

Town of Twisp Council Minutes – 11/12/2019

Mayor Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Caswell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

None

Public Comment:

Bryce Kipp is a Burton Street resident. He is noticing traffic has been going pretty fast up and down his street. He said that he was told in the past that the speed limit was 35 mph and he would like to request that it is changed to 25 mph. He stated that even the Town of Twisp work trucks go too fast on that street and that there are many children playing and riding bikes and is afraid there will be an accident. Mayor Ing-Moody thanked him for his comments and said directed public works to address the issue.

John Fleming wanted to address each Council Member and the Mayor to thank them for their service to the Town. He said he has been in their shoes and knows that it is a thankless job, rife with anxiety and with no monetary reward of any significance. Mayor Ing-Moody thanked him for his comments and appreciated his kind words.

Mark Edson stated that he is interested in hearing the discussion about leash laws. He said they have had a problem with dogs where he lives for years. He feels that if you are a responsible dog owner then you should be cleaning up after your pet. He recounted an experience that he had with a neighbor and his dog on his property and wasn't happy with the outcome. Edson stated he is in favor of a leash law. Mayor Ing – Moody thanked him for his comments and stated there will be a discussion later in the meeting about a potential leash law.

Public Hearing – Preliminary Budget Hearing:

Mayor Ing – Moody opened the public hearing for the 2020 Preliminary Budget at 5:33 p.m. She asked the public for comments and if anyone believed that any member of the Council should not vote on the subject. There were no comments from the public and no action taken by Council.

Mayor Ing – Moody closed the public hearing at 5:32 p.m.

Public Hearing – Ordinance #751 – Property Taxes Levy/Ad Valorem:

Mayor Ing – Moody opened the public hearing for the approval of Ordinance #751 – Property Taxes/Ad Valorem at 5:32 p.m. She asked the public for comments and if anyone believed that any member of the Council should not vote on the subject. There were no comments from Council or the public.

Action: Council Member Smith moved to approve Ordinance #751 – Property Taxes Levy/Ad Valorem as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Mayor Ing – Moody closed the public hearing at 5:33 p.m.

Public Hearing – Ordinance #752 – Emergency Medical Services Levy:

Mayor Ing – Moody opened the public hearing for the approval of Ordinance #752 – Emergency Medical Services Levy at 5:33 p.m. She asked the public for comments and if anyone believed that any member of the Council should not vote on the subject. There were no comments from the Council or public.

Action: Council Member Smith moved to approve Ordinance #752 – Emergency Medical Services Levy as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Mayor Ing – Moody closed the public hearing at 5:34p.m.

Public Hearing – Resolution #19-646 – 2020-2025 Six Year Capital Facilities Plan:

Mayor Ing – Moody opened the public hearing for the approval of Resolution #19-646 2020-2025 Six Year Capital Facilities Plan at 5:34 p.m. She asked the public for comments and if anyone believed that any member of the Council should not vote on the subject. Council Member Smith stated that there was an updated version of the Airport draft on the table, replacing the one in the packet. Director Denham explained the changes to both the Airport draft and a couple of changes to the Public Works Plan.

Action: Council Member Caswell moved to approve Resolution #19-646 - 2020-2025 Six Year Capital Facilities Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Mayor Ing – Moody closed the public hearing at 5:39 p.m.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing – Moody reported that she continues to work on the budget. She feels that it is going well a final draft will soon be available. She thanked the Clerk Treasurer and the Finance Committee for their hard work on balancing the budget.

Staff Reports:

Chief Budrow stated that the earlier public comment made by Bryce Kipp was incorrect in that the speed limit on Burton is 25 mph and not 35 mph as stated by the citizen. He said he will follow up with him.

Director Denham stated he can install a speed limit sign there to help educate everyone of the actual speed limit.

Council Member Easton asked Director Denham about the new streetlight foundations going in on Glover Street. Denham stated that they are adding 3 more right now to continue working on the project. The remainder will be put up with the new Civic Building in the future. Denham stated that the Gateway Art will be installed tomorrow and is excited for everyone to see it.

Mayor Ing – Moody stated that the Council has now seen the preliminary budget as included in the packets. She asked Clerk Treasurer Kilmer to give an explanation for the updated version that was placed on the table. He explained that he had to fix the REET Fund as it was missing a digit and to correct the Wagner Pool Fund as the number was incorrect. He has reached out to the previous Clerk Treasurer for an explanation that will help him better understand how that fund works.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports:

Council Member Cordes reported that she attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting last month. She stated that Sarah Schrock announced that the Friends of the Pool (FOP) had hired an outside consultant to assess the pool facility and make recommendations. Schrock stated that the FOP was also thinking about the possibility of having an outside agency run the pool as opposed to the Town. She stated that the Commission is also working on updating the Parks and Trail Plans which are due to be completed in March. Cordes invited everyone to attend the Methow Trails Summit being held at Sun Mountain Lodge on Wednesday November 13th from 9am-4pm.

Council Member Smith stated that he and Councilmember Easton attended a Finance Committee meeting last week. The proposed budget for the general fund has seen a gentle increase over 2019 with an intention to continue protecting reserves. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the finance committee has done a great job with the review of the finances. She said that it takes a lot of time and work to go through all of the funds and wanted to thank them for their hard work. She stated that she will have staff send out the fee schedule and asked all Council members to review it and provide any suggested changes to staff prior to the next meeting so that a redlined version could be presented ready for discussion or action at the next meeting.

Council Member Easton attended the Twisp Economic Revitalization Committee Meeting and shared that they are very close to installing the Gateway Art. They were also informed by Director Denham that the brackets for the new streetlight banners had been ordered and will be installed soon. He also reported that there is progress in applying for the Creative Arts District and after receiving feedback, they have decided to create a small walkable space rather than incorporate the whole town as part of the district.

Council Member Easton attended the Climate Change Task Force meeting. He said that the Town is represented on the economic and infrastructure committees. He said that the Climate Summit is next week, and it will be presented in such a way that impacts real life in the Methow Valley.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #753 Zoning Amendments - Zoning and District Use Chart:

Planner Kurt Danison stated that the Planning Commission has done what was requested of them in amending the Definitions and the District Use Chart of the Zoning Code. He feels that it is ready for Council adoption. Council Member Easton asked how the Planning Commission came up with the

minimum house size recommendations. Danison replied that it was a combination of public meetings and feedback from citizens. He stated that if a resident would like to build something that does not meet those standards, they are welcome to apply for a variance. Council Member Caswell asked if the new changes are retroactive to anything currently built in town and Danison answered that it was up to Council to retroactively apply the code, then code enforcement is needed. He stated that it's hard to get someone to comply with a new code when it's been ok under the previous code for many years.

Council Member Caswell moved to approve Ordinance # 753 – Zoning Amendments. The motion was seconded by Council Member Studen and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Water and Sewer Rates:

Director Denham reported that Water and Sewer rates will increase in 2020. Water will see an overall increase of 7.8% which has the following breakdown - 6.3% goes to the USDA debt loan that we have to start payments on in 2021. The remaining 1.5% will go to operations and maintenance for water. The sewer rates will see a standard increase of 1.5%.

Council Member Caswell would like to see the breakdown of how much that will increase residents water base rates. Unfortunately, that information was not available during the meeting. The council will further discuss or take action regarding the increase in rates at a future meeting.

Discussion/Action: Draft General Sewer Plan:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the discussion on the General Sewer Plan stating that everyone should have received their copy of the plan for review. Council Member Smith asked Director Denham if the draft has been sent to the Department of Ecology yet and he replied that it has. The initial review has been done and the plan needs to be adopted and submitted by December 15th. Denham also stated that the plan will be a great tool for possible funding options. Council Member Cordes stated that she thinks it is a well written plan and by reading it has learned a lot. Director Denham stated that they will draft a resolution and bring it before Council at the next meeting for adoption.

Discussion/Action: Leash Law:

Mayor Ing- Moody stated that the reason this issue is being brought before the Council is due to a citizen complaint that is included in the packet. The Mayor feels that with the increase in dogs and animals in town has led to greater concerns in recent years. The Mayor stated that some action will need to be taken to address the issue but that there are challenges to how best to implement enforcement in the event of violations. Chief Budrow stated that it's hard to have a leash law when there isn't an animal shelter in the County. Usually animals that are picked up by an animal control officer would need a 24 hour, 7 days a week agency. Currently our resources in town prohibit us from picking up stray dogs and housing them. Another related issue is that a growing problem is that residents are not licensing their dogs. When a dog is licensed it is easier to track down the owner when they get loose or run away. Chief Budrow would like to see a form of some kind so that he can hand it to the animal owner telling them to come to Town Hall to get their dog licensed. The Council would like to hear more from the public and think about some ways to address the growing problem. Council member Smith stated that he would like to hear from additionally citizenry before making a decision on how to handle licensing, enforcement, and requirements of a leash law. This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Consent Agenda:

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes – 10/22/19

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 12th November 2019.

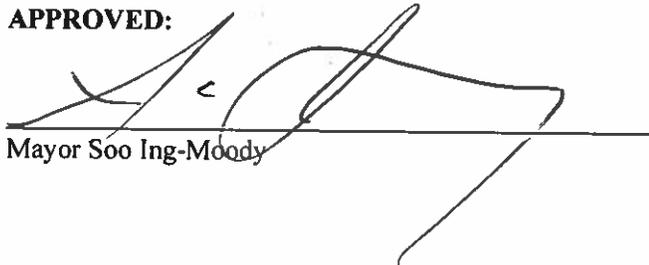
Payroll	EFT# 2479, 2483, 2507-2519, 2525-2529	68063.26	10/31/19
Accounts Payable	Warrants # 35124-35155	703575.38	11/12/19
Accounts Payable	Warrants # 35156-35157	625.55	11/12/19
Accounts Payable	EFT# 2547-2549	1146.42	11/12/19

Council Member Smith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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 7:05 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:


Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer

