

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

Special Meeting Minutes June 23, 2012

Council/Staff Planning Session
Benton Rural Electric Association Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jiménez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Clara Jiménez and Councilmembers Mark Oaks, Derald Ortloff, and Randy Taylor.

Absent: Councilmembers Zachary Dorr, Loren Belton, and Blaine Thorington.

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy, Finance Director/City Clerk Linda B. Mead, Public Works Director Lance Hoyt, Community Development Director William Rathbone, Parks and Recreation Director James Cole, Police Chief Adam Diaz, Fire Chief Tim Smith, MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall, and Executive Assistance/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Dave McFadden, facilitator for the Council/Staff planning session, started the session with brief introductions by each person and the department they represent within the City. Mr. McFadden suggested the group start with a discussion to determine the City's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and issues. Mr. McFadden then had each director present a 3-minute briefing on his or her department, followed by City Manager Murphy offering his plan to address a few capital facilities needs that will have no impact on the City's General Fund. Mr. McFadden concluded the session with discussion regarding the needs and priorities of capital facilities, planning and development, and law and justice. The following are the discussion outlines developed throughout the Council/Staff planning session:

What's the Vision for Toppenish

Strengths

- ❖ Good dedicated personnel
- ❖ Good cohesive productive council
- ❖ Good event/people at Chamber
- ❖ Community Safety Network
 - concerned citizens
 - strong ministerial groups/civic clubs
 - active citizenry
- ❖ Sense of Identity
- ❖ Tourism assets (murals, museums, etc.)
- ❖ Good general communication (positive)
- ❖ Partnerships with Yakama Nation, Schools, County, etc.
- ❖ Graffiti abatement efforts
- ❖ Identifiable special retailers
 - Auction (livestock)
 - Casino

Weaknesses

- ❖ Public perception/image
- ❖ Graffiti
- ❖ Perception challenges are “internal”
- ❖ Limited volunteer pool and energy
 - especially among younger generation
- ❖ Communication to all parts of the community
- ❖ Parental responsibility
- ❖ Bright kids leaving (.....for good)
- ❖ Limited employment options
- ❖ Challenges re: economic development
 - retail growth/retention
- ❖ Outlets to mentors
- ❖ Rents for commercial seem high

Opportunities

- ❖ Road improvement capacity
- ❖ Volunteer outlets
- ❖ Rural broadband
- ❖ Slower population growth
- ❖ Partnerships
- ❖ “weakness” beget opportunities
- ❖ Downtown development/retail infill
- ❖ Casino

Threats/Issues

- ❖ Declining revenues
- ❖ Liquor store change impacts
- ❖ Maintain the “good” momentum
- ❖ State budget challenges
- ❖ Federal mandate \$ costs (State too)

VISION

- Store fronts occupied
- Central stores (purchasing/warehouses) for City
- Streets are well maintained
- New law/justice center
- Cohesiveness between cultures
- Efficient effective water/sewer systems
- New aquatic facility
- Good recreational amenities (parks, etc.)
- Crime drops = safer community
- Community/Senior Center (w/ gym)
- Energized plentiful volunteers (qualified)

- Stable finances
- Strong tourism
- Clean neighborhoods – no code problems
- Higher incomes / better jobs
- Trails, walkways
- WiFi

State of the City reports

Telecom/TV/Broadband

- Franchise renewal with Charter
- Broadband options/opportunities
- Issue: storage for equipment, storage for public files (electronic)

Planning/Development

- Dedicated storage space
- Facade program/retail growth (retention)

Parks & Recreation

- Adding programs/pathways
- Duane is an asset – but staff is thin
- Playground equipment isn't in good shape

Police

- Team management approach is working well
- Ongoing equipment demands
- Leveraging scarce resources through partnerships
- Competing priorities (enforcement v. suppression) given resource limits

Fire & Code Enforcement 7 FTE

- Reduced overtime
- Challenge with codes (especially enforcement)
- Aging equipment and mandates to replace or modernize
- Storage needed

Public Works

- Mandates drive costs
- \$ through TBD for streets
- Memorial gardens....a good partnership

Finance

- A great team (family)
- Maintaining technology
- Internal controls & procedures
- Successorship/professional training
- Records/storage issues (physical & electronic)

City Manager's Plan to address capital facilities needs that will not impact General Fund.

- ★ Funding from 116, 150, 170 – can be used for these projects (cannot be used for operations)
 - ★ Space at library can be used for storage of paper records
 - Secure and compartmentalized
 - ★ Playground equipment replacement
 - ★ Downtown clean up
 - ★ Pioneer Park Pathway
 - ★ Pool filters & covers
 - ★ Roofs
 - ★ Gazebo in Old Timers Plaza and move benches
 - ★ More “Westernized” refuse containers

Capital Facility Priorities & Needs

Public Works

Now

- ★ Find paint for graffiti abatement

Streets

- ★ L Street
- ★ Jackson Street
- ★ Lincoln Avenue
- ★ 2nd Avenue

City facilities

- ★ Roof repairs at most of our buildings
- ★ Storage

Cemetery

- ★ Cremation mausoleum

Water

- ★ Well operations & maintenance & compliance

Wastewater

- ★ Concerns about phosphorus
- ★ Fish rule impacts
- ★ Aging collection system

Refuse

- ★ Trucks & containers
- ★ Compost/recycling

New Facility Needs

What needs to get on the capital facilities list?

- Long term dedicated fund for equipment
 - New Public Safety building (“one stop shop”)
 - Community Center
 - Parking
 - Aquatic improvements
 - WiFi
 - Public Works Shop

Law and Justice Issues/Priorities

- ★ Forecasting needs is a challenge
- ★ Professional development/team building
 - joint responses/teams with other jurisdictions
- ★ Gant case impacts “search” process – a game changer
- ★ Community involvement important but threatened due to funding challenges
 - keeping good people involved important
- ★ Training/cross training
- ★ Coordinate requests to businesses
- ★ Cases are taking more time
- ★ Law enforcement team building so our officer are generalists/jacks of all trades
 - management training
 - specialized training

Planning/Development

- ★ New flood plain
- ★ Downtown revitalization initiative
 - grant/loan program impacting business positively
 - How do we sustain?
- ★ Where can we develop public/private facilities?
- ★ SCORE counselors
- ★ Inventory existing stores/lots
- ★ More active partnership with Chamber
- ★ Business resource library
- ★ Coordinated retail with special days/events
- ★ Events (new or enlarged)
 - coordinate (example: Mural in a Day and Sidewalk Sale)
- ★ Getting people involved & engaged
- ★ QR codes....websites

After lunch, the City Council had a training session with Lisa Roberts, Risk Services Manager with Washington Cities Insurance Authority to discuss City Council do's and don'ts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK