

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
January 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, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.
Absent: Councilmember Derald Ortloff.
Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy), Public Works Director Lance Hoyt (PWD Hoyt), and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

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

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Deputy City Clerk Riojas administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilmembers Blaine Thorington for Position #2, Clara Jiménez for Position #3, and Mark Oaks for Position #4, for the term of office from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2017.

It was stated that Councilmember Derald Ortloff will be sworn in during the January 13, 2014 Regular Meeting.

SEATING OF THE COUNCIL

The Councilmembers, according to seniority, chose their seating arrangement.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CEMETERY ISSUES

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported that he had several topics to discuss pertaining to the Elmwood Cemetery regarding whether to permit multiple interments at the same gravesite, whether to allow the painting of the markers in the cemetery, and establishing guidelines for allowing headstones to be set in the cemetery. After discussion, Council was agreeable to have CM Murphy draft an ordinance for their consideration to address the ownership authority for multiple interments, to prohibit the painting of markers, and to set specific guidelines to require pre-approval of headstones prior to being set in the cemetery.

Prior to going into Executive Session, City Manager Murphy distributed mail each Councilmember received from the American Civil Liberties Union regarding surveillance cameras around town, along with a copy of a letter from the College Place Mayor regarding the forming of a collation with other municipalities to challenge the new recreational marijuana law in federal court.

CM Murphy queried the Council on who will be attending the next Yakima Valley Conference of Governments meeting on January 15, 2014 at the Wapato American Legion. Mayor Belton, Councilmembers Jiménez and Thorington indicated that they will attend the meeting.

Council received a brief report from CM Murphy regarding the recent closing of Gibbons Soda Fountain.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Belton called for an executive session to be held at 5:40 p.m. The Mayor stated that the purpose of the executive session was to discuss the City Manager evaluation and that the executive session would convene for 30 minutes or less. Mayor Belton also stated that it was anticipated no action would be taken when the Regular Session reconvened.

Mayor Belton called the regular session back to order at 5:58 p.m. (No audience was present before or after the executive session.)

Mayor Belton inquired if two other Councilmembers are willing to work with him to review and propose changes for the current evaluation form and report back to Council. Councilmembers Jiménez and Thorington volunteered to work with the Mayor on reevaluating the form.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

LOREN BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK