

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
July 7, 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, Ron Hull, and Cristian Sanchez

Staff: City Manager Dan Ford (CM Ford), City Attorney Daniel Heid, Public Safety Director Joseph Mehline (PSD Mehline), Budget and Finance Director Adam Vaughn, (FD Vaughn), , Community and Economic Development Director Andrew Hattori (CED Hattori), Information Technology Services Manager Van Donley, Public Works Supervisor Daniel Musgrave, 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, Hull, and Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve the July 7, 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 that there was one person that spoke during public comment in June 2025.

PRESENTATION

Sales Tax and Economy: Presentation by Adam Vaughn – Budget and Finance Director and Andrew Hattori – Community and Economic Development Director.

FD Vaughn spoke to the status of the sales tax and the local economy for the past 13 months from June 2024 through June 2025. He discussed the various industry types that generate sales taxes with retail being 50.6% in April 2025. FD Vaughn reported on business licensing fees and the under reported businesses. CED Hattori summarized the obstacles to improve the City's economic landscape with the floodplain and strict design

requirements. The downside of the requirements are the vacant buildings that cause blight with costly code requirements that can be prohibitive to incoming businesses. FD Vaughn and CED Hattori summarized strategies for Council to consider implementing by incentivizing building owners to lease or sell, promote existing business, reduce “red tape” codes and design standards, and discuss potential annexation options with neighboring properties.

DISCUSSION

Discussion on Adopting No Sitting, No Lying on Sidewalks in Designated Zone.

CA Heid provided an overview of the proposed Ordinance designed to establish a designated zone that would prohibit sitting or lying on sidewalks. He highlighted the recent decision in the City of Grants Pass, Oregon case, which clarifies the City’s authority to regulate public rights of way, streets, and other public places. CA Heid explained that the proposed Ordinance would serve as a tool for law enforcement to enhance public safety and support the business community as well as the City’s revitalization efforts. Following a discussion by the Council, the consensus was to revise the designated zone to include the library and RV dump station areas.

Discussion on Adopting Criminal Code Update.

PSD Mehline reported that the proposed Ordinance has been in the works for the past two years to update the City’s criminal code to be in compliance with current laws.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK