

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
April 7, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Belton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Loren Belton and Councilmembers, Zachary Dorr, Clara Jiménez, Mark Oaks, Derald Ortloff, Randy Taylor and Blaine Thorington.
Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

**PRESENTATION BY BRAD MC DOWELL, CEO OF WASHINGTON
BEEF/AB FOODS, INC. REGARDING MAJOR INITIATIVES AND
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS**

Brad McDowell, CEO of Washington Beef/AB Foods, Inc., provided Council with a status and update on the meat processing industry and where the company is at and its future plans. Currently, the company employs roughly 900 employees, which is maximum capacity for the facility. On a daily basis, the company processes 1,520 to 1,550 head of cattle a day, which is an increase from 900 head a day when AgriBeef purchased the business over ten years ago. Mr. McDowell reported in detail on the extensive efforts the company has accomplished for cost containment, exploring additional opportunities to generate revenue from other sources, controlling emissions, and improving air quality to reduce odor from the facility. Mr. McDowell stated that the company focuses on giving back to the local communities for the benefit of youth education and improving the quality of life. In 2014, the company committed \$20,000 to help sustain the combined gang prevention intervention programs that benefit Toppenish. Mr. McDowell reported that over the past five years the company has donated over 700,000 beef meals between Washington and Idaho. The company donates an estimated \$100,000 annually between product and cash that benefits the community of Toppenish.

UPDATE REGARDING MEDICAL AND RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA ISSUES

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) provided an update on the number of applications for producing, processing and retailing that have been filed with the Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB). As of this date, the WSLCB has received: 2,725 applications for producer licenses with 8 licenses issued in Vancouver, Spokane, Spokane Valley, Seattle, Benton City, Bremerton, Shelton, and Pacific; 1,974 applications for processor licenses with 7 licenses issued in Seattle, Benton City, Bremerton, Spokane, Spokane Valley, Pacific, and Vancouver; and 2,182 applications for retail licenses with zero licenses issued. CM Murphy stated that no applications have been filed for producing, processing, or retailing in Toppenish. The Yakama Nation Tribal Council has stated that it will object to any applications for licenses to be issued within the boundaries of the Yakama Nation. It was the consensus of Council to wait and see what happens as recommended by CM Murphy.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

LOREN BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK