

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 7/23/19

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Council Members present: Alan Caswell
Aaron Studen
Hans Smith
Mark Easton
Hannah Cordes

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Easton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

Mark Edson stated that during the previous Council Meeting he asked about the Right of Way Procedures being more like eminent domain. He was told that it was not specific to eminent domain but when he went home and looked it up online the definition looked to him as though the Town adopted a new eminent domain procedure. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith stated that the new Right of Way Procedures are not for new eminent domain authority as the Town can already use eminent domain right now. It is specific to public acquisition using WSDOT funding for the Town to purchase land needed for projects. Edson also asked about the Right of Way document where it stated that resumes and qualifications are attached and he did not see such attachment. Director Denham stated they are on file with WSDOT and was told he did not have to include those with the document. Mark Edson stated he would like to have access to those attachments. Director Denham said he would look into it.

Dara Perez: The following considerations reflect my input regarding the land use/animal discussion. As the council reviews this issue it is important to maintain logic & reason when arriving at conclusion. It is my opinion the council should not be considering any code or ordinance change under this specific circumstance. To introduce emotional support classification as cause to change code is not logical or reasonable. The documents put forth to the council in the form of neighbor letters and doctor letters is nothing more than confirmation bias. That is outside the scope of what kind of information a council should be looking at. If I were a neighbor, I might also be inclined to state the rooster does not bother me. It would not mean I would be in support of changing a code or ordinance. When you have a scenario, of the owner of the rooster canvassing the neighborhood for input & feedback from their neighbors, with emphasis put on the dependence on the bird, it likely solicits a sympathetic response that is morphed into emotional input. Most important – the residents now will not always be the residents. The Town Council must think in terms that support reasonable nuisance code. In my opinion the usual & customary ordinance should not be changed and especially under this impetus. Perhaps in the future it would be prudent to consider it – for broader reasons that reflect a citizen majority over a period of time. This issue

should be addressed by the citizen in question meeting the standards in place. Not changing the standards to suit.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith reported that Governor Inslee visited the Methow Valley on Friday, July 19th. He took some time to check in on projects that were being funded by RCO and other state grants. He visited Town Hall and was provided the opportunity to learn more about the Civic Building/Emergency Operations Center Project.

Staff Reports:

The Public Works staff report is included in the packet. Director Denham reported that he still has not heard back from WSDOT Aviation about the grant that was applied for.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports:

Council Member Easton reported on the Chamber of Commerce meeting. He stated that they thought the 4th of July Parade went well and are excited to take it on next year with some improvements. He also reported that the Methow Valley Investors Network has a website up and running.

Council Member Cordes reported on the recent Parks and Recreation meeting. She stated that they are working on updating the goals and priorities for the Twisp Trails and Parks Plan. She also updated that they would like to look at possibilities for replacing the playground equipment at the park.

Council Member Cordes also reported on the Methow Trails Collaboration Meeting. There was a motion made for becoming a non-profit. They are working on the Snowpark on Highway 20 to add more parking. On November 13th there will be a Trails Summit so they can listen to the public on the Virginia Ridge Timber Sale and also take a look at the illegal trails that have been established. They are also working on the Winthrop-Twisp Trail with owner interest forms going out to property owners.

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith attended the Planning Commission Meeting. He reported that the items on a letter from John Battle were discussed. The Planning Commission will also be doing an in-depth review of the Development Standards once they are completed with the tasks at hand to ensure it ties in with the Twisp Municipal Code. He stated that the zoning amendments are going to be presented to Council all at one time after the edits have been made. He is unsure at this time whether a public hearing or comment period will be needed.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Land Use – Animals:

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith briefed Council on the previous discussion on the Rooster. It's been determined that it is a land-use issue that needs to be addressed by either keeping the current code which prohibits roosters or making the decision to amend the code to allow them. There is a letter from neighbor Shane Shaneyfelt on the table for Council's review.

Rooster owner Irina Vodonos was in attendance and asked to speak. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith asked the Council if they are willing to hear from Irina.

Council Member Studen feels this conversation is either about a particular rooster or about having a rooster approved as a support animal. The only question that should be asked is whether roosters should be allowed in Twisp and he doesn't think it's relevant to make an exception.

Council Member Easton feels it might be time to revisit the issue of having a rooster. He asked if it was complaint-driven for code enforcement.

Council Member Caswell stated that in his recent experience with what he is hearing from citizens is that they are not in favor of changing the code to include roosters.

Council Member Cordes stated that if we are going to allow roosters then you should look at increasing the allowed number of hens because roosters need a large flock. She feels that it needs to be a sympathetic response and it would be nice to hear with the citizens think.

Irina Vodonos stated that she is not asking for the Town to change its code. She is asking to be allowed to keep her rooster as an exception for a support animal. She would like a copy of the letter from Shane Shaneyfelt and was advised she would have to request that during regular business hours at the Clerk's Office.

Council has decided to table this item for future discussion.

Discussion/Action: Creative Arts District – Lead Agency:

Mayor Pro-Tem stated that we are waiting for more information from Methow Arts about potential costs to the town associated with applying for the Creative Arts District. He would like to table this topic for further discussion when we have the needed information.

Discussion/Action: Citizen Request – Four-Way Stop Sign (5th and Canyon St):

A citizen that lives on Canyon Street is requesting the addition of a 4 way stop at the intersection of 5th and Canyon Street. She feels that people travel too fast through that intersection and it is not safe to be a pedestrian in that area. Director Denham stated that if they were going to make that change, this would be the right time to do so as Canyon Street is under construction. Council Member Easton stated that he walks along that road frequently. He said he is aware of the traffic and he does his best to stay off to the side. He feels there is a need to have a stop for pedestrian safety. Director Denham would like to poll the neighborhood and gather more information before making any decisions.

Executive Session: Real Estate Consideration (20 Minutes):

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith excused the staff and public for an executive session at 6:20 pm. At 6:40 pm he requested 10 more minutes. At 6:50 pm Mayor Pro-Tem Smith resumed the Council Meeting with no action taken during the executive session.

Discussion/Action: Jolley Property Purchase:

Mayor Pro-Tem Smith stated that the Council has discussed the possible purchase of the Jolley Property during the executive session. He feels there are reasons to look into acquiring the land and discuss with Jolley further. He stated that the Council has identified possible uses including a roadway or trails that are of interest to the town. Currently, there are no funds allocated to purchase the property so further discussion and possible negotiation will take place in the future.

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 July 2019.

Accounts Payable	EFT# 1656-1657	1183.00	7/23/19
Accounts Payable	Warrants #34897-34922	35867.94	7/23/19
Payroll	EFT#	6860.00	7/15/19

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed with Mayor Pro-Tem abstaining.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro-Tem Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Pro-Tem Smith

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer