

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Study Session Minutes**  
**November 6, 2023**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Attendees: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Loren Belton, and Councilmembers Naila Duval, George Garcia, and Cristian Sanchez  
Absent: Councilmembers Josh Garza and Kyle Pettit  
Staff: City Manager Debbie Zabell (CM Zabell), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Dan Ford (ACM/PWD Ford), Chief of Police John Clary, Fire Chief Tim Smith, City Clerk Heidi Riojas, and Human Resource Generalist Mary Goodale (HRG Goodale)

HRG Goodale conducted roll call for each City Councilmember to respond their attendance at the meeting. Mayor Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Belton, and Councilmembers Duval, Garcia, and Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call. Councilmembers Garza and Pettit were not present at the meeting.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to amend the agenda to remove item 6 listed as the 2024 Budget Revenues. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to approve the November 6, 2023, Agenda as it now reads. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:02 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for the Council to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation with legal counsel. The approximate time for the Executive Session is 15 minutes with no action anticipated.

At 5:17 p.m., Mayor Saavedra extended the Executive Session for 15 minutes.

At 5:32 p.m., Mayor Saavedra extended the Executive Session for 15 minutes.

At 5:47 p.m., Mayor Saavedra extended the Executive Session for 15 minutes.

At 6:02 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the meeting back to order. Mayor Saavedra announced there will be no action.

**RECEIVE THE LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION  
AND DETERMINE DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2024 LODGING TAX**

Councilmember Sanchez moved, Mayor Pro Tem Belton seconded to adopt the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Recommendation for Distribution of 2024 Lodging Tax in the amount of \$18,620.00 with \$4,000.00 to Central Washington Junior Livestock Show, \$12,120.00 to the Toppenish Chamber of Commerce, \$2,500.00 to the Yakima Valley Rail and Steam Museum Association, and zero to Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau, doing business as Yakima Valley Tourism. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECREATION CONSERVATION GRANT UPDATE**

ACM/PWD Ford reported that the City has been awarded a Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) Grant for \$100,00.00. He noted the RCO grant funds will be used to repair the City's pool.

**SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:07 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for the Council to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. The approximate time for the Executive Session is 10 minutes with no action.

At 6:17 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the meeting back to order. Mayor Saavedra announced there will be no action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

  
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ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

  
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HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK