting delegates for the town of Twisp. All Council members may join the meeting as there will be educational webinars offered as well.

Executive Session: Potential Litigation:

Mayor Ing-Moody excused the public and staff at 7:30pm for an executive session. At 8:15pm, Mayor Ing-Moody extended the session for an additional 30 minutes. At 8:45pm, Mayor Ing-Moody extended the session for an additional 15 minutes. At 9:00pm Mayor Ing-Moody resumed the Council meeting with no action taken. Once the meeting resumed, Council Member Caswell was no longer in attendance.

Consent Agenda:

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes – 4/28/2020, 5/26/2020

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 9th day of June 2020.

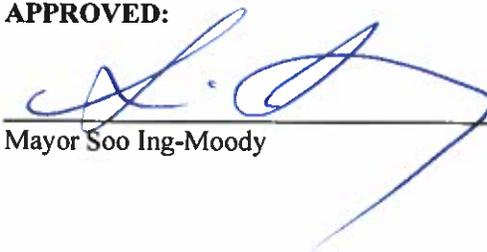
Payroll	EFT# 1186-1199, 1202-1204, 1211	50225.51	05/31/2020
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 35517-35545	33266.35	06/09/2020
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 35546-35549	3326.79	06/09/2020
Accounts Payable	EFT # 1220-1222	1146.68	06/09/2020

Council Member Smith moved to approve the consent agenda. 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 9:01 p.m.

APPROVED:



 Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



 Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer