

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**May 13, 2024**

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 George Garcia, Josh Garza, Ezequiel Morfin, and Cristian Sanchez  
Absent: Councilmember Naila Duval  
Staff: Interim City Manager Dan Ford (ICM Ford), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Budget and Finance Director Adam Vaughn (FD Vaughn), Chief of Police Joseph Mehline, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Interim Public Works Director Shaun Burgess, Police Captain Jonathan Schwarder, 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 Garcia, Garza, Morfin, and Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call. Councilmember Duval was not present.

Councilmember Garza moved, seconded by Councilmember Morfin to excuse Councilmember Duval from the May 13, 2024, Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Sanchez moved, seconded by Councilmember Morfin to approve the May 13, 2024, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

**Swearing in of Police Captain Jonathan Schwarder**

CC Riojas administered the Oath of Office to Police Captain Schwarder.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Garza moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to approve Consent Agenda items a through d:

- a. Approve Minutes of the April 22, 2024, Regular Meeting
- b. Approve Minutes of the May 6, 2024, Study Session
- c. Approve Payroll Checks Number 36655 through 36666 Electronic Transfers EFTPR3243 through EFTPR3254 in the total amount of \$208,530.01 dated May 7, 2024, and void NREFTPR3244

- d. Approve Claims Checks Number 98826 through 98926 and Electronic Transfer EFTAP377a, EFTAP391 through EFTAP395 in the total amount of \$273,808.78 dated May 13, 2024, and void Checks Number NR96772, NR98771, and NR98823

Motion carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Mayor Saavedra Read Ordinance 2024-10 Into The Record: An Ordinance An Ordinance of the City Council of the City Of Toppenish, Washington, Amending Chapter 2.33 of the Toppenish Municipal Code for Budget and Finance Committee, Providing for Severability, Corrections, and Establishing an Effective Date Providing for Severability, Corrections, and Establishing an Effective Date.**

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Morfin to adopt Ordinance 2024-10. Motion carried unanimously.

**Receive Overview of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Affairs Services.**

ICM Ford introduced Briahna Murray, partner with Gordon Thomas Honeywell (GTH) to share with Council the services GTH provides for government agencies. The primary task will be assisting in sharing with Legislators to securing funding for the two Capital Improvements Projects impacting the City. Those two projects are the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the construction of a new Police Facility.

**Set June 10, 2024, as the Date for a Public Hearing for the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program for Years 2025-2030.**

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to set June 10, 2024, as the date for a Public Hearing for the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program for Years 2025-2030. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Belton had nothing to report.

Councilmember Garza reported his participation in the Junior Achievement event to educate students on finances and budgeting. He noted that volunteers are needed to help with the event.

Councilmember Sanchez shared that the Public Safety Committee meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2024.

Councilmember Garcia had nothing to report.

Councilmember Morfin reported his participation at events on April 25, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 3, 2024, May 7, 2024, and May 11, 2024, involving various public safety concerns impacting communities in Yakima County.

Mayor Saavedra reported her participation volunteering at the Junior Achievement event to assist with the students.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

  
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HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK

  
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ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR