

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 25, 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, Derald Ortloff, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.
Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy), MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to approve Consent Agenda item a through d:

- a. Approve Minutes of the November 12, 2013 Regular Council Meeting.
- b. Receive October 2013 Budget Report and Update Memorandum Submitted by Finance Director/City Clerk Linda Mead.
- c. Approve Payroll Checks Number 32440 through 32452 and EFTPR241-248 in the total amount of \$262,177.59 dated November 20, 2013 and void Check Number 27641 (Reissued as Check Number 32439).
- d. Approve Claims Checks Number 78379 through 78457 and EFTAP111 in the total amount of \$123,858.33 dated November 25, 2013 and void Check Numbers 78311, 78319, and 78449.

Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Release Retainage to Tacoma Pump and Drilling Co., Inc. for the Drilling Well No. 9 Project in the Amount of \$9,903.85.

Councilmember Taylor moved, seconded by Councilmember Ortloff to approve Release of Retainage to Tacoma Pump and Drilling Co., Inc. for the Drilling Well No. 9 Project in the amount of \$9,903.85. All Waivers have been received from Employment Security, Labor & Industries, and Department of Revenue. No Liens have been filed within the 60-day period. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

**Ordinance 2013-21:
An Ordinance Adopting the 2014 Budget for the City of Toppenish, Washington.**

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported that during the November 4, 2013 Study Session, he and Finance Director Mead provided a comprehensive presentation to Council regarding the proposed 2014 Preliminary Budget. The City conducted the public hearings on October 28, 2013 and November 12, 2013 regarding the 2014 Budget. CM Murphy stated that for the past years, he has advised Council that the City's property tax base and sales tax revenues have not been growing at the same rate as the increasing expenditures of City services. The 2014 Budget includes a 10% increase in the utility taxes from 23% to 33%. It was stated that the scheduled

utility rate increases will be delayed and there will only be the increase in the utility tax rate. The purpose of the utility tax is to support public safety, which is the largest portion of the General Fund.

Councilmember Belton proposed Council have a discussion regarding their compensation when a meeting is missed, regardless of a being an excused absence.

Councilmember Ortloff moved, seconded by Councilmember Belton to adopt Ordinance 2013-21, an Ordinance Adopting the 2014 Budget for the City of Toppenish, Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2013-22:

An Ordinance of the City of Toppenish, Washington, Relating to Cable Franchises; Authorizing and Ratifying an Extension of Charter's Cable Franchise Granted Pursuant to Ordinance No. 98-10; Providing for Severability; and Establishing an Effective Date.

CM Murphy reported that the proposed Ordinance is for the extension of Charter's cable franchise through March 31, 2014.

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to adopt Ordinance 2013-22, an Ordinance of the City of Toppenish, Washington, Relating to Cable Franchises; Authorizing and Ratifying an Extension of Charter's Cable Franchise Granted Pursuant to Ordinance No. 98-10; Providing for Severability; and Establishing an Effective Date. Motion carried unanimously.

Set Agenda for the December 2, 2013 Study Session.

It was the consensus of Council to set the December 2, 2013 Study Session to include an update on the progress of revising the miscellaneous fees, the selection of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for 2014 and 2015, and discussion regarding compensation for Council members when meetings are missed.

Set Agenda for the December 16, 2013 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

It was the consensus of Council to tentatively set the December 16, 2013 Public Safety Committee Meeting to be a presentation by Police Chief Diaz of MILO simulator.

Discussion about Canceling the December 23, 2013 Regular Council Meeting.

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to cancel the December 23, 2013 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Belton reported that he attended Executive Board meetings for Crime Stoppers and for the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG). Councilmember Belton expressed his appreciation for the work of Public Works Director Hoyt on the YVCOG Technical Advisory Committee.

Mayor Jiménez reported that she attended the 4-H Leader's Recognition Luncheon and that there was an interest to resume the meetings of the local Mayors.

Mayor Jiménez announced that the Toy Train Christmas will open on November 30, 2013, and will be open every weekend until December 22, 2013.

Councilmember Dorr announced that the Toppenish Lighted Parade will be at 6:00 p.m. on November 30, 2013.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CM Murphy had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Jiménez called for an executive session to be held at 7:20 p.m. The Mayor stated that the purpose of the executive session was to consider the acquisition of real estate. Mayor Jiménez announced that the executive session will convene for 20 minutes or less and it was anticipated that action will be taken when the Regular Session reconvenes.

Mayor Jiménez called the regular session back to order at 7:40 p.m. (No audience was present before or after the executive session.)

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to authorize the City Manager to proceed with the acquisition of the real estate that was discussed during the Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK