

Town of Twisp
Council Minutes – 02/26/13
7:00 PM

Mayor Ing-Moody called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Council Members present: Bob Lloyd
 Traci Day
 Clay Hill
 John Fleming

Council Member absent: Clint Estes

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Fleming led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Request for Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Additions: Wrestling Team Proclamation

Deletions: None

Public Comment – Up to 5 minutes each

Paul Gitchos, Twisp: He said he has sympathy for the local businesses and the need for revenue but he feels the use of ATVs would be a terrible trade-off for Twisp. He stated safety concerns and asked the Council to choose wisely.

Paula Mackrow, Twisp: She is not in favor of ATV use in Twisp. She stated there needs to be studies done to analyze data from other communities where ATVs are in use; accident statistics, revenue gain. Documentation has not been given to show why ATV use would be good for Twisp. Parking would be an issue with ATV use.

Dwight Filer, Twisp: He expressed his displeasure of Council Member Hill's conduct and comments at the last meeting discussing the potential allowance of ATVs in Twisp. He noted that Mayor Ing-Moody commented at the last meeting that the Association of Washington Cities, Risk Management Services Agency (AWC RMSA) stated the opinion of considerable risks involved with allowing ATV use in Town. He stated that Council Member Hill's comment to the Mayor's statement was that AWC's advice should be taken with a grain of salt. Mr. Filer disagreed stating that the services of AWC RMSA are valuable and valid to the Town as our insurance providers and risk management consultants. He mentioned Council Member Hill's comment that persons in opposition to ATV use in Twisp were the vocal minority. Mr. Filer was offended by this statement and reminded Council Member Hill of the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine and the requirement that decision makers not be closed minded but objective and impartial.

Council Member Hill: He responded that he appreciated Mr. Filer's comments. He stated he may have used the wrong approach to voice his opinion on ATVs. His request for a draft ATV Ordinance was to

facilitate the process to work through all the concerns of citizens such as; visibility both driving at night and when dealing with snow berms, defining streets for ATV travel, and hours of travel.

Isabelle Spohn, Twisp: She handed in petitions opposed to ATV use in Twisp. She asked the Council to stay in-tune and listen carefully to the citizens. She stated that to draft an ordinance in advance of the Forest Service opening more ATV trails or allowing a trial period of ATV use in Twisp would be counter-productive and divisive if the Forest Service should decide to not open more trails.

George Wooten, Twisp: He stated he doesn't see Twisp as the ATV hub of Washington; as it would go against the character of the Methow Valley. In his opinion, Twisp is a quiet town that attracts retirees, and that ATVs are repulsive to retirees. He feels that ATV use would be detrimental to the housing market in Twisp.

Sandi Schenberg, Twisp: She said council members should put their pre-determined and pre-conceived ideas aside and listen to the community. She noted that it has been mentioned before how business owners are for ATV use in Twisp but that the petition submitted by Ms. Spohn tonight contained signatures of 67 business owners stating their opposition to ATV use. She believes there to be more opposition than support.

Susan Speir, Twisp: She stated that the ATV issue is polarizing the community. She believes there are safety issues associated with ATV use in Town and on pavement, and that Washington State doesn't require liability insurance on ATVs. She also believes that the Twisp Winthrop Eastside County Road and Bally Hill Road are not appropriate routes for ATV travel.

Richard Tingelstad, Twisp: He stated that he is still opposed to ATV use. The use would be bad for the residents, environment and waterways. Mr. Tingelstad stated he was angry with Council Member Hill's performance at the last public meeting and he was not alone in that thought.

Council Member Hill responded to Mr. Tingelstad and said he has heard the comments spoken at tonight's meeting and it was clear he needed to do more listening.

Mr. Filer appreciated Council Member Hill's comment. Mr. Filer stated that bridges can be built and listening skills improved.

Council Member Day reiterated the number of business owners, 67, to be a large number in opposition to ATV use.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Ing-Moody reported on the following:

- She is proud of how Twisp ended financially in 2012.
- The Kiwanis have taken the Twisp Sports Complex at the Twisp Municipal Airport as their feature project for 2013. Funds from the Kiwanis' Bite of the Methow will be spent improving soccer and baseball fields and the construction of storage sheds.
- The Council Retreat is scheduled for March 22nd and 23rd.

- Public comments on ATV use in Twisp will be accepted by Town Hall until March 1st. She stated that all comments received about ATV use by March 1st would be compiled for Council review at the March 12th meeting.

Council Member Hill asked if ATV use was going to be on the agenda at the Council retreat.

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that retreats are designed more for long-range planning.

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the ATV topic will be placed on the Council's upcoming March 12th agenda. She advised the Council that she would be asking for Council action at that time and that she would be requesting that the Council approve to indefinitely defer a decision on the ATV issue until such time as it would be reasonable and sensible to do so based on the ATV Club's request for connectivity. Council Member Fleming questioned waiting until the next meeting.

The Council discussed the time and energy they would want to spend digesting the ATV information that will be compiled for their review. They also discussed that the Mayor sets the council agendas but that two Council Members could have an item placed on the agenda if requested.

Motion:

Council Member Fleming made the motion to indefinitely defer further ATV deliberations as suggested by the Mayor. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill and passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Written staff reports were submitted and placed in the Council packets for review. Mayor Ing-Moody asked Council if they had any questions regarding the reports submitted by the Department Heads.

Council Member Hill asked Chief Budrow how the two man department was running. Chief Budrow stated that the department is busy. He has changed his hours and is doing more traffic patrolling in the earlier morning hours which has been beneficial. He expressed that he does have the resources to hire part-time help as needed but that it is not yet a busy time for the department.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports

There were no reports submitted.

Council Member Lloyd reported that the sub-committee working with Winthrop on consolidation of the two police departments will meet with Sheriff Rogers on March 12th.

Council Member Day reported that the process to choose a firm to design, engineer, and manage the Community Trail project is moving forward. The Town has applied to the Methow Valley Fund for conceptual design funds and the Town was interviewed and the trail walked by members of the Methow Valley Fund on February 22nd.

Council Member Hill asked about the Port/Ulrich Plat Alteration Right-of-Way staff report. Council Member Day explained that the Town will dedicate town-owned property as a right-of-way for Wagner Street which will match up with property being donated by Aspen Investment Short Plats and create a sixty foot access road to the approved short plats. Planner Danison will complete a Boundary Line Adjustment on the Town property and an ordinance pertaining to the action will come before the Council

on March 26th.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Contract for Fire Protection Services

Mayor Ing-Moody gave an update on the chain of events that have led up to not having a signed contract for fire protection services with Fire District #6. At the last Council meeting, the Council gave approval to sign after Section 2.4 had been clarified as stated at that meeting. After the February 12th meeting, AWC RMSA sent back a review of the contract with a few small corrections based on language the needed to be retained as in the previous contract for liability purposes. Clerk Moriarty discovered that in Section 2.6, the Utility Section of the contract, the words “water and sewer” had been removed from the list of utilities for which the District has assumed responsibility in the previous contract. When corrections were made to the contract and “water and sewer” reinserted into Section 2.6, Clerk Moriarty contacted Fire Chief Waller to pick up the contract for signature and stated that there had been some corrections made. Chief Waller and Commissioner Reiber came to review the changes. When Clerk Moriarty mentioned the insertion of “water and sewer” back into the contract, the Chief and Commissioner voiced their unhappiness and left without the contract.

The Mayor and Council discussed that even the Town must pay for the water it uses, along with all other residences and businesses in Town. It was discussed that allowing District #6 to not pay for water and sewer would be a gifting of public funds.

In addition, since the Town had not yet officially received a formal request from the Commissioners for a change in terms of the contract the Council is only being updated on the situation at this time. The Commissioners next meeting is March 11th, the night before the next Council meeting after which time more information may become available. The Mayor and Council voiced their concern for the need of fire protection for citizens and expressed frustration at the lack for consistent and unified communication with the Commissioners, as the Commissioners appear to circumvent proper channels of communication with the Town.

MVCC Library Space Lease

The Methow Valley Community Center (MVCC) bills the Town for the rental space used by the North Central Regional Library (NCRL) at the MVCC and the NCRL reimburses the Town for the majority of the cost. The rental fee hasn't changed for 2012 but the MVCC Board of Directors is cleaning up language in the old contract as it is time to sign a new contract. The Council had questions about Sections #7 Utilities and #14 Improvements in the revised contract.

Action: Clerk Moriarty will get the questions answered and send the contract onto the Association of Washington Cities for review. She will bring back a clean copy for Council approval.

Proclamation Champion Wrestling Team 2013

The Liberty Bell Mountain Lion Wrestling Team won first place at the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association 2013 Mat Classic XXV 1B/2B State Championship. The Mayor and Council wanted to honor the team and coaches for their outstanding accomplishment.

Motion:

Council Member Lloyd moved to approve the proclamation honoring the 2013 Liberty Bell Wrestling team and coaches. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill and passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes January 22nd and February 12th, 2013.

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 26th day of February, 2013.

Francotyp-Postalia, Inc.	EFT Trans # 335	\$500.00	02/13/13
Checks	29757-29776	\$18,897.98	02/26/13
US Rural Development	EFTs Trans # 357-359	\$1,354.00	02/28/13
Checks	29777-29782	\$378.00	02/28/13

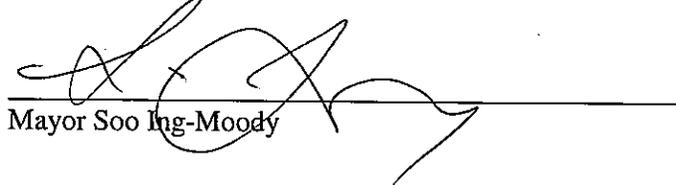
Motion:

Council Member Fleming moved to approve the minutes and consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill and passed.

Adjournment

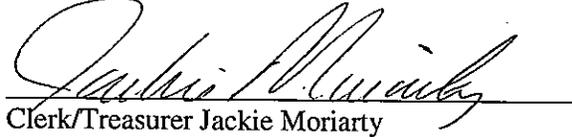
There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Jackie Moriarty