

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 25, 2023**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Attendees: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra and Councilmembers Loren Belton, Naila Duval, George Garcia, and Kyle Pettit  
Absent: Councilmember Juan Ceja  
Staff: City Manager Debbie Zabell (CM Zabell), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Dan Ford, Chief of Police John Clary, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Public Works Office Manager Beth Simmons, 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 and Councilmembers Belton, Duval, Garcia, and Pettit responded their attendance during roll call. Councilmember Ceja was not present at the meeting.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Pettit moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve the September 25, 2023, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alex Mejia, 402 Bolin Drive, Toppenish, spoke to his concerns regarding various issues in the community focused on public safety.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a. Approve Minutes of the September 11, 2023, Regular Meeting
- b. Approve Payroll Checks Numbers 36396 through 36400 and Electronic Transfers EFTPR3072-EFTPR3081 in the total amount of \$216,704.30 dated September 22, 2023
- c. Approve Claims Checks Numbers 97731 through 97806 and Electronic Transfer EFTAP356 in the total amount of \$1,662,395.19 dated September 25, 2023, and void Check Number NR97711

Motion carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2023-37: A Resolution Approving Agreement No. 38230 Between Yakima County and City of Toppenish in Conjunction With the American Rescue Plan, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Award.**

Councilmember Pettit moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve Resolution 2023-37. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2023-38: A Resolution That Authorizes City Manager, or Designee, to Submit an Application to the Recreation and Conservation Office Funding Board for a Deferred Maintenance Grant.**

Councilmember Pettit moved, seconded by Councilmember Belton to approve Resolution 2023-38. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2023-39: A Resolution Approving Janitorial Services Addendum With Intermountain Cleaning Services, Inc.**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Belton to approve Resolution 2023-39. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approve Purchase of Server Replacements for City Hall and Police Department.**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Belton to Authorize the City Manager to Proceed with the Purchase of Server Equipment for City Hall and Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.

## **COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Garcia had nothing to report.

Councilmember Pettit had nothing to report.

Councilmember Belton had nothing to report.

Councilmember Duval reported her attendance at the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) General Membership meeting on September 20, 2023, in Grandview.

Mayor Saavedra encouraged residents to create an emergency plan with family members. She thanked the Fire and Police Department employees for protecting the community on September 22, 2023, during the emergency evacuation to keep people safe.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

FC Smith updated the Council on the events from the emergency evacuation caused by the incident on September 22, 2023.

CM updated Council on the following:

- Attended the YVCOG General Membership meeting
- Meeting with Yakima Human Services

### **INTERVIEW COUNCIL CANDIDATE**

Mayor Saavedra announced that the Council will interview the Candidate to fill the vacancy of Position 3.

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Belton to interview Candidate Garza, at this time for consideration to fill vacancy of Position 3, from the resignation of Clara Jiménez, for the short-term until November 25, 2025, after the 2025 election is certified. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council queried the candidate on his thoughts regarding a variety of issues before going into Executive Session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for the Council to go into Executive Session for the purpose of evaluating the qualifications of the candidate for appointment to fill the City Council vacancy pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h). The approximate time for the Executive Session is 15 minutes with anticipated action.

At 8:15 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the regular session back to order.

### **SELECT NEW COUNCILMEMBER BY MAJORITY ROLL-CALL VOTE**

Mayor Saavedra opened nominations.

Councilmember Belton nominated Candidate Garza to fill Position 3 for the remainder of the term until a qualified person is elected. Councilmember Pettit seconded the nomination.

Mayor Saavedra closed nominations.

#### Roll Call Vote:

CC Riojas administered a roll call vote on the nomination for Candidate Garza:

Councilmember Garcia – Yes

Councilmember Pettit – Yes

Councilmember Duval – Yes  
Councilmember Belton – Yes  
Mayor Saavedra – Yes

Candidate Garza was selected to fill vacant City Council Position 3 with five yes votes.

### **SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICIAL**

CC Riojas administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Josh Garza to fill Position 3 on the Toppenish City Council for the remainder of the term until a qualified person is elected at the next election.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.



ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK