

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Study Session Minutes**  
**February 5, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra and Mayor Pro Tem Loren Belton, and Councilmembers Naila Duval, George Garcia, Joshua Garza and Cristian Sanchez

Staff Present: City Manager Debbie Zabell (CM Zabell), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Dan Ford, Chief of Police Joseph Mehline, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Finance Director Adam Vaughn (FD Vaughn), Information Technology Services Manager Van Donley, Community TV Manager Sean Davido (CATV Davido), City Clerk Heidi Riojas, and Human Resource Generalist Mary Beltran (HRG Beltran),

HRG Beltran 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, Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Garza moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve the February 5, 2024, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:01 p.m., Mayor Saavedra recited that the purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss labor negotiations with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a). The approximate time for the Executive Session is 10 minutes with action anticipated.

At 5:03 p.m., after clearing the room, Mayor Saavedra started the Executive Session.

At 5:13 p.m., Mayor Saavedra extended the Executive Session for an additional 5 minutes.

At 5:18 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the meeting back to order.

Mayor Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to authorize the City Manager and the City to proceed with a Memorandum of Understanding. Motion carried unanimously.

### **RECEIVE UPDATE ON ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

FD Vaughn provided the Council with a presentation detailing the accounts receivable collection of fees from 2022 through 2023 for hydrant rentals, fire inspections, and false alarm fees for police and fire. After discussion, the Council directed staff to bring back to the next meeting an updated fee schedule to include a tiered false alarm fee structure.

### **RECEIVE UPDATE ON NEW WEBSITE**

CATV Davido provided the Council with an update on the design progress on designing the City's new website. He noted that the City anticipates the new website to be live by June 2024.

### **PROSPECTIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATE WORKSHOP**

CM Zabell provided the Council with the proposed agenda for the Prospective Council Candidate Workshop on February 7, 2024. The purpose of the workshop is to provide an informal setting for interested people to learn and ask questions regarding what is involved to serve as a Councilmember.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

  
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ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

  
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HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK