

Town of Twisp

Council Minutes – 11/9/2021

Mayor Ing-Moody called the video conference meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Member Caswell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

Discussion/Action: Notice of Award – Biosolids Dewatering and Lift Station No. 2 Improvement Project

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.

Public Hearing: 2022 Preliminary Budget Hearing:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the public hearing for the 2022 Preliminary Budget Hearing at 5:35pm. She asked the Council if they have any comments. There were no comments. She then asked that the audience be un-muted and asked if the audience had any comments. She said they should identify themselves and state their comment. There were no comments. Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 5:39pm.

Public Hearing: 2022 Property Tax Levy:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the public hearing for the 2022 Property Tax Levy at 5:39pm. She asked the Council if they have any comments. There were no comments. She then asked that the audience be un-muted and asked if the audience had any comments. She said they should identify themselves and state their comment. There were no comments. Mayor Ing-Moody asked for a motion from council for approval of Ordinance #776.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Ordinance #776 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Easton and passed unanimously.

Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 5:41pm.

Public Hearing: 2022 EMS Levy:

Mayor Ing-Moody opened the public hearing for the 2022 EMS Levy at 5:41pm. She asked the Council if they have any comments. There were no comments. She then asked that the audience be un-muted and

asked if the audience had any comments. She said they should identify themselves and state their comment. There were no comments. Mayor Ing-Moody asked for a motion from council for approval of Ordinance #777.

Council Member Studen moved to approve Ordinance #777 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and passed unanimously.

Mayor Ing-Moody closed the public hearing at 5:42pm.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she's been busy with budget season. She also reported that they completed the first review of the Public Works Director applicants but doesn't feel there is relevant experience among the candidates and will continue to search. She has attended multiple committee meetings as will be presented later by Council. She said that staff has been busy buttoning up projects in preparation for winter, and that otherwise it's business as usual.

Staff Reports:

The Public Works staff report is included in the packet as well as the report from the Police Department. Mayor Ing-Moody wanted to comment that the attack on any Police Officers is unacceptable behavior and hopes that investigation by Chief Budrow will reveal those involved.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Council Member Studen stated that he attended the TranGo meeting where they had a budget workshop in between their regular monthly meeting. He said that since they have a new interim General Manager, they will be changing the way they present the budget information to the Board. He said they have authorized the purchase of new busses since the current busses each have over 200,000 miles of use already.

Council Member Studen reported he attended the Public Safety committee meeting where they met with District 6 to extend the agreement for services for 2022 and will continue to talk about potential annexation. He said they also discussed the union contract negotiations for the Police Officers and are closer to coming to an agreement; they are hoping to ratify the agreement in early 2022.

Council Member Cordes attended the Friends of the Pool (FOP) meeting where they discussed the best way to use the Give Methow funds that were donated. They want to use it for community outreach and possibly some marketing tools. She said they are pleased with the work of Ballard King so far. She also said they are having a retreat where they can focus on how to figure out the best path forward to fundraise for a future capital campaign. Council Member Smith mentioned that he was part of the FOP discussion on the possibility of forming a Recreation District that would encompass the footprint of the School District area. He said there are discussions on the pros and cons for the formation of a district, recognizing that having one would allow for long term facility maintenance, if a facility were to be funded.

Council Member Smith attended the Finance Committee meeting where they received an update on the budget position as well as a 2022 budget update. He said the 2021 budget amendment is on the agenda tonight and due to good housekeeping by the Clerk/Treasurer will look cleaner on paper moving forward. He said they also looked at the fee schedule, water/sewer rates, and a continuing analysis of insurance rates with RMSA. He said they also discussed the Municipal Judge salary, future funding of a PD vehicle

and staffing needs for Public Works in 2022. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that there were no amendments made to the fee schedule; they had only discussed the pool rental fee requiring amendment.

Council Member Smith attended the Public Works committee meeting where he said a lot of their discussions are on the agenda this evening and will let those discussions speak for themselves. He said he believed the stormwater drainage issue at TwispWorks has a resolution forthcoming and asked Director Denham to explain the status. Denham responded that the engineers have done the review and there was a pre-construction meeting to show that they have set the location of the new infrastructure away from the fence and power pole. He said TwispWorks is working with their own contractor to complete the project. Mayor Ing-Moody thanked Director Denham for expediting this project and commended him for the time and effort he took to baby this project along. Councilmember Smith stated that they also discussed the Biosolids projects, and the PW committee is recommending moving forward with awarding the contract and will come back for the collection side of the project in 2023. Smith also explained that they discussed the need for a PW operator. They currently have an opening for a contract position, but the applicant they want to fill it with is seeking a more permanent with benefits position.

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that she attended the Okanogan Council of Governments meeting where they discussed moving forward with the creation of an RTPO – PT Administrative position. She said that there will be 2 positions open on the subcommittee working on this new position as 2 mayors won't be returning in January. She said they received an update from WSDOT about the possibility of staffing shortages on road maintenance this winter; they advised the Council to possibly expect more compact snow and ice on the roadways than in previous years. Additionally, they announced that there will not be any charges to the towns for snow clearing, as had been discussed in the last couple of years. Mayor Ing-Moody announced that she also gave notice that she will be stepping down as the Chair this next year and encouraged OCOG Council members to step up to assume the position.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Ordinance #778 – Budget Amendment 2021:

Clerk/Treasurer Kilmer stated that the 2021 Budget was very conservative and it had been expected that there would be a need to amend balances if revenues came in higher than originally projected. He explained that part of the amendment to be approved includes the closing out of old negative fund balances. Mayor Ing-Moody thanked Clerk Kilmer for the hard work he has put in to complete the much-needed process of getting these past funds cleaned up and properly accounted.

Council Member Smith moved to approve Ordinance #778 as presented. Council Member Easton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Water/Sewer Rates:

Director Denham is requesting a 3% increase in water/sewer rates for 2022. He said there are many factors that have helped him determine the need for increased rates. They include inflation, new equipment purchases, additional staffing needs, USDA loan payments, Civic Building shared costs, and SCADA system maintenance fees. Council Member Smith stated that they have discussed this at Finance Committee, and it is not on the agenda for action tonight but wanted to enable Council to ask any questions and become familiar with the needs moving forward. Mayor Ing-Moody said that we are experiencing high inflation rates which has affected public works costs for supply purchases, among other things. She noted that this item will be brought back for a future discussion/action as the budget nears completion.

Discussion/Action: Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan:

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Nick Hershenow attended the meeting to discuss the current draft version of the Parks Plan. He said that they started working on this plan about 2 years ago after a directive from Council that it was time to update the plan to be eligible for grant funding awards. Council Member Easton expressed his appreciation of the hard work that the Parks and Recreation Commission put into recreating the plan. Easton asked to clarify the comment he read about dismantling the bandshell and said that he isn't in favor of that happening. He also asked if anyone had the idea of putting in a community garden. Hershenow responded that the Committee considered that since TwispWorks already has a new bandshell that maybe another one at the park would no longer be needed. He said he supports the potential idea of a community garden. Council Member Smith also expressed his appreciation and commended the hard work that went into the plan; he said the plan appears to be clear and comprehensive. He would like to see more public input and have them be part of the process for the next part of the plan. Hershenow said they are drafting a survey to ask for comments and the need to discuss trail routes with certain property owners to obtain permission through those properties. Mayor Ing-Moody said she thinks the survey is a good idea and stressed the importance of it needing to be inclusive. She said the next step after public input is a public hearing. She also suggested that the plan be renamed to say for the year 2022. Council Member Studen thinks the plan should be put online for public comment so that everyone would have a chance to review it and provide comment. Council Member Caswell thanked the members for their work on the plan. He is especially interested in the trails and connector routes and said his personal wish list would be to include the Lloyd trail and the School House bluff/overlook where recently there had been no trespassing signs installed by a property owner. He would like to see something in the future Palm subdivision as well and suggested a possible path through the area. Council Member Cordes thanked the Commission for their hard work and is glad to hear the positive feedback. She is looking forward to the public input process and excited for it to move forward.

Discussion/Action: Committee Appointment and Communication Procedures:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that there is a letter included in the packet from Sandy Liman who had been appointed to the Twisp Airport Advisory Board. She said she has not accepted his resignation yet because she wanted to address the issue with the councilmembers. She said that each commissioner or committee member serves in a capacity that is valuable for citizen involvement and engagement. Council appreciates the dedication and effort for the members of the committees that have been selected to serve. She said that it does not seem right that anyone be asked to step down by a fellow committee member. Council Member Smith expressed the importance that there should never be intimidation or internal judgement of a person's legitimacy in serving in their position. If there are issues, then they need to be brought up to the Mayor and / or Council Members who appointed the citizen to their position. He said that authority does not exist for committee members to make those decisions and that kind of behavior should not be tolerated. Council Member Easton wholly agreed with Smith and said that he appreciates that there are citizens who want to be on the committees and that there might be someone waiting in case of a vacancy but that it should not be up to someone else to decide when that will happen. Council Member Caswell asked if the person in the letter is a hangar owner or a pilot. Mayor Ing-Moody replied that they are a resident in the community but not a pilot or hangar owner. Caswell said that he does not think that any member has the right to ask someone else to step down. Council Member Studen wanted to address the letter specifically and said that it is not in the best interest of the committee to only be comprised of stakeholders and that residents should also be enabled to serve alongside them. Council Member Cordes was in agreement with everything said and is grateful for everyone serving on committees. She feels it is appropriate if someone has an issue to speak to the mayor for help resolving it. She thinks it's important to have broad backgrounds for each committee. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that it seems that the Council is

consistent on how they feel about this topic, and she will respond with a letter. She said she will not accept the resignation at this time. Council Member Smith asked that there be a letter composed to the Chair of each committee that this kind of intimidation of a fellow committee members be deemed unacceptable behavior.

Discussion/Action: Resolution#21-684 – Highland Associates Contract 2022:

Council Member Studen moved to approve Resolution #21-684 as presented. Council Member Caswell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Twisp/OK County Fire District 6 – Interlocal Agreement for Fire Protection 2022 Extension:

Mayor Ing-Moody stated that the town has reached an agreement for another year of fire protection from District 6 and will continue in annexation discussions. She said the new amount is \$60,000 for the year as they did not increase the payment amount last year.

Council Member Smith moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Fire District 6 as presented. Council Member Easton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Twisp/Kominak – Contract Agreement Lot #2690050600:

Mayor Ing-Moody said that this is a renewal that hasn't been updated in a couple of years, but it has been in place for a long time. It provides public parking and snow storage for the Town. She said this contract is for one year and should be renewed each year.

Council Member Caswell asked if this means that we are leasing the land for the cost of water to the property. Director Denham confirmed that was true.

Council Member Studen moved to approve the Contract Agreement with changes for an automatic renewal on January 1st of each year, unless written notice be given by October 1st in the year prior to renewal if either party wishes to cancel the contract. Council Member Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action: WA ST Department of Ecology Draft Agreement – Twisp Wastewater Treatment Improvement Design:

Director Denham stated that this is just a draft agreement and that it still needs to continue through to review process with the Department of Ecology. Mayor Ing-Moody said this will be brought back in the future.

Discussion/Action: Notice of Award – Biosolids Dewatering and Lift Station No. 2 Improvement Project:

Council Member Smith moved to award the Biosolids Dewatering and Lift Station No. 2 Improvement Project to P.O.W Contracting for \$1,636,196.97 as presented. Council Member Caswell seconded the motion and it 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 9th day of November 2021.

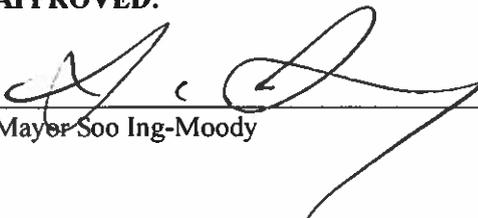
Payroll	EFT# 2314-2322, 2325-2329, 2338-2341	57060.50	10/31/2021
Accounts Payable	EFT # 2244, 2354-2355	809.46	11/9/2021
Accounts Payable	Warrant# 37080-37106	32949.10	11/9/2021

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing – Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:23pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Randy Kilmer