

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Study Session Minutes**  
**May 5, 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, Parks and Recreation Director James Cole and Deputy Finance Director/City Clerk Elizabeth Alba.

**PRESENTATION BY CITY MANAGER REGARDING BASIC INFORMATION  
ABOUT A METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT**

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) provided Council with a brief outline for the process of forming a Metropolitan Park District (MPD). A MPD may be created for the management, control, improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of parks, pathways, boulevards, and recreational facilities. A MPD may be formed by two methods. The first method to create an MPD would require the City Council to adopt a resolution submitting a proposition for its formation to voters within the City Limits of Toppenish. If the MPD includes area within the county, the legislative body of the county must adopt a resolution submitting the proposition to the voters. The second method to create an MPD is by citizen petition. A MPD may be initiated if a petition proposing its creation is submitted to the county auditor of each county in which all or a portion of the proposed district would be located, signed by at least 15 percent of the registered voters residing the in area included.

CM Murphy went on to explain the three governing body alternatives. Alternative one requires that five commissioners are elected during the same election in which the proposition to form a MPD is submitted. The second alternative is the governing body of the city may be designated to serve in ex officio capacity as the board of the metropolitan park commissioners, provided that when creation of the district is proposed by citizen petition, the city approves by resolution such designation. The third alternative is where the district includes an area within the city and county, and proposes each city governing body and county legislative authority may be designated to collectively serve as ex officio Commissioners on the board of the Metropolitan Park District through selection of one or more members from each governing body to serve as the board, provided that: when creation of the district is proposed by citizen petition, the city and county approves by resolution such designation.

After discussion by Council, it was the consensus of the Council to begin a study of the amount of revenue that could be generated by a councilmanic vote based upon the total assessed value of property within the City Limits of Toppenish versus the total assessed value of property within the boundaries of the Toppenish School District. Further information will be determined at a later date.

CM Murphy queried the Council on who will be attending the next Yakima Valley Conference of Governments meeting on May 21, 2014 in Sunnyside. Mayor Belton and Councilmember Jiménez indicated that they will attend the meeting.

CM Murphy queried the Council on who will be attending the next AWC Annual Conference on June 17 thru 20, 2014 in Spokane. Councilmember Jiménez indicated that she will attend the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

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LOREN BELTON, MAYOR

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ELIZABETH ALBA,  
DEPUTY FINANCE DIRECTOR/ CITY CLERK