

Town of Twisp Council Minutes – 11/10/2020

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Caswell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing – 2021 Preliminary Budget Hearing:

Mayor Ing – Moody opened the public hearing for the 2021 Preliminary Budget at 5:33 p.m. She asked the Council and public for comments. All phone lines were unmuted to give anyone the option to speak. There were no comments from Council or the public.

Mayor Ing – Moody closed the public hearing at 5:35 p.m.

Public Hearing – Ordinance #761 – Property Taxes Levy/Ad Valorem:

Mayor Ing – Moody opened the public hearing for the approval of Ordinance #761 – Property Taxes/Ad Valorem at 5:35 p.m. She asked the Council and public for comments. All phone lines were unmuted to give anyone the option to speak. There were no comments from Council or the public.

Mayor Ing – Moody closed the public hearing at 5:36 p.m.

Action: Council Member Smith moved to approve Ordinance #761 – Property Taxes Levy/Ad Valorem as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Ordinance #762 – EMS Levy 2021:

Mayor Ing – Moody opened the public hearing for the approval of Ordinance #762 – 2021 EMS Levy at 5:38 p.m. She asked the Council and public for comments. All phone lines were unmuted to give anyone the option to speak. There were no comments from Council or the public.

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

Action: Council Member Smith moved to approve Ordinance #762 – 2021 EMS Levy as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Resolution #20-677 – 2021-2026 Six Year Capital Facilities Plan:

Mayor Ing – Moody opened the public hearing for the approval of Resolution #20-667 at 5:42 p.m. She asked the Council and public for comments. All phone lines were unmuted to give anyone the option to speak. There were no comments from Council or the public.

Mayor Ing – Moody closed the public hearing at 5:43 p.m.

Council Member Smith recommended waiting to approve the plan until the Advisory Boards can meet and comment on the plans.

Public Hearing – Resolution #20-667 – 2021-2026 Six Year Capital Facilities Plan:

Clerk Treasurer, Kilmer, recognized that there had been a numbering error to the resolution for the Six Year Capital Facilities Plan - instead of it being 20-677, it should correctly read 20-667. Mayor Ing-Moody decided to redo the public hearing segment to correctly reflect the resolution number.

Mayor Ing – Moody opened the public hearing for the approval of Resolution #20-667 at 5:45 p.m. She asked the Council and public for comments. All phone lines were unmuted to give anyone the option to speak. There were no comments from Council or the public.

Mayor Ing – Moody closed the public hearing at 5:46 p.m.

Based on Council Member Smith’s previous recommendation, the plan will be approved at a later meeting.

Public Hearing – Resolution#20-668 – Amending 2021-2026 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan:

Mayor Ing – Moody opened the public hearing for the approval of Resolution #20-668 – Amending the 2021-2026 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan at 5:46 p.m. She asked the Council and public for comments. All phone lines were unmuted to give anyone the option to speak. There were no comments from Council or the public.

Mayor Ing – Moody closed the public hearing at 5:48 p.m.

Action: Council Member Smith moved to approve Resolution 20-668 – Amending the 2021-2026 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

Addition: Discussion: Social Media/Facebook

Public Comment:

Mayor Ing-Moody asked both Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer and Deputy Clerk Grennell if any public comment had been received prior to the meeting. They both verified that none had been received.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she continues to work on finetuning and balancing the budget with Clerk Treasurer, Kilmer. She also attended an OCOG meeting that she will report on later.

Staff Reports:

Director Denham reported that in an attempt to wrap up the meter replacement project, they have hired an additional crew to help complete the install. He said that while work continues to happen on the North Town Project, he is hoping they will have it completed by early next week. Council Member Caswell asked if Public Works was able to surplus any of the equipment from the last meeting. Denham replied that they have not put it online for auction yet, but plan to do so very soon. Director Denham reported that he has spoken with Methow Recycles and they are willing to recycle the brass and steel from the meter replacements. He said this is great as it would have otherwise cost the Town to have to dispose of it any other way.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports:

Council Member Easton reported that the Twisp Economic Revitalization Committee (TERC) met earlier in the day. He said it had been a long time since they last met and were able to catch up on Town projects. He said they plan on meeting monthly to keep up the momentum.

Council Member Cordes reported that she attended another Friends of the Pool meeting. They have decided that the first step in their plan would be to get a feasibility study completed so that they would be able to have a better idea of what the cost would be to raise funds. It would help decide if there is a need to include creating a Recreation District to help achieve the goal of a new pool.

Council Member Studen has volunteered to be the Town liaison for the Friends of the Pool and the creation of a Recreation District.

Council Member Caswell reported that he and Council Member Easton attended the online Smoke Ready Workshop. He said it was 90-minute sessions over a three-day span. He said they would really like to move forward with a smoke readiness plan and be able to have community outreach to help involve the community. He said that there is unnecessary burning and in order to protect the health of citizens they would like to create some short- and long-term ideas. He said if anyone is interested in participating to contact Jasmine and Liz at the Methow Valley Citizens Council. He would like to see them give a presentation at Council in the future.

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she attended the OCOG Meeting last night. She said that Maurice Goodall with Emergency Management was there and wanted to stress that if anyone needed masks, either KN95, or medical, that they are available and to please ask. She also said there is post disaster FEMA funding available to those that need and qualify for it. She said they will continue to work on the Backroads and Primitive Roads study into the next year.

Mayor Ing-Moody wanted to thank Mayor Pro-Tem Smith for covering for her last week while she was on medical leave. She was thankful for the time off and that everything went smoothly. Pro-tem Smith replied that he was grateful for the opportunity and said that Staff made his job easy.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion: Water and Sewer Rates:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that the proposed rates are before the Council. She said they are really trying to keep the rates low and Director Denham did a great job making sure the increase was as low as possible. Director Denham stated that 2021 was slated for the last water increase that was needed. He said he did everything he could to keep the increase at a minimum while maintaining a balanced budget. He said there was an additional \$185,000 in debt for the meter replacement project, and he promised that it will not affect rate payers. Clerk/Treasurer confirmed that this proposed rate increase will be part of the calculations included in the budget set for approval at a future meeting.

Discussion/Action: Committee/Commission – Open Public Meetings:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the Clerks' Office inquired with the Committees/Commissions and Board about their willingness to meeting virtually. Currently, the Planning Commission, Airport Advisory Board, Tree Board and TERC would like to meet consistently. The Parks and Recreation Committee stated that they were not entirely ready to recommence at this time. The only question that was posed was whether or not Council felt it would be prudent to hold public hearings if not everyone had to access to the technology or equipment necessary to attend. Council Member Smith feels that he would like to see the meetings start back up again. He would like to see Parks and Recreation work on their Draft Parks Plan and start meeting as well. He said that if there will be a need to hold a public hearing, he would like the Council to separately have the opportunity to make that decision to ensure community members have proper and equal access to respond or comment on those decisions requiring a public hearing. The council agreed that meetings can continue with the exception that public hearings will not be held, and that Council be notified of any such situations.

Discussion/Action: North Central Washington Narcotics Task Force 2021 Agreement:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that this conversation was a carryover from the last Council Meeting. Chief Budrow provided additional information about what the benefit and reason for the cost is to the Town. He said that he needs to be able to stay connected with the Task Force to be able to go after the little guys that we see in our area. It will usually lead to the bigger guys that the Task Force is interested in catching. He said that it's hard to see a direct effect on Twisp from the Task Force since it is all behind the scenes work. He said that without having a partnership with them would affect how they find and catch people.

Council Member Smith moved to approve and enter into an agreement with the North Central Washington Narcotics Task Force for 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Canyon Street Project – Retainage Release:

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Canyon Street Project Retainer Release to Hurst Construction for \$31,464.67. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Airport Hangar Lease Rate:

Council Member Smith opened the discussion about the Airport Hanger Lease Rate. He feels that the Town does not need to offer the same lease rate to any new lease holders or any lease holders that have not converted at the current rate. He would like to discuss this with the Twisp Airport Advisory Board and let them know that time is of the essence to convert because the Town can choose to increase the

lease rate at any time. Some of the higher rates can help go to cover operating costs not covered by the current lease or even to help build a capital reserve. He shared that historically Airport Lessees have been willing to help come up with the funding for Grant matches and have been willing to help contribute to the maintenance of the airport. He would like to see what TAAB is willing to agree upon or if they have other strategies to help generate revenue. Mayor Ing-Moody appreciates all the hard work that Council Member Smith has put into this lease agreement and said that it wouldn't be where it is today without his guidance. She said that after he has had a chance to meet with TAAB then we can circle back to the discussion and move forward at that time.

Discussion/Action: Social Media/Facebook:

Mayor Ing-Moody asked Deputy Clerk Grennell to give an overview of the Social Media/Facebook issues that have come up recently. Grennell stated that the Town Facebook accounts have been set up. She said that when attempting to make the first post online, she was surprised to notice that she could not block the comments as originally thought. She spoke to Jamie Petitto who set the accounts up. Jamie confirmed that the way in which the page is currently set up that it was unable to create a page that was information only. Mayor Ing-Moody asked the Council if, knowing this information, that the Town's Social Media Policy should still stand to not solicit feedback or act as a public forum. The Council confirmed their desire to stick with the existing policy. Council Member Studen stated that he did not want to make social media a forum and that it should be aligned and complement the Town website. Council Member Easton asked why we can't just use the website to put the needed information out. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that social media does not require others to seek the information themselves but rather allows the Town to push the information out to them. The social media page was also to work alongside the B.E.E. Campaign to help be able to push those stories out to the community. Council Member Cordes and Easton both thought that using Instagram might work since you can edit the comments. Mayor Ing-Moody will have a meeting with the staff and Jamie and Council Member Cordes to ensure that Facebook is set up accordingly to meet the town's objectives.

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 10th of November 2020.

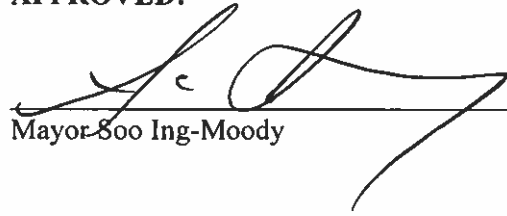
Payroll	EFT# 2152-2165, 2168-2174	65057.38	10/30/2020
Accounts Payable	Warrant # 35806-35841	225437.99	11/10/2020
Accounts Payable	EFT # 2193-2195	1146.68	11/10/2020

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 6:55 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer