

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
March 7, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor C. Jiménez called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Clara Jiménez and Councilmembers J. Eligio Jiménez, Mark Oaks, Gabriel Piñon, Blaine Thorington, and Angelica Walle.

Absent: Councilmember Derald Ortloff.

Staff Present: City Manager Lance Hoyt (CM Hoyt), Police Chief Adam Diaz, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Councilmember J. Jiménez and Councilmember Walle explained they were absent from the February 22, 2016 Regular Meeting because of a work obligation.

RETROCESSION UPDATE

CM Hoyt provided Council with a copy of an October 2015 article published in *The Yakima Herald Tribune* detailing retrocession of the partial civil and criminal State jurisdiction over tribal members becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. on April 19, 2016. The role of retrocession is to enable the Tribe to gain authority over tribal members concerning the eight areas as outlined in RCW 37.12.010: compulsory school attendance; public assistance; domestic relations; mental illness; juvenile delinquency; adoption proceedings; dependent children; and operation of motor vehicles upon the public streets, alleys, roads, and highways. CM Hoyt summarized the various meetings that he and Chief Diaz have attended with numerous governments and law enforcement agencies impacted by the implementation of retrocession to establish clear law enforcement protocols to maintain public safety during the transitional period. Chief Diaz stated that he and his officers have submitted the required documentation for the Special Law Enforcement Commission (SLEC) that is similar to a Federal endorsement to enable the Toppenish police officers to assist Tribal Police. It is the recommendation of Chief Diaz to allow some time to determine the effectiveness of SLEC process before the City considers other options concerning public safety.

COUNCIL RETREAT UPDATE

CM Hoyt updated Council on the planning for the Council Retreat that will be held in the community room at the Benton Rural Electric Association building on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Department directors will provide a report on the state of their department and future plans for their department. Council will discuss the vision, the top priorities, and strategic planning for the next five years with the assistance of Randy Beehler, from the City of Yakima, who will be the facilitator for the retreat.

CM Hoyt stated that the Washington Cities Insurance Authority would be offering training on Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Yakima. Mayor C. Jiménez, Councilmember J. Jiménez, and Councilmember Piñon requested to be registered for the training.

CM Hoyt queried Council on who will be attending the next Yakima Valley Conference of Governments meeting on March 16, 2016 in Union Gap. Mayor C. Jiménez and Councilmember Thorington responded that they would attend the meeting.

CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

CM Hoyt updated Council that the discussion regarding changing City Hall office hours will be postponed to April 4, 2016 to enable staff to accumulate more customer data.

Mayor C. Jiménez requested that Council start receiving monthly department reports on a regular basis.

Council discussed the recent ending of the Police Explorers program and the negative impact on the youth. Mayor C. Jiménez suggested that CM Hoyt and Chief Diaz work together to be more creative to find other options to enable the program to resume because it has been effective in assisting students in making positive choices for their futures. After further discussion, it was decided to schedule an executive session during the March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting to discuss status of contract negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT

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

CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK