

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
February 2, 2015

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, Derald Ortloff, and Blaine Thorington.
Absent: Councilmembers Mark Oaks and Randy Taylor.
Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy) and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Ortloff to excuse Councilmember Taylor from the February 2, 2015 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

**MEET LARRY MATTSON THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS**

Larry Mattson, the new Executive Director of the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments summarized the status of transportation funding for State and Federal programs. Director Mattson reported that President Obama's recent budget proposal includes funding for a six-year transportation reauthorization proposal to improve the safety of infrastructure for America's highways, ports, and transit networks. In addition, Director Mattson discussed the proposed changes to integrate the Yakima County Homeless Program with the YVCOG to enable more involvement by member jurisdictions to address homeless in the communities.

**PRESENTATION BY SHAWN CONRAD, YVCOG SENIOR PLANNER,
REGARDING THE COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM AND
THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Shawn Conrad, YVCOG Senior Planner presented Council with materials regarding the concept of Complete Streets which is a program to design streets for the safety and accessibility for cars, trucks, bikes, walkers, elderly, children, disabled, and transit users. The benefits of Complete Streets are to stimulate downtown revitalization, address the needs and improve the quality of life for the people of the community. Planner Conrad provided Council an example of a "Road Diet" before and after to reveal elements that make a street complete. The before example involved a street with four travel lanes, minimal sidewalk buffer and no bike lane. The after example displayed bike lanes that double as sidewalk buffers, narrower travel lanes to reduce speeds, and a two-way left turn lane to improve traffic flow. The second after example displayed advance stop line before a crosswalk, a refuge island for pedestrians crossing wide or busy roads, and a crosswalk to increase visibility of crossings. Planner Conrad reported that the Safe Routes to School Program is to aid public agencies in funding projects within two miles of primary and middle schools to improve safety and mobility for children by enabling and encouraging them to walk and bicycle to school. The YVCOG would act as the facilitator for meetings between the City and the Toppenish School District to discuss the competitive program.

Mayor Belton suggested that Council consider creating a three-member search committee to determine the procedures and qualifications for replacing the City Manager when he retires. The committee would report to the Council with recommendations. It was the consensus to table the discussion until the February 9, 2015 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

LOREN BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK