

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Study Session Minutes**  
**September 3, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Clara Jiménez, Mayor Pro Tem J. Jiménez and Councilmembers Loren Belton, Naila Duval, Mark Oaks, Elpidia Saavedra and Blaine Thorington.  
Staff Present: City Manager Lance Hoyt (CM Hoyt), Finance Director Debbie Zabell, Chief of Police Curt Ruggles, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Public Works Superintendent Rocky Wallace and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Councilmember Thorington arrived at 5:12 p.m.

**RECEIVE OPTIONS WITH COSTS FOR REPLACEMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING**

Wescott Edwards with BORArchitecture presented four options to Council to replace the Public Works Building. CM Hoyt recommended options 1 and 4 for Council's consideration.

Councilmember Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Thorington to select Option 1 as primary, with Option 4 as secondary, pending financing. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CHIEF OF POLICE ON STATUS  
OF POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Ruggles provided Council with a Power Point update on the current status of the Police Department, highlighting the retention issues within the department, the reported reasons why officers are leaving, the increased work load on the remaining police officers due to short staffing, the costs associated with the lack of retention, for overtime, recruitment, morale in the department, reduced response times and lack of community policing programs. He noted the department had

lost 20 police officers due to resignations since 2011, he further noted that the majority had left for other law enforcement agencies within Yakima County.

### **PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET CALENDAR**

FD Zabell noted that Council received a copy of the proposed 2020 Budget Calendar, noting the budget is scheduled to be adopted during the first Regular Meeting in December. She further noted that there are a number of competing issues that will be occurring during this year's budget process.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK



CLARA R. JIMENEZ, MAYOR