

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

Study Session Minutes

March 4, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Clara Jiménez, and Councilmembers Mark Oaks, Gabriel Piñon, Naila Prieto, Elpidia Saavedra and Blaine Thorington.

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem J. Eligio Jiménez.

Staff Present: City Manager Lance Hoyt (CM Hoyt), Finance Director Debbie Zabell, Police Chief Curt Ruggles.

Councilmember Piñon moved, seconded by Councilmember Prieto to excuse Mayor Pro Tem J. Jiménez from the March 4, 2019 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

At 5:05 p.m., Councilmember Thorington arrived late to the meeting.

**RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM YAKIMA HEALTH DISTRICT
ON THE NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

CM Hoyt introduced Yakima Health District Syringe Exchange Program Coordinators Emily Contreras and Melissa Sixberry. He noted that he along with Police Chief Ruggles and Fire Chief Smith met with the Coordinators about the program and the possibility of the program locating to Toppenish.

Ms. Contreras provided Council with a summary of the program noting that the Health Department had received additional funding from the State for expanding the program. In consideration that 20% of drug induced deaths come from the Lower Yakima Valley, the Health Department is utilizing the additional funding to target the Lower Yakima Valley.


Councilmembers discussed the program, noting concerns with having the program in City as well as the positive outcomes. Councilmember Piñon stated that he would tour the Yakima site on Friday, March 8, 2019, and report back to Council on his observations. Upon Councilmember Piñon's report, Council will further discuss the possibility of the Program locating in Toppenish at the March 11, 2019 Regular Council Meeting.

Mayor Jiménez inquired if the recent change in the voter registration deadline being moved to 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election, which takes effect June 30, 2019, will have an impact on the City. CM Hoyt reported that Yakima County has not provided information to the cities with voter drop boxes on the impacts of the new law.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.


CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR


DEBBIE ZABELL, CMC
FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK