

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 4/14/2020

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:34 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 comment submitted in writing from Mark Edson – 321 Bigelow St.

“Civic Building – poor design. Shaded screen areas on west and south side of building will load with snow, then melt and create a freezing rainstorm on the sidewalks – safety issue.
Open glass vaults on entrance face and southwest corner – collectors of sun heat causing high temps in building. Steel columns will radiate heat in the summer, ice and frost in the winter. Town hall has never been struck by lightning, but it will in the future. End of all sensitive electronics and radios. Take advantage of no public comments, sail the titanic full speed ahead – no common sense.”

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that this is not business as usual, life is not as usual. Staff is working hard in all departments with new procedures in place, work continues as best as possible under the current circumstances.

There are several new procedures in place that require employees to check temperatures prior to starting their shift and stay home when feeling sick. There is also a return to work authorization procedure that is required should an employee become ill, and are well enough to return to work. These protocols are in place to ensure that all staff have protections in place to feel safe. The staff is hardworking and essential to everything we do. The Town values each one of the employees and are humbled by their service during this time. Department heads are doing great work during this time running departments as well as managing the staffing needed for their departments.

Priority is given to essential functions at this time.

Mayor Ing-Moody stated she is involved in local, regional, and state meetings regarding this emergency. For example, she is part of the local emergency management meetings with public health, MV healthcare, and MV Longterm recovery meetings. She is also a participant in meetings with the Governor’s office and select Mayors and County Commissioners from Central Washington. As the AWC Vice President,

she attends multiple AWC executive meetings and committee meetings, and is in contact with state legislators at various times on issues and concerns, as needed.

Mayor Ing-Moody announced that she has been in contact with WSDOT who has commenced in the clearing of the North Cascades Highway for purposes of public health and safety, in light of the upcoming fire season. She stressed that the “clearing” is not to be mistaken for a reopening of the pass yet as the gates will remain closed, until the emergency restrictions are lifted. The pass is simply being cleared to prepare for egress in case of emergency and a way is needed out of the Valley. Mayor Ing-Moody is now also focusing on this seasons fire threat - working with all county agencies for fire season preparations. She also stated that she is closely monitoring the town’s finances. It is anticipated that there will be a shortfall to the 2020 town budget. Revenue impacts are expected for all towns and cities across the state. As such, she has been in close contact with AWC staff – AWC is asking for increased flexibility for local jurisdictions to help temporarily reduce the burden on towns. Flexibility being requested, includes the possibility of deferring the audit scheduled for later this year as audits do have a high cost to the town. She reported that the new Civic Building/EOC plans continue to move forward as planned and that a location for temporary housing for Town Hall has been identified but nothing has been finalized yet. She mentioned, that on the agenda tonight is the consideration for Council to decide on the potential waiver of late fee penalties during this emergency. She stated that the town needs to do everything we can to help those in need of assistance during this difficult time and has been in communication with agencies like Room One and the Cove to develop partnerships to better assist residents in need. Together, she is hopeful that we can more effectively help take care of our residents. Mayor Ing-Moody expressed that she is thankful for local agencies and organizations hard at work in our area.

Staff Reports

Director Denham reported that his staff is in good spirits and they communicate daily. They continue to update protocol as needed. Staff remains positive and doing a good job, rolling their sleeves up and getting the work done.

The Northtown project went out to bid on April 8. The Engineers estimate it will cost 1.7 million. Bids are going out only a week late.

Canyon Street Bus Stop is almost ready to go out to bid. WSDOT reached out and asked about the paving project and to ask the county for chip seal funding when they start that project.

He reported they lost a digester blower at WWTP. It might cost \$6000 to replace/repair. It is due to the age of equipment at the treatment plant and not from a lack of maintenance.

He stated he attended the Friends of the Pool meeting – he will be sending them an email with budget information they have asked for. He said he is moving forward as the town is financially and lawfully able to open the pool to the public on time.

He said they are working to get parks irrigation ready for the summer. He has a meeting with the public works committee tomorrow to talk about the offer from ecology for \$3.3 M for collection work, although he would like to find better funding from USDA and CDBG.

Council Member Caswell asked if the chipper has been purchased yet and when there will be an event scheduled? Denham stated we have been using it on our own town property and because of COVID-19 no chipping drives are available for the community yet. Hopefully in the future they will be able to host an event and invite the community.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports

Mark Easton attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting on April 9th where they talked about how TwispWorks have connected with over 200 businesses in the valley – and have also connected with

businesses that they didn't know existed here providing small business loan application assistance and help with questions they have regarding emergency closures.

Methow Arts has been reaching out, promoting artists and small arts businesses on Facebook and Instagram. The Chamber currently has a Covid-19 page on their website showing all of the businesses and their specifics like hours, delivery options, and more.

Easton explained that he met with the Chamber of Commerce about how Town revenues are anticipated to fall short this year, and that they likely will not receive the same amount as agreed upon for this year. They were asked if they wished to defer some of the money to next year; they decided to receive the full amount of money this year.

Mayor Ing- Moody announced that the Creative Arts designation has been approved by the Creative Arts Board. It is now official that Twisp is the 5th Washington State Creative Arts District. The official release will come out at later date.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Presentation: Architects West – Civic Building Plans – 95%

Steve Roth from Architects West gave a presentation of the 95% plans for the new Civic Building/Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He stated that he was here in February for the 65% plan review and there isn't too much of a difference between the plans. One change is that they have included an offsite generator. It will be offsite as there is not enough room to place it in the new building footprint so it will connect from the current town parking lot to the new building. There was also a new sketch showing the height comparison of the towers so that everyone would get a feel for what it will look like. Roth explained the timeline for the bid process which starts on April 22nd with the bid being advertised, on May 6th there is a pre-bid conference, on May 20th is bid opening day, and on May 26th the Town Council will vote to approve the bid.

Mayor Ing Moody stated that John Battle, the Planning Commission Chairman has taken time to review the plans. He has a lot of experience with projects, most notably for his latest work on the Space Needle. Mayor Ing-Moody shared that Mr. Battle expressed that he was "quite impressed with the quality and completeness of the plans" that Architects West has shown in their provided specs. She stated that John Battle will continue to work alongside Andrew as the Civic Building/EOC project proceeds and she is glad to accept his generous offer of service to the Town. She also stated that Architects West worked on the Public Works shop built a few years ago and the appreciation the Town has received from several local constituents.

Discussion/Action: Approval of Civic Building Plans 95%:

Council Member Caswell stated he is glad to have PC Chairman Battle on board with this project. He said he was mainly looking for any changes between the plans and couldn't see any. He said he spent time looking into the projects that Architects West have completed in the past and is impressed by the portfolio on their website.

Council Member Smith said he impressed as well and is supportive of the 95% plans.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the 95% plans from Architects West as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #20-655 Twisp Airport Grant Match:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that this conversation is being carried over from the last meeting. The previous resolution was not approved pending conversation with the airport pilot group. Council Member Cordes stated that she spoke to the pilots’ group about the matching donation that the town needed for the planning grant. She said she has a check in the amount of the match needed. Mayor Ing-Moody thanked Council Member Cordes for her hard work and communication with the pilots.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution #20-655 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #756 – Public Health Emergency and/or Pandemic Utility Billing Policy:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that this ordinance is a redline version after legal Counsel reviewed and wanted to change this ordinance so that it was specific to Covid-19. Our legal Counsel wanted to be able to have this in place for the utility fee waiver and suggested that a more generalized version could be implemented in the future for any other emergencies should they arise. She stated that, as requested by Council at the last meeting, there are no eligibility restrictions to this waiver so it is open and available to everyone that is a utility customer. This policy will terminate when the emergency has ended.

Council Member Smith noticed a mistake in policy under purpose – a parenthesis is needed.

Council Member Caswell moved to approve Ordinance #756 – Public Health Emergency as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and 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 14th day of April 2020.

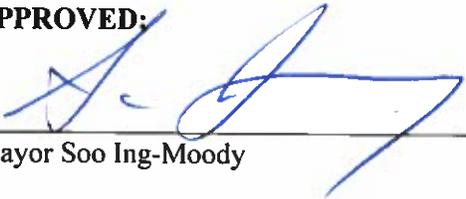
Payroll	EFT# 797-798, 800-812 824, 827-831	71664.48	3/31/2020
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 35413-35444	36863.83	4/12/2020
Accounts Payable	EFT # 858-861	1646.42	4/12/2020

Council Member Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented with the additional warrants. 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 6:29 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer