

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 4/27/2021

Mayor Pro Tem Smith called the video conference meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

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

Council Members absent: Hannah Cordes

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Easton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

N/A

Public Comment:

N/A

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody was present to share some great news. She said the Legislative Capital Budget was passed this past weekend which included an appropriation for the Twisp Civic Building/EOC for \$1.5 million dollars. She recapped the past year's work to value-engineer the building to lower costs after the first bids in 2020 came back in excess of available funding. As such, she said that when the bids came back the second time in 2021, the town did not anticipate the estimates to be \$1.5M more after having value-engineered to lower costs from the previous year. Indicators have pointed to rising costs impacting the construction industry, labor, and materials due to the Covid pandemic. She shared that with the help of the Finance Committee, Clerk / Treasurer Kilmer, and Director Denham all working together, the town was able to keep USDA application on track for approval of an \$1.2 M RD loan to temporarily cover the gap, while continuing at the same time to look for more sustainable alternative funding. The loan was always intended as a short-term solution to bridge the funding gap measure and not seen as a sustainable long-term solution due to the town's limited debt capacity. Recognizing that time was of issue and options limited, she immediately reached out to Representative Mike Steele providing him an update on the situation and the timely need for an emergency capital fund request. The request was supported by Representative Keith Goehner. She commended Representative Steele's tireless work on behalf of our community for the success in keeping our project moving forward in the 11th hour. She expressed her sincere thanks to him and noted to Council that our community owes a debt of gratitude to Representative Mike Steele for his work in representing us.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that he thinks it is remarkable that the additional funding was secured on such short notice and thanked Mayor Ing-Moody for all her hard work to make it happen. He said the needed funding will be an incredible value to the citizens and ensures a great outcome for the project. Mayor Ing-Moody said she is humbled and thanked the staff in advance for all the work which will need

to be put into the project to see it to its completion. She especially thanked Clerk / Treasurer Kilmer and Director Denham for the roles they will play to ensure that the financial and construction aspects of the project run smoothly. She acknowledged that there is still a lot of work to do and is ready to move forward. Council Member Caswell thanked everyone involved for their work.

Staff Reports:

Director Denham reported that they were able to surplus some items recently and said it was great to unload some old equipment and old vehicles which will help the street budget. Council Member Easton asked if they found the source of the additional biosolids discharge at the treatment plant. Denham replied that today's numbers are normal, and he thinks it has come to them in a cycle. He said it takes a while to test the data and although last month's numbers were high, he is hoping that it will stabilize in the future.

Council Member Easton asked Denham about the status of the Canyon St. project. Denham replied that he held a preconstruction meeting and is waiting for documents to issue the notice to proceed which should be in the next 10 days.

Council Member Easton asked Chief Budrow what is happening with loose dogs that are turning up in the neighborhoods without collars and tags. Chief Budrow responded that there is no protocol currently as there is no animal control, but if you catch a loose dog, you can always call Okandogs and they will take in those animals.

Council Member Easton asked Chief Budrow what is allowed with drones in town? Chief Budrow responded that there is no ordinance on drones, they are governed by the FAA and that might be something that council will want to look into researching for the town. Easton also asked Chief Budrow if he might be retiring? Chief Budrow responded that his house is for sale and his family is making plans to potentially move to Iowa. He said he thinks that Officer Sheehan may be able to replace him or fill in if he does indeed move. He also said that there will be new legislation coming that may cost the town for additional officer training and that it might be a good idea to hold a Public Safety Committee meeting to update everyone on what it will look like moving forward.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports:

N/A

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Letter of Support – Methow Recycles Lease:

Mayor Pro Tem Smith said that Methow Recycles is looking for a letter of support from the Town of Twisp that would be submitted with their bid to continue operating at the current facility. Currently Okanogan County Public Works is holding a public bidding process for recycling services on the property that Methow Recycles has been leasing. Methow Recycles Director Sarah Jo Lightner said they have had a lease of \$1 per year for the land. She said their current lease is up in June and is requesting a letter be written as soon as possible. Mayor Pro Tem Smith suggested to have a letter drafted and specifically reviewed by Council for approval before submission to Methow Recycles.

Council Member Studen moved to approve drafting a letter to present to council for approval that would support Methow Recycles to continue their recycle program at the current location and recommend to Okanogan County Public Works to award the bid to them. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed with Mayor Pro Tem Smith abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Bond Counsel Engagement – Foster Garvey:

Council Member Easton moved to accept the Engagement letter for Bond Council Services from Foster Garvey pending review by legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell and passed with Mayor Pro Tem Smith abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Mental Health Month 2021 Proclamation:

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the proclamation stating the month of May as Mental Health Month 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed with Mayor Pro Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Resolution #21-678 - 2021 Salary Scale:

Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer stated this is an amendment to the previous version that updates the minimum wage pertaining to lifeguards. It also adds a salary scale for a Public Works Lead Operator position.

Council Member Caswell moved to approve Resolution #21-678 – 2021 Salary Scale as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed with Mayor Pro Tem abstaining.

Discussion/Action: Equipment Surplus - Generator:

Director Denham said this is an old generator that the Town has no use for, and he would like to dispose of it per the fixed asset policy.

Council Member Easton moved to approve the asset disposal of the old generator as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Caswell 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 27th of April 2021.

Payroll	EFT# 744-751	8616.00	4/15/21
Accounts Payable	EFT # 860	683.00	4/27/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36138-36161	19608.13	4/27/21

Council Member Caswell moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed with Mayor Pro Tem abstaining.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor Pro Tem Smith

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer