

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2012

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, Derald Ortloff, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.
Staff Present: City Manager William Murphy (CM Murphy), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Public Works Director Lance Hoyt (PWD Hoyt), City Interpreter Jorge Villaseñor, MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Sampson, 512 South Alder Street, Toppenish, invited the City Council and the public to the 3rd Anniversary Celebration for the Community Safety Network on March 19, 2012 at the Parrish Hall across from St. Aloysius Catholic Church.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Approve Minutes of the February 27, 2012 Regular Meeting.
- b. Approve Minutes of the March 5, 2012 Study Session.
- c. Approve Payroll Checks Number 31481 through 31505 in the total amount of \$208,984.28 dated February 29, 2012.
- d. Approve Claims Checks Number 74625 through 74714 in the total amount of \$113,595.91 dated March 12, 2012.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing to Consider Establishment of a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) to Exercise those Powers Set Forth in RCW 36.73 and the Levying of Additional Revenue Sources for Transportation Improvements within the District.

Mayor Jiménez opened the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Public Works Director Hoyt (PWD Hoyt) reported on the street projects listed on the six-year transportation street program that include Franklin Avenue, L Street, Jackson Street, Second Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and Dayton Avenue. PWD Hoyt presented Council with a memo outlining the responsibilities of the Street Division for the maintenance and operation of the City's streets that consist of roughly 28 miles of asphalt streets, .8 miles of gravel streets, and 8 miles of alleys. PWD Hoyt stated that increased funds for the Street Division would provide the City an opportunity to complete regular street maintenance in order to preserve the road infrastructure.

Robert Barks, 511 North Fir Street, Toppenish, expressed his frustration regarding the current utility tax charged for cell phone service and the high rates for water service in the City. Mr. Barks stated that the people cannot afford another tax and suggested that the City cut salaries rather than adding another tax.

Jose Cuevas, 1410 Hammond Lane, Toppenish, stated that the City water bill expense is too high and that the City is charging outrageous prices.

Mayor Jiménez recited the written statement from Linda Troy, 415 Maple Court, Toppenish, which expressed her various reasons for opposing the additional tax.

There being no further comments from the public, Mayor Jiménez closed the Public Hearing at 7:24 p.m.

After the Public Hearing closed, the Council discussed the matter of whether to proceed with establishing the TBD or to postpone the decision at this time.; However, knowing that it is possible that Yakima County could still form a TBD first, Council discussed the consequences if the County is first to establish a TBD. If the County established a TBD it would result in the City receiving substantially less funding for street improvements and maintenance. Councilmember Belton suggested that the Council consider having the citizens vote on the matter.

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to form a Transportation Benefit District. Motion passed. Councilmember Belton voted no.

NEW BUSINESS

Set Agenda for the April 2, 2012 Study Session.

It was the consensus of Council to discuss the Transportation Benefit District during the April 2, 2012 Study Session.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Jiménez reported that she, Councilmembers Thorington, and Ortloff plan to attend the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments General Membership meeting on March 21, 2012.

Councilmember Thorington reported that he, Councilmembers Dorr, and Oaks attended the Chamber Auction on March 10, 2012.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CM had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK