

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

Study Session Minutes

April 1, 2024

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 Loren Belton, and Councilmembers Naila Duval, George Garcia, Joshua Garza, Ezequiel Morfin, and Cristian Sanchez

Staff Present: City Manager Debbie Zabell (CM Zabell), Chief of Police Joseph Mehline, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Budget and Finance Director Adam Vaughn (FD Vaughn), Public Works Superintendent Shaun Burgess (PWS Burgess), MVTV Manager Sean Davido, IT Manager Van Donley, Assistant to the Chief Linda Finley, Community Television Manager Sean Davido, City Clerk Heidi Riojas, and Human Resource Generalist Mary Beltran (HRG Beltran)

Staff Remote: City Attorney Gary Cuillier

HRG Beltran conducted roll call for each City Councilmember to respond their attendance at the meeting. Mayor Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Belton, and Councilmembers Duval, Garcia, Garza, Morfin, and Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call.

APPROVE AGENDA

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Garza to approve the April 1, 2024, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION OF LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Greg Prothman with GMP Consultants presented the Council with an overview of the proposed leadership transition process. Mr. Prothman spoke to the goals of the candidate assessment service. At the conclusion of the assessment, Mr. Prothman will meet with Council to go over his report.

CITY COUNCIL COMPENSATION

CM Zabell stated that the Council has a unique opportunity to make updates to the Council compensation for future members of the City Council. The City Council is prohibited from modifying compensation during their respective terms. Any compensation changes would not take effect until January 1, 2026, for Positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7; and January 1, 2028, for Position 5. It was the census of the Council to discuss the item at a future meeting.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

FD Vaughn presented Council with revenue opportunities for consideration that include increasing the annual vehicle license fee, the levying of an additional .25% for real estate excise tax, and to increase utility rates for water, sewer, and garbage. In addition, FD Vaughn recommended that the Council consider creating a Budget and Finance Committee to work on solutions with staff. Councilmembers Duval, Garica, and Morfin volunteered to serve on the proposed Budget and Finance Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK