

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 3/24/2020

Mayor Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Easton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

Submitted in writing from Barry Stromberger – 316 Bargar St.

“Since I'm not supposed to attend the City Council meeting this Tuesday due to social distancing, I'm submitting my concerns to the Town via this email. Two weeks ago, my immediate neighbors on Bargar St. got together to discuss concerns about a proposed nightly rental Administrative Permit notice the Town had mailed out to us. Kelly Grayum and I appeared at the Planning Commission meeting and expressed our concerns and submitted the feedback form from the Administrative Permit to the Planning Commission. As a 30+ year resident of Twisp on Bargar St., I would like to urge the Town Council to begin discussions about NOT allowing nightly rentals in any residential zoned neighborhoods in town. My concerns are twofold:

1. Any time commercial (nightly rentals) are allowed in a residential neighborhood the neighborhood atmosphere begins to change. I live in Twisp for the feel and realness of living "in community" Neighbors watch out for each other. When houses begin to have transient uses that neighborhood feeling and sense are diminished.
2. Twisp and the Methow Valley have a serious housing shortage. Rentals and homes for families to purchase are at a premium. As nightly rentals creep into residential neighborhoods another house for a full-time resident is lost. As over-nighters from other areas (read well-off Westside areas) experience the quiet and uniqueness of our little town it's not hard to project that more non-residents will want a "piece" of Twisp, buy up available houses and turn them into more nightly rentals, furthering the degradation of our neighborhoods' atmosphere.

I urge the Town Council to consider declaring a moratorium on allowing any further nightly rentals in any neighborhoods until a revised Comprehensive Plan and subsequent zoning ordinance is developed.

In closing I want to emphasize that this is a delicate issue for my immediate neighbors on Bugar St. as we love Brian Deplace and Hannah McIntosh (folks who are proposing a nightly rental) and don't want to jeopardize our good friendship over this nightly rental issue. We do feel this is an urgent issue that probably will only grow as Twisp becomes the "cool" town to live in. Thank you for your attention to my concerns.”

Mayor's Report

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that on March 18 she signed an Emergency Proclamation for the Town of Twisp. She said that Okanogan County also declared an emergency and it will put in motion the ability to possibly be eligible for FEMA aid.

She has been attending many meetings remotely with State, Local, and County Officials as well as meeting with the Methow Valley Long Term Recovery Group as a local government liaison during the Covid-19 emergency. She also wrote an article for the Methow Valley News regarding our community's obligations during this time of emergency. The article should be in Wednesday's newspaper.

She stated that the Finance Committee met recently to discuss finances and amid concerns and the expectation that our Town's revenues will be impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. She has directed the establishment and implementation of new staff protocols to ensure that various functions and essential services continue to operate while protecting staff health and safety.

Staff Reports

N/A

Commission/Committee/Board Reports

Council Member Easton said he attended the TERC meeting and they discussed the Canyon Street Bus Stop and worked on prioritizing future projects. He attended the Earth Day meeting and it has been announced that the event has been cancelled due to the health emergency with a possibility that it will be rescheduled for later in the year.

He attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting where they discussed possibly moving the Visitor Information Center out of the Community Center. The Chamber's website has been updated to provide information on what is open in town during this emergency.

He reported that he met with the Chamber of Commerce's President and Vice President along with Mayor Ing-Moody to speak about a potential plan for receiving less funds next year from the Town as a result of an anticipated loss in 2% revenue due to the Covid-19 emergency.

He also stated that the Climate Task Force met remotely.

Council Member Smith reported that the Finance Committee met to discuss the close-out of 2019 budget and work on the 2020 budget amendments. They also discussed upcoming grant reporting and where things were financially with grants. He said that the committee realizes the need to examine the budget in light of Covid-19 and will continue to analyze it as the future unfolds. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that she did place a spending freeze on all departments and the Clerk Treasurer is doing some forecasting for 2020 to help better understand how finances, particularly revenues, will be affected.

Council Member Smith also attended the Planning Commission meeting and they had received similar public comment from Barry Stromberger about nightly rentals. He said that the advice of the Planning Commission was for Stromberger to ask Council to consider a moratorium on nightly rentals since the Planning Commission might not get to that part of their workplan until much later or even next year.

Council Member Cordes attended the recent Friends of the Pool meeting where they spoke about policies, goals and budget. They updated their mission statement and said they would like to work more closely with the Town this year.

She also attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting where they continued to discuss and prioritize the new Parks and Trail plan. They also discussed Earth Day and the various ways they could get public comment on their plan at the event.

Council Member Studen attended the TranGo emergency meeting where they discussed important emergency plans. Currently the busses are running for free. TranGo also announced that they are running out of cleaning supplies which causes a lack of ability to maintain a safe environment for drivers and riders. They are worried that they would have to decrease routes or not be able to run the busses. Mayor Ing-Moody suggested they contact Okanogan County Emergency Management to see if they are able to help with acquiring supplies.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Action: American Legion Proclamation:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that this Proclamation was discussed at a previous Council Meeting and they were hoping that Keith Morden would be able to attend. In light of current events, he is unable to attend this meeting and asked that it be brought up for consideration once again.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the American Legion Proclamation as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #20-654 Personnel Policy Emergency Management (revised):

Mayor Ing-Moody stated this document is an updated version to the Resolution that was passed at the last meeting. This version has been reviewed by our legal counsel and has a few minor adjustments.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution # 20-654 Personnel Policy. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Sports Complex Project Funding – RCO and MVSD:

Director Denham stated that they met with the Methow Valley School District (MVSD) about partnering to help fund the Sports Complex. They asked that we change the baseball field to be a full size field with 90' bases instead of 60' bases. Denham asked the engineer to redesign the field to be 90' bases and included bid alts. After speaking with RCO about the possibility of additional grant funding they said that we could increase the amount of the grant to \$170,000. Denham thinks it's the best move financially to ask for the higher grant amount and be able to have MVSD help with funding so that the bigger baseball field is built.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the RCO grant request for additional funding and continue the conversation with MVSD. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: WA Department of Commerce Contract – Civic Building/EOC:

Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer stated that these contracts are the final two state appropriation contracts that will finalize the funding of the Civic Building/Emergency Operations Center. With the approval of these contracts the project will be fully funded, and the Town will have access to the funds.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the WA States Department of Commerce contracts for signature. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: WSDOT Aviation Runway Pavement Maintenance Grant:

Director Denham stated that this grant application is for a planning grant to pave the runway at the Airport. Council Member Smith stated that he fully grasps the need for this at the airport. He would like to wait and see how the lease conversion is going to go with the new lease that has been adopted. Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer stated that only signed leases have been turned in. There was a lot of Council discussion about the possibility of waiting to see if the airport will come up with the grant match of \$703.50 prior to the Town applying. It was stated that the application deadline is next week and that if the Town was going to apply then it would need to be approved tonight.

Council Member Smith moved to approve WSDOT Aviation Runway Pavement Maintenance Grant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed with Council Member Easton opposed.

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

This discussion has been tabled for future conversation.

Discussion/Action: COVID-19 Temporary Utility Late Fee Waiver:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that she has been contacted by local social services to inquire about the possibility of waiving utility late fees. She stated that the Governor has asked all Public Utilities to waive late fees for citizens as they may be stressed at this time due to COVID-19. She stated that the Town has authority to waive late fees and discontinue shut offs during this time. She is asking the Clerks' Staff to proceed with creating a document that would outline the process. This will be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

Consent Agenda:

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes – 2/11/2020, 2/25/2020

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 24th day of March 2020.

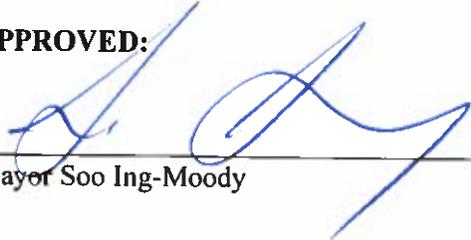
Payroll	EFT# 591-604, 608, 611-615	55668.15	2/28/2020
Payroll	EFT# 675-681	7680.00	3/16/2020
Accounts Payable	Warrant #35373-35389	8953.75	3/10/2020
Accounts Payable	EFT# 636-638	1146.42	3/10/2020
Accounts Payable	Warrant #35390-55412	93934.02	3/24/2020
Accounts Payable	EFT #766	683.00	3/24/2020

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.

APPROVED:



 Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



 Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer