

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
February 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Loren Belton, and Councilmembers Naila Prieto Duval, George Garcia, Josh Garza, and Cristian Sanchez

Absent: Councilmember Ezequiel Morfin and

Staff: City Manager Dan Ford (CM Ford), City Attorney Daniel Heid, Budget and Finance Director Adam Vaughn, Interim Public Works Director Shaun Burgess, Community and Economic Development Director Andrew Hattori, Deputy Police Chief Jonathan Schwarzer, Information Technology Services Manager Van Donley, and City Clerk Heidi Riojas

City Clerk Riojas conducted roll call for each City Councilmember to respond their attendance at the meeting. Mayor Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Belton, and Councilmembers Prieto Duval, Garcia, Garza, and Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call. Councilmember Morfin was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Saavedra noted that Councilmember Morfin did send an email that he would be absent from the meeting. Prior to taking a vote for the absence, Mayor Saavedra stated that Councilmembers have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of the public and the entity that they serve, rather than their own financial or political interests.

Mayor Saavedra moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to not excuse Councilmember Morfin from the February 3, 2025, meeting. Motion carried. Councilmember Prieto Duval voted no.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to approve the February 3, 2025, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The City Council received no comments from the public during the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPDATE

CM Ford updated Council on the public comment received in January 2025, regarding excess leaves locating at a property on Date Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:08 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for the Council to go into Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The approximate time for the Executive Session is 30 minutes with anticipated action.

At 5:38 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the regular session back to order.

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to authorize the City Manager to sign and present the settlement agreement to the Yakama Nation. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK