

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
August 2, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

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

UPDATED MASK GUIDELINES

DCC Renfrew recited the City of Toppenish Updated Mask Guidelines to direct masks are required for unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals, and optional for fully vaccinated individuals.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Mark Oaks, Mayor Pro Tem Elpidia Saavedra, and Councilmembers Naila Duval, George Garcia, Loren Belton, and Clara Jiménez.
Absent: Councilmember Juan Ceja.
Onsite Staff: City Manager Lance Hoyt (CM Hoyt), Administrative Services Director Debbie Zabell (ASD Zabell), Building Official/Zoning Administrator Mitch Nickolds, City Clerk Heidi Riojas, and Deputy City Clerk Sabrina Renfrew (DCC).
Remote Staff: Accounting Manager Malarey Bethune (AM Bethune).

DCC Renfrew conducted roll call for each City Councilmember to respond their attendance at the meeting. Mayor Oaks, Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra, and Councilmembers Duval, Garcia, Belton, and Jiménez responded their attendance during roll call. Councilmember Ceja was absent from the meeting.

Councilmember Jiménez moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra to excuse Councilmember Ceja from the August 2, 2021 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE UPDATE ON UTILITY GRANT PROGRAM AND PAYMENT PLAN

AM Bethune provided Council an update on the Utility Grant Program and Payment Plan established with Resolution 2021-21 to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to assist utility customers financially impacted by COVID-19. She noted that on July 30, 2021 materials were mailed to all eligible utility customers advising of the availability of the program, the action they need to take to apply, and the options to set up a payment plan if they do not qualify or fail to apply for a grant. Prior to October 1, 2021, AM Bethune noted that she and other staff will be phoning and going door-to-door to assist eligible utility customers with the process. ASD Zabell confirmed that funds are sufficient to cover all current delinquencies. On October 1, 2021 all delinquent accounts without a payment plan will be sent to collection.

RECEIVE UPDATE ON POOL

CM Hoyt provided an update on efforts to open the pool by August 9, 2021. He reported that James Cole, retired Recreation and Aquatics Manager, and Leanne Galaviz will assist with efforts to recruit the required 15 lifeguards with the necessary certification and training.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENT FOR THE CITY COUNCIL GOVERNANCE MANUAL

CC Riojas discussed how to prevent a repeat of what happened at the June 28, 2021 Regular Meeting. The Council discussed the required actions of calling/emailing for both planned and emergency absences. CC Riojas proposed modifications to page 13 of the City Council Governance Manual to establish a time deadline of 3:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting for members of Council to notify staff of an absence. It was the consensus of Council to direct staff to have an amendment on the Consent Agenda for the August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting.

DISCUSSION REGARDING UPDATES FOR COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

CM Hoyt updated Council on the current COVID-19 protocols. Masks are required in schools and recommended in other public settings. He reported Council will be updated as the Governor releases new COVID-19 guidelines.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED STREET PROJECTS TO APPLY FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT BOARD GRANTS

CM Hoyt reported that the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) is accepting grant applications until August 13, 2021. He stated that Jackson Street and Juniper Street Reconstruction Improvements Project is the proposed project to apply for TIB funding. It was the consensus of Council to direct staff to have the item on the August 9, 2021 Regular Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.



MARK OAKS, MAYOR



SABRINA RENFREW, DEPUTY CITY CLERK