

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
June 2, 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, Ron Hull, and Cristian Sanchez
Absent: Councilmember Josh Garza
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, Hull, and Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call. Councilmember Garza was not present at the meeting.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to add an item as 5 b to discuss City picnic tables. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to approve the June 2, 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 May 2025, regarding public safety concerns and the community swimming pool.

DISCUSSION

Discussion on Establishing an Adopt-A-Park Program.

CC Riojas presented an overview of the draft to establish an Adopt-A-Park Program Council. She explained that the program is intended as an alternative approach to address reduced staffing and funding following the failure of the Metropolitan Park District

ballot measure. The program would encourage community members and organizations to volunteer in support of staff, assisting with the maintenance and improvements of the community parks and open spaces. In response, Council expressed concerns about the safety and security of volunteers and discussed the importance of volunteers contacting 911 for police assistance if needed.

Discussion of City Picnic Tables.

CM Ford shared that the City has received a request to provide picnic tables for the Lions Club Breakfast held the morning before the Wild West Parade. He summarized the discussion from the June 10, 2024, Regular Meeting, during which Councilmember Prieto Duval made a motion to add the cost to provide up to 20 tables in parks along the Wild West Parade route. CM Ford noted that there was no follow up on the motion to approve a resolution clarifying the Council's intent from last year whether the support was intended as a one-time action or an ongoing annual commitment. He stated that he will speak with representatives from the Lions Club and the Rail and Steam organizations to explore transitioning the current process to one that better serves both the City and the participating groups.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK