

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 13, 2023**

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, Chief of Police John Clary (CP Clary), 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 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, second by Councilmember Garcia to excuse Councilmember Ceja from the February 13, 2023, Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Pettit moved, second by Councilmember Garcia to approve the February 13, 2023, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Pettit moved, second by Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez to approve Consent Agenda items a through d:

- a. Approve Minutes of the January 23, 2023, Regular Meeting
- b. Approve Minutes of the February 6, 2023, Study Session
- c. Approve Payroll Checks Numbers 36098 through 36112 and electronic transfers in the total amount of \$290,200.32 dated February 7, 2023
- d. Approve Claims Checks Numbers 96665 through 96754, and EFTAP323 through EFTAP326, NR96572, and NR96632 in the total amount of \$306,036.45 dated February 13, 2023

Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2023-08: A Resolution Approving Technical Assistance Contract Between the City of Toppenish and Yakima Valley Conference of Governments for Certain Technical Planning Assistance.**

Councilmember Duval moved, second by Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez to approve Resolution 2023-08. Motion carried unanimously.

**Accept Yakima Valley Local Crime Lab Bylaws.**

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez moved, second by Councilmember Duval to accept the Yakima Valley Local Crime Lab Bylaws. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Garcia had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Jiménez reported her attendance at a meeting with Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) staff, the City Manager, and the Mayor to discuss the homeless situation with Yakima County giving back homeless money.

Councilmember Duval reported her participation on February 4, 2023, to provide dinner for the Extreme Weather Shelter.

Councilmember Pettit had nothing to report.

Councilmember Belton had nothing to report.

Mayor Saavedra reported her attendance at the meeting with the City Manager, YVCOG staff, and the Mayor Pro Tem to inquire why Yakima County returned homeless funds.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

CM Zabell updated Council on the following:

- YVCOG meeting regarding homeless
- City Action Days
- FOP Contract approved, and next will be the IAFF Contract
- Axon body and car cameras installed
- Chief Clary is working with Astria Hospital to amend the contract for medical care for inmates
- Lions Club to volunteer for the City's Easter Egg Hunt
- Staff toured the Yakima Valley Rail and Steam Museum on February 10, 2023
- Electrical installed at temporary police building
- Working with Toppenish School District to improve the high school parking issues with large events
- Chief Smith and Chief Clary have been working with Camp Hope to help with aggressive people arriving from the compound
- Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Ford was successful in receiving the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant in the amount of \$80,000 for a traffic safety plan
- Rotary received grant funding for park benches and cameras. Staff is requesting to have the benches moved to the pool, return the camera funding and consider supporting the new Police K-9 program
- City Hall will be closed February 20, 2023 for President's Day
- Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Ford will be in charge during CM Zabell's absence February 14, 2023 through February 22, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



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ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR



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HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK