

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
January 3, 2023

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 Clara Jiménez, and Councilmembers Loren Belton, Juan Ceja, Naila Duval, George Garcia, and Kyle Pettit

Staff Present: City Manager Debbie Zabell (CM Zabell), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Dan Ford, Chief of Police John Clary, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Public Works Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator-in-Training Andrew Doney, Public Works Maintenance Technician Jesus Padilla, Permit Technician Tamara Colley, Human Resources Generalist Mary Goodale, and City Clerk Heidi Riojas (CC Riojas)

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, Ceja, Duval, and Garcia responded their attendance during roll call. responded their attendance during roll call.

At 5:02 p.m., Councilmember Pettit arrived at the meeting.

NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION

ACM Ford noted that he had two Public Works (PW) employees and one Development Service employee. He introduced PW Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator-in-Training Andrew Doney, PW Maintenance Technician Jesus Padilla, and Development Services Permit Technician Tamara Colley to Council.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Pettit to approve the January 3, 2023, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Julia Barcott, ICU Nurse, 240 Rippee Lane, Yakima, Washington, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Laurie Robinson, nurse union representative, 1110 Dazet Road, Yakima, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Angi Scott, RN, 5711 Richey Road, Yakima, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Anita Showalter, DO, 15651 Fisk Road, Yakima, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Leslie Swan, Birth Justice Advocate, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Christy Trotter, Yakima Valley Farmer Workers Clinic CEO, 202 South 15th Avenue, Yakima, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Clara Bocio, ER Nurse, 3614 Summitview Avenue, Yakima, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Kyle Heisey, MD, 280 Barnhill Road, Granger, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Jordann Loehr, MD, 412 South Alder Street, Toppenish, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Riley Beehler, medical student, 1313 Simmons, Richland, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Patricia Hernandez, MD, Yakima Valley Highway, Zillah, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Brian Ullom, MD, 2412 West Chestnut Street, Yakima, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Elizabeth Aguilar, 180 Blackburn Road, Zillah, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Hayley Swedelius, LM, CPM, Midwife, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Catlin Blanche, 903 King Street, Grandview, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Gabriela Guel, Nurse, 202 Berger Lane, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Elizabeth Aleman, 890 Rockyford Road, Toppenish, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Dr. Christina Nyirati, Heritage University, 40 Meridian Way, Yakima, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Donna Howell, 617 North 47th Avenue, Yakima, spoke to the maternity center closure at Astria Toppenish Hospital.

Mayor Saavedra expressed her appreciation to all the providers, doctors, nurses, the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic CEO for coming to the meeting to share your concerns. The Council has no authority of the decisions of the hospital. She encouraged the people to continue reaching out to government officials to advocate for the for a maternity center for the community. Mayor

Saavedra shared her personal story involving the doctors and nurses in the maternity center at Astria Toppenish Hospital saving her life when she experienced a pregnancy emergency.

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM MIKE KAY ON EXTREME WEATHER SHELTER

Mike Kay with Camp Hope reported to Council with a 30 day update on the status of the extreme winter weather shelter since opening December 3, 2022.

**SELECT YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS
MEMBER AND ALTERNATE FOR 2023**

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez agreed to be the member and Councilmember Duval agreed to be the alternate to represent the City for 2023 with the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments.

RESOLUTION 2023-01:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SECOND AMENDMENT TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SUNNYSIDE AND THE CITY OF TOPPENISH FOR MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES.

Councilmember Duval moved, second by Councilmember Pettit to approve Resolution 2023-01. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.



ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK