

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
February 1, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Oaks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

REMOTE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

CC Riojas recited the remote meeting instructions for the record pursuant to Governor Inslee's Emergency Proclamation with the temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act during the COVID-19 Outbreak, the Toppenish City Council Chambers will not be open for the public to attend the meeting in person. In addition, she recited the instructions to attend the meeting in "listen only" mode by using the call-in phone number.

ROLL CALL

Remote Attendees: Mayor Mark Oaks, Mayor Pro Tem Elpidia Saavedra, and Councilmembers Loren Belton, Juan Ceja, Naila Duval, George Garcia, and Clara Jiménez.

Remote Staff: City Manager Lance Hoyt (CM Hoyt), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Administrative Services Director Debbie Zabell (ASD Zabell), Interim Chief of Police Tim Bardwell, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Police Captain Dave Johnson, Fire Captain Dale Northrup, Finance Technician Jody Douglas, Temporary Customer Service Clerk MaryLee Northrup, City Clerk Heidi Riojas (CC Riojas), and Cable Television Manager Judy Devall.

CC Riojas conducted roll call for each City Councilmember to respond their attendance at the meeting. Mayor Oaks, Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra, and Councilmembers Belton, Ceja, Duval, Garcia, and Jiménez responded their remote attendance during roll call.

INTRODUCE NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

ASD Zabell introduced new City employees Jody Douglas, Finance Technician and MaryLee Northrup, Temporary Customer Service Clerk to Council.

YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS PRESENTATION ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH HOUSING

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) staff, Executive Director Chris Wickenhagen and Senior Planner Jeff Watson, presented Council and the viewing public with the pilot program focused on Community-Driven Solutions that is funded by The Kresge Foundation. YVCOG selected Toppenish as a community for this pilot program that includes the involvement of community members in the planning to create a healthier community by improving the health and housing options available for residents. In the next few weeks, residents will receive a mailer with details to access a survey to start the first phase of the pilot program.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

CM Hoyt presented Council with an update on the Police Chief recruitment and the status of the Police Department. He provided background on department transitions since September 1, 2020 with hiring of Interim Police Chief Tim Bardwell to manage the department after the resignation of Chief Ruggles, along recruitment of police officer. CM Hoyt noted that the progress with improving morale and increasing staffing levels since ICP Bardwell has been managing the department. He shared that he has met with each department employee and received support by the employees for ICP Bardwell. CM Hoyt stated that he intends to offer ICP Bardwell a conditional offer of employment as the next Police Chief for the community.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.



MARK OAKS, MAYOR



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK