

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2012

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, Derald Ortloff, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.
Staff Present: City Manager William Murphy (CM Murphy), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Finance Director/City Clerk Linda Mead (FD Mead), Deputy Finance Director/City Clerk Lynette Bisconer, MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

WELCOME NEW CITY EMPLOYEE

Introduction of Deputy Finance Director/City Clerk Lynette Bisconer by Finance Director/City Clerk Linda B. Mead.

Finance Director/City Clerk Mead (FD Mead) introduced Lynette Bisconer as the new Deputy Finance Director/City Clerk. FD Mead reported that the 15 years of municipal finance experience that Ms. Bisconer brings with her is a great addition for her department and the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to approve Consent Agenda items a through e:

- a. Approve Minutes of the March 12, 2012 Regular Meeting.
- b. Receive February 2012 Budget Report and Update memorandum submitted by Finance Director/City Clerk Linda Mead.
- c. Pay Estimate #1 for the Library Building Repair Project in the amount of \$31,929.87 with retainage held in the amount of \$1,551.50.
- d. Approve Payroll Checks Number 31506 through 31528 in the total amount of \$222,678.77 dated March 15, 2012.
- e. Approve Claims Checks Number 74715 through 74782 and EFT99120326 in the total amount of \$118,812.27 dated March 26, 2012.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 2012-2:

An Ordinance of the City of Toppenish, Washington, Amending the Toppenish Municipal Code to Enact a New Chapter 12.18 Entitled Toppenish Transportation Benefit District, Establishing a Transportation Benefit District, Specifying the Boundaries for the Transportation Benefit District, and Specifying that Funds Generated by the District must be Used for the Maintenance and Preservation of Existing Transportation Improvements.

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported that the proposed Ordinance is on the agenda per the request of Council during the March 9, 2012 Council meeting. CM Murphy stated that if the

proposed Ordinance is adopted it will be followed by other documentation including various ordinances and resolutions. CM Murphy reported that if it were ultimately decided that a license tab fee should be imposed those additional documents will include rules and bylaws for this independent governing body, the Transportation Benefit District. Those governing documents include; an agreement between the District and the Toppenish City Council; an Ordinance setting the license tab fee; an Ordinance establishing a fund wherein the license tab revenues will be deposited and restrictions will be imposed upon those funds; the plan that will be utilized for the funds; and an agreement between the Transportation Benefit District and the State Department of Licensing. CM Murphy stated that if this is the desire of the Council, those items should be accomplished without any unnecessary delay and that he would have the additional documents prepared for discussion during the April 9, 2012 regular meeting.

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Ortloff to adopt Ordinance 2012-2 an Ordinance of the City of Toppenish, Washington, Amending the Toppenish Municipal Code to Enact a New Chapter 12.18 Entitled Toppenish Transportation Benefit District, Establishing a Transportation Benefit District, Specifying the Boundaries for the Transportation Benefit District, and Specifying that Funds Generated by the District must be Used for the Maintenance and Preservation of Existing Transportation Improvements. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation by Councilmember Loren Belton to give an update to the City Council on funding plans of the Yakima County Gang Commission.

Councilmember Belton reported on the purpose of the accountability centers and gang court proposed by the Yakima County Gang Commission to implement gang prevention and intervention for juveniles. Councilmember Belton explained that the proposal by the Yakima County Gang Commission is for the local communities to regain control of juvenile issues by establishing accountability centers that include a full time coordinator to work with the school district, the police department, parents, residents, and numerous faith groups to offer options for juveniles to stay out of the juvenile system. Councilmember Belton stated that the Yakima County Gang Commission is applying for grants with the Bill Gates Foundation to design and customize the accountability centers for each community to maintain a sustainable program and not burden the local communities with the expense of funding. Councilmember Ortloff reported that the Yakima County Gang Commission is looking for grants and for nonprofit organizations to partner together to help with the long-term sustainability for the accountability centers.

Mayor Jiménez reported that during the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG), meeting the presenter was Yakima County Commissioner Kevin Bouchey. and he explained that the Yakima County Gang Commission Assessment Report is completed. Mayor Jiménez stated that Commissioner Bouchey inquired if the Council would be agreeable for he and a staff member to speak during a study session, and suggested that the Toppenish School District, the Community Safety Network (CSN), and other organizations be invited to attend and discuss the design and needs of the proposed accountability center for Toppenish. Mayor Jiménez reported that Commissioner Bouchey requested to speak to the Council during the May 7, 2012 Study Session. CM Murphy agreed to contact Commissioner Bouchey to discuss the details for the May 7, 2012 Study Session.

Discuss Whether to Reschedule the April 2, 2012 Study Session.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to cancel the April 2, 2012 Study Session because the full Council would not be available to attend the meeting to discuss the Transportation Benefit District.

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to cancel the April 2, 2012 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Jiménez reported that she attended the YVCOG meeting and that YVCOG Executive Director Page Scott gave her a copy of an award letter to notify the City of receiving STP funds for the L Street Improvements Project in the amount of \$69,309 and the Jackson Street Extension Project in the amount of \$129,591 for the planning and design of the projects. Mayor Jiménez reported that she presented at the CSN Third Anniversary Celebration and that she attended the Safe Haven Talent Show & Cheese Zombies Dinner.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CM Murphy reported that he witnessed the outcome of the trash and debris left by a homeless individual sleeping in a City park and inquired if there is an interest of Council to adopt an Ordinance to prohibit overnight camping on public property that interferes with the intended public usage. It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the preparation of an Ordinance to prohibit the use of public property for overnight camping. CM Murphy stated that he received a call from a downtown business owner to ask if the City would relax or remove the two-hour parking restriction on Alder Street between Washington Avenue and Jefferson Avenue to free up some parking for employees that work downtown.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Jiménez called for an executive session to be held at 7:37 p.m. The Mayor informed the public that the purpose of the executive session was to receive an update from the City Manager on status of bargaining with labor unions and that the executive session would convene for 10 minutes or less. Mayor Jiménez announced that it was anticipated no action would be taken when the Regular Session reconvened.

Mayor Jiménez called the regular session back to order at 7:47 p.m. The Mayor stated that no action would be taken at this time as a result of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK