

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 26, 2024**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Attendees: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra and Councilmembers Naila Duval, George Garcia, Josh Garza, and Cristian Sanchez  
Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Loren Belton  
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 Joseph Mehline (CP Mehline), Budget and Finance Director Adam Vaughn (FD Vaughn), Public Works Superintendent Shaun Burgess (PWS Burgess), Police Sergeant Ryan Castaneda, Police Sergeant Zackary Williams, City Clerk Heidi Riojas (CC Riojas), and IT Services Manager Van Donley

CC Riojas conducted roll call for each City Councilmember to respond their attendance at the meeting. Mayor Saavedra and Councilmembers Duval, Garcia, Garza, and Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call.

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Garza to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Belton from the February 26, 2024, Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Garza moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to approve the February 26, 2024, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

- **Sergeant Ryan Castaneda**
- **Sergeant Zackary Williams**

CP Mehline recognized the promotions of Police Sergeant Ryan Castaneda and Police Sergeant Zackary Williams.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Walt Wegener, 192 Pleasure Lane, Toppenish, spoke to conflict of interest for City employees to serve on a board or as an officer for non-profit corporations.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a. Approve Minutes of the February 12, 2024, Regular Meeting

- b. Approve Payroll Checks Numbers 36587 through 36603 and Electronic Transfers EFTPR3094A, and EFTPR3186 through EFTPR3195 in the total amount of \$436,506.36 dated February 22, 2024, and void Check Number NR36590
- c. Approve Claims Checks Numbers 98475 through 98546 and Electronic Transfer EFTAP380 in the total amount of \$607,110.16 dated February 26, 2024, and void Check Numbers NR98454 and NR98461

Motion carried unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Receive Accountability Audit Report for Period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.**

FD Vaughn noted that the Council received a copy the completed Accountability Audit for the period January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2022.

### **Resolution 2024-11: A Resolution Approving the Community Development Block Grant Amendment to Expand the Senior Assistance Program to Include all Qualifying Yakima County Seniors in Non-Entitlement Communities and Increasing the Program Grant by \$200,000, Providing for Severability and Establishing an Effective Date.**

Councilmember Garza moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to approve Resolution 2024-11. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution 2024-12: A Resolution Approving HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc. Task Order 2024-02 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids Treatment System Evaluation Project, Providing for Severability and Establishing an Effective Date.**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve Resolution 2024-12. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution 2024-13: A Resolution Accepting Wastewater Improvement Project, Phase III, as Recommended by Gray & Osborne, Inc., Providing for Severability and Establishing an Effective Date.**

Councilmember Garza moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to approve Resolution 2024-13. Motion carried unanimously.

## COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Duval reported her attendance in Olympia on February 19, 2024, to meet with Senator King, Representative Corry, and Representative Mosbrucker to discuss the financial needs of the community to make repairs to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), a new Police Department building, and the installation of Flock cameras. She reported her attendance at the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments General Membership meeting on February 21, 2024, in Zillah. In addition, she shared upcoming activities with a parent advisory meeting and a craft night held in the recreation building.

Councilmember Sanchez had nothing to report.

Councilmember Garza had nothing to report.

Councilmember Garcia had nothing to report.

Mayor Saavedra reported her attendance at the Mayors' meeting. She noted that the discussion was regarding the needs of law enforcement to mitigate the delays with the installation of the Flock cameras.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

CM updated Council on the following:

- Virtual Townhall on February 22, 2024, with Senator King, Representative Corry, and Representative Mosbrucker
- Olympia visit on February 19, 2024, with WWTP overview,
- Mural Society General Membership meeting on February 15, 2024
- Regroup on Response Extreme Weather Shelter throughout Yakima County on February 14, 2024

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK



ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR