

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2023

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

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Clara Jiménez, and Councilmembers Loren Belton, Juan Ceja, Naila Duval, George Garcia, and Kyle Pettit
Staff: City Manager Debbie Zabell (CM Zabell), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Chief of Police John Clary, Public Works Superintendent Shaun Burgess, Police Officer Zachary Vanderhoof, City Clerk Heidi Riojas (CC Riojas), and Community Television Manager Sean Davido

CC Riojas conducted roll call for each City Councilmember to respond their attendance at the meeting. Mayor Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez, and Councilmembers Belton, Ceja, Duval, Garcia, and Pettit responded their attendance during roll call.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to approve the July 24, 2023, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

SWEARING IN POLICE OFFICER

CC Riojas administered the oath of office to Officer Zachary Vanderhoof.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Saavedra recited the Proclamation declaring Tuesday, August 1, 2023, as the “National Night Out” in the City of Toppenish and encouraged the public to participate.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eligio Jiménez, 521 North Date Street, Toppenish, on behalf of Community Safety Network (CSN), invited the public to attend National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at the swimming pool and park. He thanked CSN partners for supporting the community event.

Dr. Christina Nyirati, Heritage University, 40 Meridian Way, Yakima, spoke in support of the public hospital.

Jafet Silva, 301 Robart Lane, Toppenish, spoke to the utility bill.

Rosa Mungia, 203 North E Street, Toppenish, spoke to the utility bill.

Mercedes Cervantes, 112 North F Street, Toppenish, spoke to the utility bill.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Pettit to approve Consent Agenda items a through c:

- a. Approve Minutes of the July 10, 2023, Regular Meeting
- b. Approve Payroll Checks Numbers 36301 through 36323 and Electronic Transfers EFTPR3019-EFTPR3031 in the total amount of \$336,191.32 dated July 20, 2023
- c. Approve Claims Checks Numbers 97438 through 97524 and Electronic Transfers EFTAP346-EFTAP347 in the total amount of \$524,779.33 dated July 24, 2023

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2023-33: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Toppenish, Washington, Supporting Yakima County Proposition No. 1 – the Yakima County Public Hospital District Number 1.

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Ceja to approve Resolution 2023-33. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Saavedra Read Ordinance 2023-08 Into The Record: An Ordinance of the City of Toppenish, Washington, Amending an Ordinance of the City of Toppenish, Washington, Amending Certain Sections of Chapter 2.30 of the Toppenish Municipal Code for Advisory Commissions and to Provide an Effective Date.

Councilmember Duval moved, second by Councilmember Ceja to adopt Ordinance 2023-08. Motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez and Councilmember Belton voted no.

Declare the Sewer Improvements, Phase II, Project Complete and Start the 60-Day Lien Process.

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Pettit to Declare the Sewer Improvements, Phase II, Project Complete and Start the 60-Day Lien Process.. Motion carried unanimously.

Declare the Sewer Improvements, Phase III, Project Complete and Start the 60-Day Lien Process.

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to Declare the Sewer Improvements, Phase III, Project Complete and Start the 60-Day Lien Process.. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Appointments to Serve on Planning Commission.

Councilmember Belton, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez to appoint Janet Mayer and Christy Doonan to fill two vacancies on the Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Garcia reported on his assistance for a neighbor.

Councilmember Ceja had nothing to report.

Councilmember Belton had nothing to report.

Councilmember Pettit had nothing to report.

Councilmember Duval had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez reported her attendance at the Mayor's meeting.

Mayor Saavedra encouraged the community to vote in the upcoming election.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

CM Zabell updated Council on the following:

- City Manager evaluation review discussion on August 7, 2023

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:05 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for the Council to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation with legal counsel. The approximate time for the Executive Session is 15 minutes with potential action.

At 8:20 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the meeting back to order with no action.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:21 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for the Council to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation with legal counsel. The approximate time for the Executive Session is 60 minutes with potential action.

At 9:21 p.m., Mayor Saavedra extended the Executive Session for 10 minutes.

At 9:31 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the meeting back to order.


Councilmember Pettit moved, seconded by Mayor Saavedra for no action to be taken on the investigation of Councilmember Garcia. Mayor Saavedra acknowledged the investigation and that there is an opportunity for professional growth for Councilmember Garcia. Motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez, and Councilmembers Belton and Duval voted no.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.



ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK