

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
October 6, 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, and Randy Taylor.

Absent: Councilmember 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.

Councilmember Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to excuse Councilmember Thorington from the October 6, 2014 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

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

City Manager Murphy reported that for the past several years he has been warning Council that the City would be seriously impacted by the ongoing decline of state-shared revenues, and that it would cause the City to be unable to maintain services and staff levels. It is unfortunate that this year in order to balance the proposed 2015 Preliminary Budget several departments will have staff reductions. CM Murphy stated that the personnel reductions will be in the Fire Department, the Police Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department as reflected in the 2015 Preliminary Budget. In addition to the decrease in the state-shared revenues, the City is impacted by costs for the proposed 5.6% rate increase for Cascade Natural Gas, increases for medical, dental and vision insurance premiums, a 19% increase for liability insurance, mandated increases for employer contributions to retirement plans, and built-in increases required by the Collective Bargaining Agreements. Currently, the City is bargaining with the three Collective Bargaining Units representing Police, Fire, Public Works and others.

CM Murphy stated that Council will be discussing the 2015 Preliminary Budget in future Council meetings.

SET NOVEMBER 24, 2014 AS THE DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2015 TAX LEVY

Councilmember Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to set November 24, 2014 as the date for a public hearing regarding the 2015 Tax Levy. Motion carried unanimously.

SET DECEMBER 8, 2014 AS THE DATE FOR THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2015 BUDGET

Councilmember Oaks moved, seconded by Councilmember Dorr to set December 8, 2014 as the date for the final public hearing regarding the 2015 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

LOREN BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK