

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
August 6, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem J. Jiménez called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pro Tem J. Eligio Jiménez and Councilmembers Mark Oaks, Gabriel Piñon, Naila Prieto, Elpidia Saavedra and Blaine Thorington.
Absent: Mayor Clara Jiménez.
Staff Present: City Manager Lance Hoyt (CM Hoyt), Finance Director/City Clerk Debbie Zabell, Fire Chief Tim Smith, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Councilmember Piñon moved, seconded by Councilmember Saavedra to excuse Mayor C. Jiménez from the August 6, 2018 Study Session.

UPDATE ON SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM REHABILITATION PROJECT

Nancy Wetch, P.E. with Gray & Osborne, Inc. and CM Hoyt updated Council on Phase I and Phase II of the sewer collection system rehabilitation project to address the infiltration problem at the wastewater treatment facility. Engineer Wetch noted that Phase I of the Sewer Improvements to replace the Penny Lane Sewage Pump Lift Station and approximately 3,000 Linear Feet (LF) of collection system sewers is complete. Council will receive final paperwork for the Penny Lane Lift Station Project during the August 13, 2018 Regular Meeting. Engineer Wetch updated Council on Phase II of the Sewer Improvements to replace 67,000 LF of collection system sewers and upgrade/replace three pump stations at Carlson, South Beech and Branding Iron. The City's General Sewer Plan identifies the top priority areas in the collection system for upgrade or replacement during the 20-year period for the plan. Engineer Wetch updated Council on the funding package for the \$20 million project that will be a combination of grant, loan and City contribution.

**CODE REVISIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE RATE STUDY FOR WATER,
WASTEWATER AND SOLID WASTE RATES**

FD Zabell updated Council on Toppenish Municipal Code revisions to clarify sections of the Code for Sections 3.39.010, 3.35.010 and 13.16.070 for utility tax, discounts and delinquent payments on utility services for water, wastewater (sewer) and solid waste (garbage). Council directed staff to prepare an Ordinance for the August 13, 2018.

FD Zabell reported that there is a need for the City to have a comprehensive utility rate study performed, noting although the City's engineering firm provided a yearly rate analysis and that a comprehensive study had not been performed. She further noted that a current study would be a requirement for the revenue bond that will be required for the Sewer Collection Rehabilitation Project.

FD Zabell explained the purpose and extent of the rate study is to conduct a comprehensive cost of service study to determine the long-range financial management plan, provide the City with a financial planning model for internal use, determine the appropriate rates for the different classes of customers and the rate design to determine the amount of revenue that must be generated and the structure to generate the sufficient revenue to meet the long-range plan for the water, wastewater (sewer) and solid waste (garbage) services. Staff has met with FSC Group, evaluated its qualifications and work with other municipalities and utility districts and recommends inviting them to the August 27, 2018 Regular Meeting to provide a presentation on the proposed utility rate study. Council directed staff to have FSC Group provide a presentation on the proposed rate study at the August 27, 2018 Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK



J. ELIGIO JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR PRO TEM