

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2013

Mayor Jiménez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilmember Derald Ortloff.

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy), MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Councilmember Oaks moved, seconded by Councilmember Dorr to excuse Councilmember Ortloff from the March 11, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diana Sampson, 512 South Alder Street, Toppenish, invited Council and the public to the 4th Anniversary Celebration for the Community Safety Network (CSN) on March 19, 2013 in the Winter Lodge at the Heritage Cultural Center.

Mary Jane Colby, 17 North D Street, Toppenish, expressed her appreciation for the efforts of Chamber Director Dorr for the successful Chamber Auction on March 9, 2013. Mrs. Colby encouraged the City Council to attend the CSN event on March 19, 2013, which will be a great opportunity for the community to celebrate the successes of CSN.

TOPPENISH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL UPDATE

Presentation by Albert Pilkington, Hospital Administrator.

Albert Pilkington, Toppenish Community Hospital Administrator, stated that he is new to the area and talked about his hospital managerial background. Mr. Pilkington reported that the Toppenish Community Hospital leads Health Management Associates, Inc. (HMA) in customer service for all 70 hospitals owned by HMA and is in the top 10% for quality of care for all HMA hospitals. Mr. Pilkington further stated that the hospital is in the process of recruiting a general surgeon, an orthopedic surgeon, and starting a visiting physician's program to offer a gastroenterologist and an otolaryngologist to be available locally rather than traveling out of town. Mr. Pilkington extended an invitation to Council for a tour of the hospital, to host a community meeting, and supply the food for the meeting. It is the desire of the Toppenish Community Hospital to support and put its dollars into community programs for children.

UPDATE ON GANG GRANT

Presentation by Anna Marie Dufault.

Anna Marie Dufault, an Education Services District 105 (ESD) staff member, reported that one of her job duties is to work on the Yakima County Gang Reduction Grant. Ms. Dufault stated that the community received \$27,000 in funding that consists of \$10,500 from a Title V grant and \$16,500 from the Gang Reduction Intervention Project (GRIP) grant. The GRIP grant is

received from the Washington State Legislature and there is a possibility for an increase if good outcomes are obtained with the first phase of the project. The Toppenish Community Solutions to Gangs Progress Report summarized five areas that included the Phoenix Curriculum offered in the Toppenish School District for grades 3-6, the Parenting Education Contract with Alex Santillanes, the Police Explorers program, hiring Eric Hinojosa, as a Gang Prevention/Intervention Specialist, and scheduling a Community educational event that is to be held on March 19, 2013. Ms. Dufault applauded Toppenish Superintendent John Cerna and Police Chief Adam Diaz for their efforts to educate and provide strategies to keep the youth out of gangs. The CSN event on March 19, 2013 is an opportunity for the community to gather and share stories as a way to create a more neighborly community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to approve Consent Agenda items a through d:

- a. Approve Minutes of the February 25, 2013 Regular Council Meeting.
- b. Approve Minutes of the March 4, 2013 Study Session.
- c. Approve Payroll Check Numbers 32121 through 32140 and EFTPR115-120 in the total amount of \$176,730.86 dated February 28, 2013.
- d. Approve Claims Check Numbers 76896 through 76974 in the total amount of \$215,098.16 dated March 11, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Set Agenda for the March 18, 2013 Public Safety Quarterly Meeting.

It was the consensus of Council to cancel the March 18, 2013 Public Safety Quarterly Meeting.

Set Agenda for the April 1, 2013 Study Session.

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) suggested a continued discussion on the adult entertainment issues.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Belton reported that he attended the Chamber Auction on March 9, 2013 and that the City was well represented.

Mayor Jiménez reported that she attended the Yakima County Disability Board meeting and expressed her appreciation to the individuals that paint out graffiti.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CM Murphy reported that in November 2012 the City was a beneficiary of the Department of Natural Resources contracting with an organization to do an inventory of the City's trees. The City has to manage 1,848 trees that are appraised at over \$5 million. CM Murphy stated that he and staff are in the process of going over the 41-page report that includes a program for the maintenance, recommendations, priorities, pruning, planting, and removal of trees.

It was noted that immediately following the Regular City Council Meeting, the Toppenish Transportation Benefit District (TBD) will conduct business. CM Murphy reported that the TBD has received a total of \$10,612.80 for license tab fees from November 2012 through February 2013.

Councilmember Belton reported that he used an e-reader to read his agenda packet materials. The e-reader was passed among the Councilmembers to view and test. It was the consensus that the small screen and not having touch screen capabilities to increase the font size and move through the documents made the first e-reader unacceptable for the task. Further research will be conducted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK