

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2013

Mayor Jiménez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Clara Jiménez and Councilmembers Loren Belton, Zachary Dorr, Mark Oaks, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.
Absent: Councilmember Derald Ortloff.
Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy), Finance Director/City Clerk Linda B. Mead (FD Mead), Public Works Director Lance Hoyt, Police Chief Adam Diaz, Public Works Supervisor Art Kroes, Police Dispatcher Clerk Virginia Holmes, Public Works Maintenance Technician Barry Gatlin, MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Councilmember Taylor moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to excuse Councilmember Ortloff from the December 9, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

10 –Year Service Pins – Barry Gatlin and Lance Hoyt.
15-Year Service Pins – Virginia Holmes and Eric Bakker.
20-Year Service Pins – Art Kroes and Adam Diaz.

Mayor Jiménez presented 10-year service pins to Public Works Maintenance Technician Barry Gatlin and Public Works Director Lance Hoyt, a 15-year service pin to Police Dispatcher Clerk Virginia Holmes and announced that Public Works Wastewater Operator II Eric Bakker earned his 15-year service pin, and then presented 20-year service pins to Public Works Supervisor Art Kroes and Police Chief Adam Diaz. The Council thanked the employees for their dedication and service to the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gabriel Pinon, 311 Chehalis Avenue, Toppenish, reported to Council on an experience he had while he was at City Hall in the Finance Department to pay his water bill. Mr. Pinon stated that several Spanish-speaking customers requested his assistance to interpret with the Finance Department staff. In addition, Mr. Pinon informed Council that most of the customers he helped were paying their water bill during their lunch hour on Thursday because City Hall closes for business on Friday. City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported that when the City has job openings the City makes an effort to hire bilingual finance employees; unfortunately, they have not been successful in recruiting qualified bilingual people for the finance department. From the audience, Finance Director/City Clerk Mead (FD Mead) responded that a large percentage of the customers appreciate the extended hours the Finance Department is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Dorr to approve Consent Agenda item a through g:

- a. Approve Minutes of the November 25, 2013 Regular Council Meeting.
- b. Approve Minutes of the December 2, 2013 Study Session.
- c. Approve Pay Estimate #3 to Rotschy, Inc. in the total amount of \$69,201.32 with retainage held in the amount of \$3,260.00 for the Well #9 Housing/Equipping Project.
- d. Approve Pay Estimate #1 to T. Bailey, Inc. in the amount of \$148,192.47 with retainage held in the amount of \$6,981.19 for the Water Reservoir No. 5 Project.

- e. Approve Pay Estimate #5 to Scout Lake Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$27,592.49 with retainage held in the amount of \$1,342.72 for the 2013 Water System Improvements Project.
- f. Approve Payroll Checks Number 32453 through 32470 and EFTPR249-255 in the total amount of \$184,830.16 dated December 4, 2013.
- g. Approve Claims Checks Number 78458 through 78576 in the total amount of \$467,863.63 dated December 9, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 2013-23:

Ordinance Adjusting Water Rates by Amending Section 13.16.040 of the Toppenish Municipal Code.

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported that the next five proposed Ordinances are necessary to balance the 2014 Budget that Council adopted on November 25, 2013. The proposed Ordinances are for adjustments to the water, sewer, and solid waste rates by not increasing the rates as adopted by a prior Ordinance and maintaining the 2013 rates. The final two Ordinances increase the utility taxes from 23% to 33% for water, sewer, and solid waste services. The purpose of the utility tax is to support public safety services for police and fire.

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Dorr to adopt Ordinance 2013-23, an Ordinance Adjusting Water Rates by Amending Section 13.16.040 of the Toppenish Municipal Code. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2013-24:

Ordinance Adjusting Sewer Rates by Amending Sections 13.44.025, 13.44.030, 13.44.040 and 13.44.045 of the Toppenish Municipal Code.

Councilmember Taylor moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to adopt Ordinance 2013-24, an Ordinance Adjusting Sewer Rates by Amending Sections 13.44.025, 13.44.030, 13.44.040 and 13.44.045 of the Toppenish Municipal Code. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2013-25:

Ordinance Adjusting Solid Waste Rates by Amending Section 8.10.170 of the Toppenish Municipal Code.

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to adopt Ordinance 2013-25, an Ordinance Adjusting Solid Waste Rates by Amending Section 8.10.170 of the Toppenish Municipal Code. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2013-26:

Ordinance Increasing Tax on Water and Wastewater Services by Ten Percent, from 23 Percent to 33 Percent by Amending Section 3.39.010 of the Toppenish Municipal Code.

Councilmember Oaks moved, seconded by Councilmember Dorr to adopt Ordinance 2013-26, an Ordinance Increasing Tax on Water and Wastewater Services by Ten Percent, from 23 Percent to 33 Percent by Amending Section 3.39.010 of the Toppenish Municipal Code. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2013-27:

Ordinance Increasing Tax on Solid Waste Services by Ten Percent, from 23 Percent to 33 Percent by Amending Section 3.41.010 of the Toppenish Municipal Code.

Councilmember Dorr moved, seconded by Councilmember Thorington to adopt Ordinance 2013-27, an Ordinance Increasing Tax on Solid Waste Services by Ten Percent, from 23 Percent to 33 Percent by Amending Section 3.41.010 of the Toppenish Municipal Code. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2013-28:

An Ordinance Amending the 2013 Operating Budget and Amending Ordinance 2012-12 and Ordinance 2013-10 for the City of Toppenish, Washington.

FD Mead reported that the proposed Ordinance to Amend the 2013 Operating Budget is to include repair and maintenance for City buildings, additional professional services for information technology services, the conversion for the cemetery building from electric and propane to natural gas service, and for insurance recovery amounts for repairs caused by wind damage to Public Works buildings.

Councilmember Dorr moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to adopt Ordinance 2013-28, an Ordinance Amending the 2013 Operating Budget and Amending Ordinance 2012-12 and Ordinance 2013-10 for the City of Toppenish, Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

Set Agenda for the January 6, 2014 Study Session.

It was the consensus of Council to set the seating of Council for 2014 and 2015, the issuance of Oaths of Office for newly elected Councilmembers, a cemetery discussion, and the City Manager evaluation as the agenda topics for the January 6, 2014 Study Session.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Belton reported that he attended the Yakima County Emergency Management Service and Trauma Care meeting with Fire Chief Smith.

Mayor Jiménez announced that the City received notification that it received a Transportation Improvement Board award for the FY 2015 Arterial Preservation Project, Multiple Locations, in the amount of \$344,171.00. From the audience, Public Works Director Hoyt reported that the City has three projects closely related to make improvements to Franklin, Beech, Lincoln, and Dayton Streets.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CM Murphy expressed his appreciation to the anonymous person that donated \$200.00 to the City to help benefit the children.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK