

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
September 4, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jiménez called the meeting to order at 5:00 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: Police Chief Adam Diaz (PC Diaz) and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

John Cerna, Superintendent for the Toppenish School District, invited the City Council and City Manager to a surprise celebration on September 6, 2012 to present Trevor Greene with the Award for National Principal of the Year. Mr. Cerna explained that over 20,000 principals were nominated for the prestigious award that Mr. Greene was selected to receive.

Receive Update on the Yakima County Gang Resistance and Intervention Project – Presentation by Chief Adam Diaz.

Police Chief Diaz (PC Diaz) presented Council with an update on the status of the Yakima County Gang Resistance and Intervention Project. PC Diaz explained that the purpose of the project is to establish a Community Justice Board to evaluate cases for a youth accountability center to help troubled youth and offer an alternative to Juvenile Court. PC Diaz reported that the initial intent of the project was to obtain funding to provide programs for at-risk youth. Mayor Jiménez stated that the participation by the members is down; however, the group that attends the meeting is motivated and driven to move forward. Councilmember Ortloff expressed his concern regarding the expense to the City of Toppenish when the funding ends after the three year period. Councilmember Belton reported that he was involved with the initial discussion regarding the project and supported the concept of creating community center type coordination, a place to evaluate troubled kids before putting them into the juvenile court system. The plan was to establish the center to give the community of Toppenish a way to locally deal with troubled kids. Councilman Belton stated that a volunteer board would be formed to evaluate the cases and make recommendations for the center coordinator to implement a plan to offer a second chance for eligible, based on criteria to be determined, troubled kids to keep them out of the juvenile court system.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to request the City Manager to schedule a meeting with the Gang Commission Chair Commissioner Kevin Bouchey, Court Consultant Harold Delia, Police Chief Adam Diaz, Councilmember Derald Ortloff, and Councilmember Loren Belton to discuss the concerns expressed by the City Council regarding the direction of the intervention project and what the City Council would like to see happen.

Presentation by City Manager Regarding the Noise Ordinance.

Mayor Jiménez reported that City Manger Murphy is not present to give the presentation so it will be rescheduled to the October 1, 2012 Study Session.

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to reschedule the presentation by City Manager regarding the noise ordinance to be the topic of discussion during the October 1, 2012 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK