

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 13, 2021**

Mayor Oaks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**MASK GUIDELINES**

DCC Renfrew recited the City of Toppenish Mask Guidelines to direct masks are required for all individuals.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Councilmember Loren Belton.

Staff: City Manager Lance Hoyt (CM Hoyt), City Attorney Gary Cuillier, Administrative Services Director Debbie Zabell (ASD Zabell), Interim Police Chief Tim Bardwell, Police Chief John Clary, City Clerk Heidi Riojas, Public Works Supervisor Shaun Burgess (PWS Burgess), Deputy City Clerk Sabrina Renfrew (DCC Renfrew), and Cable Television Manager Judy Devall.

DCC Renfrew conducted roll call for each City Councilmember to respond their attendance at the meeting. Mayor Oaks, Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra, and Councilmembers Ceja, Duval, Garcia, and Jiménez responded their attendance during roll call. Councilmember Belton was absent from the meeting.

Councilmember Jiménez moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra to excuse Councilmember Belton from attending the September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Councilmember Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Ceja to approve the September 13, 2021 Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilmembers Ceja, Jiménez, and Duval assisted residents, staff, and the viewing public to summarize the following Spanish public comments received:

Maria Linarez, 703 S. Toppenish Avenue, Toppenish, expressed concern regarding high water bills.

Francisca Rodriguez, 618 Jefferson Avenue, Toppenish, expressed concern regarding high water bills.

Valentina Jimenez, 705 S. Toppenish Avenue, Toppenish, expressed concern regarding high water bills.

Elizabeth Marquez, 701 S. Division Street, Toppenish, expressed concern regarding high water bills.

Maricela Mendoza, 303 Robart Lane, Toppenish, expressed concern regarding high water bills. She also shared that as a business owner she wants to see the City grow like other communities.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

CM Hoyt thanked Interim Police Chief Tim Bardwell for his service to the City. He welcomed new Police Chief John Clary.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to approve Consent Agenda items a through e:

- a. Approve Minutes of the August 23, 2021 Special Meeting
- b. Approve Minutes of the August 23, 2021 Regular Meeting
- c. Approve Minutes of the September 7, 2021 Study Session
- d. Approve Payroll Checks Number 35367 through 35391 and electronic transfers in the total amount of \$183,011.41 dated September 9, 2021
- e. Approve Claims Checks Number 94240 through 94325 and electronic transfers in the total amount of \$1,517,771.21 dated September 13, 2021

Motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution 2021-33: A Resolution Declaring Certain Property As Surplus and Authorizing the Disposition Thereof.**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Ceja to approve Resolution 2021-33. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Resolution 2021-34: A Resolution Approving Change Order No. 10 to Contract with Tapani, Inc. for the Sewer Improvements Project, Phase IV.**

Councilmember Garcia moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to approve Resolution 2021-34. Motion failed. Mayor Oaks, Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra, Councilmember Ceja, and Councilmember Jiménez voted no.

#### **Motion to Award Bid to DW Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$6,343.651.11 for Sewer Improvements, Phase III.**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Jiménez to award Bid to DW Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$6,343.651.11 for Sewer Improvements, Phase III. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2021-35: A Resolution Approving Amendment No. 1 with Gray & Osborne, Inc., for Additional Engineering Services for Sewer Improvements, Phase III.**

Mayor Pro Temp Saavedra moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to approve Resolution 2021-35. Motion carried. Councilmembers Ceja and Jiménez voted no.

**Resolution 2021-36: A Resolution Approving the Rejection of All Bids Received at the Bid Opening on September 3, 2021, for the Water Service Meter Improvements Project.**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Jiménez to approve Resolution 2021-36. Motion carried unanimously.

**Award Bid to M.G. Wagner Co., Inc. in the amount of \$315,151.82 for the Train Depot Roof Rehabilitation; contingent upon the City receiving additional funding from the funding agency.**

Councilmember Duval moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra to award bid to M.G. Wagner Co., Inc. in the amount of \$315,151.82 for the Train Depot Roof Rehabilitation, when the City receives notification of approval of the additional \$57,000.00 in funding from the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments Policy Board when it meets on September 20, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 2021-37: A Resolution Amending the Six Year Transportation Improvement Program for the Years 2021 Through 2026.**

Councilmember Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Duval to approve Resolution 2021-37. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Ceja inquired whether Police Department staff are required to be vaccinated similar to the Fire Department staff. CM responded no since the Police Department staff do not provide emergency services.

Councilmember Garcia had nothing to report.

Councilmember Jiménez had nothing to report.

Councilmember Duval had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Saavedra had nothing to report.

Mayor Oaks noted that the Train To Nowhere was a successful event.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

CM Hoyt updated Council on the following:

- CM evaluation schedule

- Public Works projects
- Housing needs assessment
- Downtown storefronts rehabilitation
- Recruitment and Personnel updates
- Pool closed for the season on Labor Day due to poor air quality
- Transportation updates
- Cemetery updates

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:04 p.m., Mayor Oaks noted that Council will take a 10 minute break before they go into Executive Session. He stated the purpose of the Executive Session is to review the performance of the City Manager pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(g) to be held at 9:14 p.m. for 60 minutes, with action anticipated at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

At 10:14 p.m., Mayor Oaks noted that Council will need an additional 10 minutes in Executive Session.

At 10:25 p.m., Mayor Oaks reconvened the regular session back to order after technical difficulties were resolved.

Councilmember Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia, to provide City Manager Hoyt with a two percent increase to his current base salary. Motion carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.



MARK OAKS, MAYOR



SABRINA RENFREW, DEPUTY CITY CLERK