

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2022

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

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Clara Jiménez, and Councilmembers Loren Belton, Naila Duval, George Garcia, and Kyle Pettit
Absent: Councilmember Juan Ceja
Staff: City Manager Debbie Zabell (CM Zabell), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Assistant City Manager Ford (ACM Ford), Chief of Police John Clary, City Clerk Heidi Riojas (CC Riojas), and Community Television Manager Judy Devall

CC Riojas conducted roll call for each City Councilmember to respond their attendance at the meeting. Mayor Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez, and Councilmembers Belton, Duval, Garcia, and Pettit responded their attendance during roll call. Councilmember Ceja was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to excuse Councilmember Ceja from the September 26, 2022, Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AGENDA

Councilmember Garcia moved, seconded by Councilmember Pettit to approve the September 26, 2022 Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Saavedra recited the Proclamation to proclaim from September 15, 2022 through October 15, 2022, as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

PRESENTATION

CC Riojas, on behalf of the Toppenish Mural Society, shared with Council that last week the community received notification of a grant award. She thanked Jon Freier and T-Mobile Hometown Grant for selecting the Toppenish Mural Society as a recipient to receive a \$50,000 grant award. CC Riojas noted that the funds will be used to restore the 78 historical murals, one mural at a time, and to partner with the Toppenish Chamber of Commerce, the American Hop Museum, and the Yakima Valley Rail and Steam to promote the community and local events on social media.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Pettit moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve Consent Agenda items a through c:

- a. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes dated September 12, 2022
- b. Approve Payroll Checks Number 35921 through 35934 and electronic transfers in the total amount of \$254,111.86 dated September 21, 2022
- c. Approve Claims Checks Number 96010 through 96089 and EFTAP308 in the total amount of \$749,806.47 dated September 26, 2022

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Appoint Members to Serve on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Pettit moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to appoint members to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra; Tami Ramirez, Chamber President; Doug Shearer, Yakima Valley Rail and Steam Representative; Victor Sanghera, Econo Lodge representative Raja Singh, El Corral Motel representative. Motion carried unanimously.

Set November 21, 2022, as date for Special Meeting to discuss the Proposed 2023 Preliminary Budget.

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez to set November 21, 2022, as date for Special Meeting to discuss the Proposed 2023 Preliminary Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Set November 21, 2022, as date for Revenue Sources Public Hearing and the 2023 Tax Levy.

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez to set November 21, 2022, as date for Revenue Sources Public Hearing and the 2023 Tax Levy. Motion carried unanimously.

Set November 21, 2022, as date for First Public Hearing regarding Proposed 2023 Preliminary Budget.

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez to set November 21, 2022, as date for First Public Hearing regarding Proposed 2023 Preliminary Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Set December 5, 2022, as date for Second Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Final 2023 Budget.

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez to set December 5, 2022, as date for Second Public Hearing regarding Proposed Final 2023 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-38: Temporary Reduction of Utility Late Fees Through November 2022 During the Period of Water Meter Malfunction.

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Belton to approve Resolution 2022-38. Motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez and Councilmember Garcia voted no.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Belton had nothing to report.

Councilmember Pettit had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez reported her attendance at the Mayors' meeting on September 22, 2022 in Zillah, and the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments General Membership meeting on September 21, 2022. Senator Jim Honeyford received an award for his years of service.

Councilmember Garcia reported his attendance at the NCAC 40th Anniversary Celebration at Safe Haven on September 20, 2022, the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments General Membership meeting on September 21, 2022, and the Mural Society event on September 22, 2022.

Mayor Saavedra reported her attendance at the Mural Society event on September 22, 2022.

Councilmember Duval recited a letter from the Yakima Health District, Board of Health to educate the public on opioid awareness. She shared that the Safe Yakima Valley Director is coordinating to have more Drug Take Back Boxes in the community.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

CM Zabell had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:38 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for Council to go into Executive Session for the purpose to review the performance of a public employee, and collective bargaining discussion pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) & RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) for 30 minutes with no action anticipated. Council started its Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. after all guests left the chambers.

At 8:10 p.m., Mayor Saavedra noted Council will need an additional for 15 minutes in Executive Session.

At 8:25 p.m., Mayor Saavedra noted Council will need an additional for 15 minutes in Executive Session.

At 8:40 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the regular session back to order.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



MAYOR ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK