

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**October 23, 2023**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Attendees: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Loren Belton, and Councilmembers Naila Duval, George Garcia, 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, Police Officer Trevor Pottle, 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 Belton and Councilmembers Duval, Garcia, Garza, and Pettit responded their attendance during roll call.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Pettit moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to approve the October 23, 2023, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**SWEARING IN POLICE OFFICER**

CC Riojas administered the oath of office to Officer Trevor Pottle.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve Consent Agenda items a through c:

- a. Approve Minutes of the October 9, 2023, Regular Meeting
- b. Approve Payroll Checks Numbers 36426 through 36438 and Electronic Transfers EFTPR3093-EFTPR3103 in the total amount of \$202, 690.69 dated October 20, 2023, and void Check Number NR36414
- c. Approve Claims Checks Numbers 97867 through 97922 and Electronic Transfers EFTAP359-EFTAP360 in the total amount of \$163,232.03 dated October 23, 2023

Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2023-41: A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager, Or Designee, to Submit an Application to the Department of Commerce for Allocation to Complete a Climate Element Agreement.**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Belton to approve Resolution 2023-41. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Consider Appointments to Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.**

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Pettit to appoint members to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra (by position); Nick Troy, representing the Chamber President (by position); Doug Shearer, representing the Yakima Valley Rail and Steam President (by position); Sandeep Kaur, Toppenish Inn & Suites (business collecting tax), and Parminder Thind, El Corral Motel (business collecting tax). Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion on Scheduling Strategic Workshop for Council.**

ACM/PWD Ford reported to Council on the progress of scheduling Strategic Workshop for Council and staff. It was the consensus of Council for staff to coordinate with the consultant to schedule the Strategic Workshop on a Saturday morning.

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

Councilmember Garcia had nothing to report.

Councilmember Garza shared that he postponed a family celebration to be in attendance at the meeting.

Councilmember Duval reported her attendance at the Community Safety Network (CSN) Fall Clean-up on October 14, 2023. She thanked the volunteers that participated in CSN annual community event. In addition, Councilmember Duval reminded the public to vote on November 7, 2023, and to use the ballot box outside City Hall.

Councilmember Pettit had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Belton had nothing to report.

Mayor Saavedra expressed her condolences to the family members impacted by the tragedy that occurred in the community last week.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

CM updated Council on the following:

- Employee Recognition lunch on October 26, 2023
- Auditor Entrance Conference on October 26, 2023
- Representative Chris Corry will host a community coffee at Dad's Family Restaurant from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on October 26, 2023
- Trunk or Treat on October 31, 2023
- 102nd Ranch dinner on November 2, 2023
- Representative Gina Mosbrucker will host a town hall meeting on November 7, 2023, at Camp Hope
- Payroll project complete
- Budget and Finance Director Adam Vaughn will start December 1, 2023

### **INTERVIEW COUNCIL CANDIDATE**

Mayor Saavedra announced that the Council will interview the Candidate to fill the vacancy of Position 2.

Councilmember Garza moved, seconded by Councilmember Pettit to interview Candidate Sanchez, at this time for consideration to fill vacancy of Position 2, from the vacancy of Juan Ceja, 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 7:44 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 7:59 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the regular session back to order.

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

Mayor Saavedra opened nominations.

Mayor Pro Tem Belton nominated Candidate Sanchez to fill Position 2 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 Sanchez:

Councilmember Garcia – Yes  
Councilmember Garza – Yes  
Councilmember Duval – Yes  
Councilmember Pettit – Yes  
Mayor Pro Tem Belton – Yes  
Mayor Saavedra – Yes


Candidate Sanchez was selected to fill vacant City Council Position 2 with six yes votes.

### SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICIAL

CC Riojas administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Cristian Sanchez to fill Position 2 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 8:07 p.m.

  
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ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

  
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HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK