

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
November 3, 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 (CM Murphy), Finance Director/City Clerk Linda B. Mead, Deputy Finance Director/City Clerk Debbie Zabell, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) announced that Mural Café opened today in the old Gibbons Soda Fountain.

PRESENTATIONS BY CITY MANAGER AND FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK REGARDING 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

CM Murphy reported that during the October 27, 2014 Regular Meeting he urged Council to come to a decision regarding the 2015 Preliminary Budget during this meeting. The City Council received a balanced 2015 Preliminary Budget that eliminates the Parks and Recreation Director Position, the Recreation Program, three Police Officer Positions, along with not filling the vacant positions in the Fire Department and the Police Department. The Recreation Program provides activities for Toppenish youth as well as the lower Yakima Valley communities. CM Murphy reported that he has discussed the issue with Parks and Recreation Director Cole and they will contact the lower Yakima Valley communities for support to continue the recreation program that provides activities for the youth from their respective community.

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Jiménez to reinstate the Parks and Recreation Director Position, the Recreation Program, and one Police Officer in the 2015 Preliminary Budget by evenly using funds from Fund 150 and Fund 002 to achieve the Ending Fund Balance needed to see the City through the first four months of the new year, then revisit the matter in six months. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Thorington shared a complaint that he received from a citizen regarding the 4-10 work week for City Hall. The citizen claimed that his water was shut off on Thursday, and he tried to have it turned back on Friday; however, the City Hall was closed. FD Mead responded that water shut offs do not occur on Thursday because City Hall is closed on Friday. The water shut offs are typically earlier in the week to provide the customer ample time to pay and have their service turned back on.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

LOREN BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK