

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**December 11, 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 Cristian Sanchez  
Staff: City Manager Debbie Zabell (CM Zabell), Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Dan Ford (ACM/PWD Ford), Chief of Police John Clary, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Budget and Finance Director Adam Vaughn, 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 Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve the December 11, 2023, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:02 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 10 minutes with no action anticipated.

At 7:12 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the meeting back to order. Mayor Saavedra announced there will be no action.

**PRESENTATION**

Vicki Baker, Deputy Director of the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) presented the Council with an update on the Senior Housing Assistance Program Grant and the Regional Crime Center noted the programs of benefit to the City of Toppenish, the program goals, policies and opportunities to improve the quality of life for the residents by increasing the housing supply and reducing crime with the Regional Crime Center.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Maria Avalos, 515 North Date Street, Toppenish, spoke to her utility bill.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve Consent Agenda items a through e:

- a. Approve Minutes of the November 27, 2023, Regular Meeting
- b. Approve Minutes of the December 2, 2023, Special Meeting
- c. Approve Minutes of the December 4, 2023, Study Session
- d. Approve Payroll Checks Numbers 36483 through 36498 and Electronic Transfers EFTPR3140 through EFTPR3148 in the total amount of \$339,239.08 dated December 8, 2023, and void Check NR36462
- e. Approve Claims Checks Numbers 98089 through 98141 and Electronic Transfers EFTAP363 through EFTAP367 in the total amount of \$197,341.55 dated December 11, 2023

Motion carried unanimously.

## PUBLIC HEARING

**Public Hearing Regarding the 2024 Final Budget. Receive Staff Presentation and Public Comments on Proposed 2024 Final Budget.**

Mayor Saavedra opened the public hearing at 7:39 p.m.

CM Zabell reported that this is the final public hearing required by State Statute for the City to conduct for the 2024 Final Budget. For the benefit of the public, she noted that the Budget sets forth the complete financial program, showing expenditures proposed for each department and the sources of revenues to finance those expenditures. She further noted that Council received a balanced Budget without reducing essential public services and without personnel layoffs or furloughs.

There being no comments from the public, Mayor Saavedra closed the public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Mayor Saavedra Read Ordinance 2023-12 Into The Record: An Ordinance Adopting the 2024 Budget for the City of Toppenish, Washington.**

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to adopt Ordinance 2023-12. Motion carried unanimously.

**Mayor Saavedra Read Ordinance 2023-13 Into The Record: An Ordinance Amending the 2023 Operating Budget and Amending Ordinance 2022-22 for the City of Toppenish, Washington.**

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to adopt Ordinance 2023-13. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2023-46: A Resolution Approving the Community Development Block Grant Request for Amendment for the Senior Assistance Program Grant.**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Garza to approve Resolution 2023-46. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2023-47: A Resolution Approving Second Amendment to Professional Services Contract for City Attorney Services.**

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve Resolution 2023-47. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2023-48: A Resolution Approving Inter-Local Agreement Between Yakima County Information Technology Services and the City of Toppenish Police Department Relating to Law Enforcement Information Technology Services.**

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to approve Resolution 2023-48. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2023-49: A Resolution Approving the Interagency Agreement Between the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and the City of Toppenish Police Department.**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Garza to approve Resolution 2023-49. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2023-50: A Resolution Approving the 2024 Interlocal Corrections/Detention Agreement With Yakima County.**

Councilmember Garza moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to approve Resolution 2023-50. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion to Cancel the Regular Meeting on December 25, 2023.**

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to cancel the Regular Meeting on December 25, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Belton had nothing to report.

Councilmember Duval reported her attendance at the Toy Train Christmas, the Lighted Parade, acknowledged the new fire engine. She will attend the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments General Membership meeting on December 13, 2023. In addition, she shared the details of the Yakama Nation Winter Shelter.

Councilmember Garza reported his attendance at the Association of Washington Cities Elected Officials Training on December 9, 2023.

Councilmember Sanchez reported his attendance at the Association of Washington Cities Elected Officials Training on December 9, 2023. He shared details fundraising efforts of high school students with Skills USA and with Future Farmers of America.

Councilmember Garcia reported his attendance at the Association of Washington Cities Elected Officials Training on December 9, 2023.

Mayor Saavedra acknowledged the new fire engine. She encouraged the community to support the high school programs for Skills USA and for Future Farmers of America.

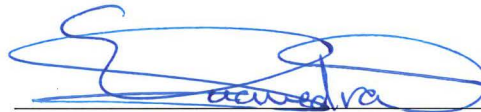
### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

CM updated Council on the following:

- Utility Billing Update
- Strategic Planning Session Update
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### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK