

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
April 4, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Thorington called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Blaine Thorington and Councilmembers J. Eligio Jiménez, Mark Oaks, Derald Ortloff, and Angelica Walle.

Absent: Mayor Clara Jiménez and Councilmember Gabriel Piñon.

Staff Present: City Manager Lance Hoyt (CM Hoyt), Deputy Finance Director/City Clerk Debbie Zabell (DFD Zabell), and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Councilmember Ortloff moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to excuse Mayor C. Jiménez from the April 4, 2016 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pro Tem Thorington recited a Proclamation Supporting Recognition Day for National Service. In recognition, Mayor Pro Tem proclaimed April 5, 2016 as National Service Recognition Day, and encouraged residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our country, to thank those who serve, and to find ways to give back to their communities. Rosa Ortiz, as Program Coordinator for the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Community HealthCorps AmeriCorps Program, along with members of her AmeriCorps team were present at the meeting. Ms. Ortiz spoke briefly on the benefits of having AmeriCorps in the community.

RETROCESSION UPDATE

CM Hoyt updated Council that Chief Diaz has been meeting with various Law Enforcement Agencies to create a Memorandum of Understanding between the Yakama Nation, Washington State Patrol, Yakima County Sheriff, Klickitat County Sheriff, and other local jurisdictions to be effective on April 19, 2016. After April 19, 2016, a Memorandum of Agreement will be created for each individual Law Enforcement Agency. The Memorandum of Agreements will be created uniquely based on the specific location of each jurisdiction and their ability to provide aid in a timely manner.

Councilmember Walle arrived at the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

CM Hoyt updated Council that staff accumulated customer data of utility customers that visited City Hall during March. The breakdown illustrates that of the 1,472 utility customers, 86.62% or 1,275 utility customers were served between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CM Hoyt reported that another consideration for changing the office hours to Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. would be in line with the Public Works Department staff to assist with turning water on for customers within the same day. DFD Zabell reported as of April 4, 2016, 268 utility

customers have made online bill payments, 17 accounts signed up for paperless, and 9 accounts have signed up for auto pay. In addition, DFD Zabell updated Council that the ladies in the Finance Department are assisting customers to set up online accounts. CM Hoyt stated that an Ordinance will be presented at the next meeting for Council to consider changing the City Hall office hours to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition, CM Hoyt updated Council that he visited with Ray Wiseman, representative for Yakama Power, earlier today and invited him to attend a Study Session or a Regular Meeting. Mr. Wiseman will contact CM Hoyt when he is available to make a presentation to Council

Councilmember Ortloff moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to excuse Councilmember Walle from the April 11, 2016 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

BLAINE R. THORINGTON, MAYOR PRO TEM

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK