

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Study Session Minutes**  
**August 3, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Belton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Loren Belton and Councilmembers Clara Jiménez, Mark Oaks, Derald Ortloff, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.

Absent: Councilmember Zachary Dorr.

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Lance C. Hoyt (ICM Hoyt), Community Development Director William Rathbone (CDD Rathbone), Deputy Finance Director/City Clerk Debbie Zabell (DFD Zabell), and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

**DISCUSS MARIJUANA REGULATION UPDATE**

Community Development Director Rathbone (CDD Rathbone) reported that a marijuana moratorium will be on the agenda for the August 10, 2015 Council Meeting, followed with a public hearing to be held on August 24, 2015 to receive public comments. CDD Rathbone summarized the recently revised medical marijuana standards as detailed in his memorandum that he presented to Council at the meeting. In addition, CDD Rathbone explained the proposed funding that the State will distribute to commence beginning in fiscal year 2018, if the marijuana excise tax collection exceeds \$25 million. The breakdown is to be 30% of all marijuana excise taxes deposited into the State General Fund the prior fiscal year will be distributed to local governments. CDD Rathbone reported that 30% will be distributed to counties, cities, and towns where retailers are located, based on the retail sales from stores within each jurisdiction, and 70% will be distributed to counties, cities, and towns on a per capita basis; but only to jurisdictions that do not prohibit the sites of state-licensed producers, processors, or retailers. CDD Rathbone stated that the State has authorized counties, cities, and towns to reduce buffer zones around sensitive uses within their respective jurisdictions from 1,000 feet to as little as 100 feet, except for around secondary and elementary schools and playgrounds. A newly authorized type of facility is a marijuana research facility that is allowed with a buffer as little as 100 feet from any sensitive use. CDD Rathbone reported that medical marijuana cooperatives are replacing medical marijuana collective gardens that will be regulated and licensed by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB). Marijuana retailers are now authorized to dispense medical marijuana. CDD Rathbone explained the public notice requirements of applicants of marijuana licenses to post a sign, provided by WSLCB on the outside of the premises to notify the public that the premises are subject to an application for a marijuana license. CDD Rathbone reported that the City has received no applications.

**SET AUGUST 24, 2015 AS THE DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR THE NEW MARIJUANA MORATORIUM**

Councilmember Taylor moved, seconded by Councilmember Jiménez to set August 24, 2015 as the date for a public hearing for the new marijuana moratorium. Motion carried unanimously.

**BRIEF STATUS REPORT ON UNION NEGOTIATIONS**

ICM Hoyt reported that the FOP arbitration was held on July 28, 2015. During the meeting, the parties reviewed the union contract and tentatively approved language changes and discussed changing the medical insurance plan. ICM Hoyt stated that the next scheduled meeting will be September 9, 2015.

**RECEIVE UPDATE ON CITY MANAGER INTERVIEW PROCESS**

Deputy Finance Director/City Clerk Zabell (DFD Zabell) handed out the announcement for the Meet and Greet for the City Manager Candidates on August 10, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. Both the *Yakima Herald-Republic* and the *Review Independent* will have published articles announcing the details of the Meet and Greet. DFD Zabell explained that the second page will be offered to encourage feedback from participants at the Meet and Greet. The process will include the August 10, 2015 meet and greet, August 17, 2015 will be the date for the interviews, and August 24, 2015 will be the date for Council to select the new City Manager.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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LOREN BELTON, MAYOR

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HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK