

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
May 5, 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
Staff: City Manager Dan Ford (CM Ford), City Attorney Daniel Heid, Budget and Finance Director Adam Vaughn, (FD Vaughn), Public Safety Director Joseph Mehline, Community and Economic Development Director Andrew Hattori (CED Hattori), 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.

APPROVE AGENDA

Councilmember Garza moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve the May 5, 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 comments received in April 2025, regarding community safety and street concerns.

DISCUSSION

Discussion on Creation of TMC Chapter 16.22 Boundary Line Adjustments.

CED Hattori presented Council with an overview of the proposed new Toppenish Municipal Code Chapter 16.22 for Boundary Line Adjustments. He explained that the purpose of a boundary line adjustment is to modify property lines between two properties. CED Hattori noted that the Planning Commission discussed the proposed code language during its March 19, 2025, meeting and recommended that it be forwarded to Council for adoption.

Discussion on Creation of TMC Chapter 17.44 Home Occupancy Businesses.

CED Hattori presented Council with an overview of the proposed updates for Toppenish Municipal Code Chapter 17.44 for Home Occupancy Businesses. He noted that the intent of relocating and revising the chapter is to clarify the requirements for operating home occupation businesses. CED Hattori stated that the Planning Commission will continue its discussion on the proposed chapter during its May 21, 2025, meeting.

Discussion on Creation of TMC Section 15.01.055 Unpermitted Work Fees.

CED Hattori presented Council with an overview of the proposed new Toppenish Municipal Code Section 15.01.055 for Unpermitted Work Fees. He explained that the intent of the new section is to support the permitting process by promoting compliance with building, fire, planning and life safety code requirements. CED Hattori noted that this presentation provides Council with an opportunity to review the proposed draft code amendment that is still under discussion with the Planning Commission prior to formal recommendation for Council to adoption.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:53 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for the Council to go into Executive Session for the purpose of evaluating the qualifications of candidates for appointment to elective office pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h). The approximate time for the Executive Session is 15 minutes with anticipated action.

At 5:55 p.m., Council started its Executive Session after all the members of the public left the chambers.

At 6:10 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the regular session back to order.

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to invite all three candidates to the May 12, 2025, meeting for the interview process of the open position on the Council. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK