

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2012

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Clara Jiménez and Councilmembers Loren Belton, Mark Oaks, Derald Ortloff, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.
Absent: Zachary Dorr.
Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Councilmember Taylor moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to excuse Councilmember Dorr from the September 24, 2012 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Approve Minutes of the September 10, 2012 Regular Council Meeting.
- b. Accept Minutes of the September 17, 2012 Public Safety Committee Meeting.
- c. Receive August 2012 Budget Report and Update memorandum submitted by Finance Director/City Clerk Linda Mead.
- d. Approve Pay Estimate #2 to Granite Construction Company for the Franklin Avenue Resurfacing project in the amount of \$79,745.25 with retainage held in the amount of \$4,197.11.
- e. Approve Payroll Checks Number 31818 through 31841 in the total amount of \$222,983.94 dated September 15, 2012.
- f. Approve Claims Checks Number 75821 through 75899, NR73005, and EFT99120926 in the total amount of \$249,642.78 dated September 24, 2012 and void Check Numbers 73005 and 75888.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2012-17:

Resolution Approving Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Agreement for the Construction of a New 1.7 Million Gallon Standpipe Water Storage Reservoir at the City's Well No. 9 Site, in the Amount of \$3,518,133 with an Interest Rate of 1%.

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported that the new concrete standpipe reservoir will stand 35 feet tall and have a diameter of 50 feet. The new standpipe reservoir will be larger than the

water reservoir by Eagle Alternative School. CM Murphy reported that the repayment of the loan has been included in the current water rates and is part of the City's Comprehensive Water Plan.

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Ortloff to adopt Resolution 2012-16 A Resolution Approving Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Agreement for the Construction of a New 1.7 Million Gallon Standpipe Water Storage Reservoir at the City's Well No. 9 Site, in the Amount of \$3,518,133 with an Interest Rate of 1%. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2012-18:
Resolution Declaring Certain Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Disposition Thereof.**

CM Murphy reported that the surplus items are either from seizures, forfeitures, unclaimed property or items no longer used. This form of disposal is necessary and performed periodically when needed.

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember Oaks to adopt Resolution 2012-18 A Resolution Declaring Certain Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Disposition Thereof. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Jiménez reported that she attended the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments meeting and the Yakima County Disability Board meeting.

Councilmember Belton reported that he attended a meeting with Yakima County Commissioner Bouchey, Court Consultant Harold Delia, CM Murphy, and Chief Diaz to discuss the accountability board and that he was the guest speaker for a Toppenish Rotary Club meeting.

Councilmember Thorington reported that he attended the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments meeting on September 19, 2012 in Yakima.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

CM Murphy reported that he will add to what Councilmember Belton said regarding the meeting with Commissioner Bouchey and Consultant Delia. Chief Diaz and CM Murphy had two meetings with Commissioner Bouchey, Consultant Delia and the second meeting included Mr. Magellan. CM Murphy reported that he thinks that the meetings were successful in expressing the interests and concerns of Council regarding the misdirection of the project from the original concept that was envisioned by the Yakima County Gang Commission. The group has agreed to try to reorganize to create a smaller group to act as the Community Justice Board to get refocused on the target dates and to get more control to meet the objectives of the City Council and the Yakima County Gang Commission. CM Murphy reported that the City will continue to support the project provided the City sees some new direction, new energy, and results.

CM Murphy presented the Certificate of Appreciation that was received from the Iron Angels for the support it has received from the City for the car shows that the group has hosted for the past three years.

CM Murphy reported that the McDonald's Restaurant will be expanding the dining area with an additional 1,500 square feet and remodeling the exterior facade of the building.

CM Murphy presented Council with a copy of the report that he received on September 24, 2012 from the Washington State Auditor's Office regarding the Audit Report for January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. The Audit Report rendered unqualified opinions that there were no deficiencies in the financial statements and the City's control over federal funding for programs.

CM Murphy presented Council with a copy of his letter detailing the necessitate to use the City capital reserves to balance the 2013 budget. For the benefit of the public, CM Murphy recited the letter that stated that the City's property tax base and sales tax revenues are not growing at the same pace as the increasing costs for City services. CM Murphy stated that he has repeatedly forewarned that the City may need to examine service delivery options if the trend of declining revenues were to continue. The action of the Legislature to redirect state-shared revenues from Cities to the State's General Fund to assist in balancing the state budget will cause the City to continue to experience declining revenues. It is reasonable to anticipate that the financial recovery will be slow and that the City will face similar challenges with the 2014 budget. CM Murphy expressed his concern that without a turn-around, in 2014 the City will be faced with the need to reduce services or staff in order to balance the budget. The department directors have been directed to do what they can to help in strengthening the ending fund balance for 2012.

In closing, CM Murphy reported that the additional work to present a proposed balanced budget for 2013 has caused the need to schedule the first presentations for department budgets to the October 8, 2012 Regular Council Meeting. The proposed budget will maintain current service and personnel levels in all departments without any rate or tax increases.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK