

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
September 5, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Clara Jiménez and Councilmembers J. Eligio Jiménez, Mark Oaks, Derald Ortloff, Blaine Thorington and Angelica Walle.
Absent: Councilmember Gabriel Piñon.
Staff Present: City Manager Lance Hoyt, Police Chief Curt Ruggles and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Councilmember Walle moved, seconded by Councilmember J. Jiménez to excuse Councilmember Piñon from the September 5, 2017 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION WITH L.E.A.D. TASKFORCE SUPERVISOR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Union Gap Police Chief Gregg Cobb, Yakima County Sheriff Brian Winter and Sunnyside Police Chief Al Escalera updated Council on the current funding shortfall for the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.) Taskforce with the decline in the number of profitable seizures and forfeitures in the past two years. With reduced seizures, it has become difficult for L.E.A.D. Taskforce to sustain the three full time positions that serve the taskforce, which are the Evidence Clerk, the Criminologist and the Secretary. Now, the L.E.A.D. Taskforce Executive Board is seeking funding commitments for 2018 from Selah, Moxee, Tieton, Zillah, Wapato, Granger and Toppenish, which are jurisdictions that do not have officers assigned to the taskforce. Union Gap, Sunnyside, Grandview and the Sheriff's Department have dedicated officers assigned to L.E.A.D. Taskforce. Council was informed that the City receives help from L.E.A.D. in drugs cases even if the City is not a participating jurisdiction. L.E.A.D. Taskforce fills the void in the Lower Valley for the drug cases that DEA will not tackle because of the nature and size of the case.

Councilmember Thorington moved, seconded by Councilmember J. Jiménez to budget \$10,000 in the 2018 Budget for L.E.A.D. Taskforce. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Hoyt (CM Hoyt) acknowledged the generous invite that was sent to Council from Legends Casino for September 9, 2017 and September 10, 2017. CM Hoyt recited RCW 42.23.070(2) restricting the City Council for accepting any type of gift, compensation, reward or gratuity from any source other than the City that they serve. He did state that the outside concerts were free to the public.

CM Hoyt provided a brief update on the progress with the public works shop fire.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.



HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK



CLARA R. JIMENEZ, MAYOR