

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 2/23/2021

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Cordes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

Addition: Discussion: Friends of the Pool Consideration for Pool Season 2021

Public Comment:

Mayor Ing-Moody asked Clerk Treasurer Kilmer and Deputy Clerk Grennell if any public comment had been received prior to the meeting. They both verified that nothing had been received.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody shared that Crown Columbia has applied with Ecology for water rights banking to include out of basin transfers of water. There has been concern expressed by various entities and jurisdictions that if approved this could result in future impairment to available local water rights.

Mayor Ing-Moody said that had spoken earlier in the day with Okanogan County Department of Health Laurie Jones who stated said at this time we have no new cases in the Methow Valley. The County is currently in Phase 2 and no further phases have been announced. She said that Okanogan County has given out 11,700 doses to date. She also said that the Auditors are reported to be wrapping up the routine audit and she expects to receive a summary soon. She also shared that there may be some infrastructure funding opportunities in the near future and has been busy writing Capital Project funding requests. She reported that she has met with the town department heads earlier in the day to discuss and prepare for the potential move into the temporary office space.

Staff Reports:

Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer said that the website is back up and running after being down for several days due to technical difficulties.

Public Works Director Denham's staff report is included in the packet. He stated that they received favorable lab results and the Wastewater Treatment Plant is at 85-90% back in full nitrification. He said it is almost there and will be giving ecology a report explaining the violations.

Commission/Committee/Board Reports:

Council Member Cordes attended the Friends of the Pool meeting. She said they are working really hard to come up with a plan to open the pool. They are on the agenda for a discussion this evening. Council Member Cordes also attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting where Director Denham gave an update on the Sports Complex - with the bids going out tomorrow for Phase 1 of the plan. She said they worked on the Parks Comprehensive Plan the rest of the meeting where they continue to make edits to the plan.

Council Member Easton attended the Climate Impact Group where they continue to strategize and provide framework to support, coordinate, and communicate with other organizations. He said they will be connecting with Chelan to share ideas moving forward.

Council Member Easton also attended the Twisp Chamber of Commerce meeting. He said it was a good meeting. Twispworks is conducting a comprehensive survey and study of the local economy and has had 800 results so far. He also reported that the Methow Valley Investment Network has 6 new members. He said they discussed the contract renewal with the Town and have updated the Chamber website to include links to the Town of Twisp that further clarifies the difference between the roles of the Chamber and the Town.

Council Member Caswell attended the Planning Commission meeting where Council Member Smith was in attendance to discuss the revisions to Chapter 14.05 of the TMC. Council Member Smith stated that the Planning Commission was receptive to the changes and the red lines were incorporated into the revision. He said Council should be seeing the draft soon.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion: Friends of the Pool Consideration for Pool Season 2021:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that she recently had a meeting with a few members of the Friends of the Pool (FOP) who apprised her of their desire to work with the town in potentially opening the pool this year. She said that the budget for 2021 does not include a line item for the pool. She said they have not had a finance committee meeting yet on the budget and has not received a position report to see where the budget is sitting. She would like to commend the FOP for their efforts regardless of the outcome and is hopeful that with the current vaccine distribution that things will soon return to some sense of normalcy.

Bo Thrasher said that she understands there are Covid and budget constraints that could prohibit the town from opening the pool but the FOP would like to work with the town together to assess the possibility. She suggested creating a working committee for Phase 2 opening which would consist of a group that raises funds for the pool. She also mentioned using the Wagner Memorial Fund that wasn't used last year to help fund the opening. She said that Brewster and Okanogan want to open their pools this year. Council Member Smith asked if other pools are planning to open, and whether there are issues and barriers they are facing? Thrasher responded that the Okanogan pool wants to open but does not have a plan yet. She said certain members interested in opening the pool in Brewster plans to open although she doesn't have any info nor has she spoken to the city of that possibility.

Mayor Ing-Moody said that the Department of Health has issued requirements and she would like to look further into the regulations when we get further in the process of determining the likelihood of the pool reopening. She said they have to look into the financial aspect first and go from there. She said that since it is a Municipal Pool, there is a greater risk to the public and that naturally health and safety is of utmost importance.

Council Member Cordes thanked the FOP members for attending the meeting. She asked each Council Member if they are in favor of opening the pool this summer? Council Member Caswell stated that after reading the letters included in the packet he is open to changing his opinion which had been to not open the pool. He would like to talk more about it to the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer about the financial aspect of only opening at 25% capacity. Council Member Easton appreciated the enthusiasm of the FOP as these kinds of small groups keep the community alive. He said there are a lot of variables without answers and wants a timeline for making a decision. He looks forward to working with the FOP and wants to ensure that it is done right, if it can realistically be done. Council Member Studen would like to reiterate that the town appreciates the willingness of the FOP to help fill in the gaps financially. He would like to know how much of a financial impact opening would pose and would like to know what is needed before starting to raise the money. He wants the pool to open this summer as much as everyone else but understands there may be some constraints to consider first. Council Member Smith stated that he is optimistic about the pool opening. He said that when they made the financial decision about adopting the budget there were a lot of unknowns for the future. He said with the vaccine rollout, the current Covid numbers trend, he feels that we could be in a more positive place when summer hits. However, after making a decision he doesn't want to look back and wish things were different. He agrees with the request for a working committee on the opening of the pool and has volunteered to be part of it. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that it will still be determined whether a committee will be formed since a lot of the work will rest upon the Public Works department that oversees the pool.

Sarah Schrock stated that the FOP is determined to come up with creative solutions for opening the pool and operating the regular activities. She said that with the help of swim team members they might be able to help with swim lessons. She is looking forward to working with the Town on a plan.

Discussion/Action: Council Committee Appointments:

Mayor Ing-Moody went through the Council Committee Appointments to see if any changes to the roster needed to be made. All appointments stayed the same with the exception of the Public Safety Committee, which removed Council Member Cordes and added Council Member Smith. Additionally, Council Member Smith will be serving as liaison for exploring the option of a recreational district formation.

Discussion/Action: Contract – Twisp Chamber of Commerce Tourism Activities:

Mayor Ing-Moody wanted to thank everyone involved with this new contract. She said Council Member Easton was pivotal in working with the Chamber to get their website updated to differentiate between the Town of Twisp and the Twisp Chamber of Commerce. Council Member Smith also wanted to thank Council Member Easton on his hard work saying it is much improved. Council Member Easton would like to thank Chamber Vice-President Don Linnertz on his masterful work on the contract and being able to provide something everyone approved of.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the contract with the Twisp Chamber of Commerce as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cordes and passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Lease Agreement – Temporary Location for Town Hall and Police Department:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that this lease agreement is dependent on bids being received at tomorrow's bid opening and would be starting on March 1. In order to provide enough time for the move, while providing flexibility on the duration some amendments are suggested in the language.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the lease agreement between the Town of Twisp and 101 N. Glover, LLC with conditions as presented by Mayor Ing-Moody. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- Accounts Payable/Payroll
- Minutes: 2/9/2021

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 23rd of February 2021.

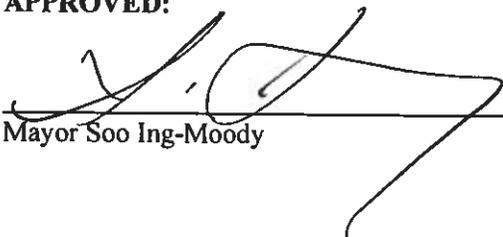
Payroll	EFT# 420-426, 428	8616.00	2/16/21
Accounts Payable	EFT # 452	683.00	2/23/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36019 - 36033	45893.50	2/23/21
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 36034	13217.34	2/23/21

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer