

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
November 4, 2024

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, Ezequiel Morfin, and Cristian Sanchez

Staff: City Manager Dan Ford (CM Ford), City Attorney Daniel Heid, Budget and Finance Director Adam Vaughn (FD Vaughn), Chief of Police Joseph Mehline, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Interim Public Works Director Shaun Burgess, Community and Economic Development Director Andrew Hattori, Fire Captain Dale Northrup, , Information Technology Services Manager Van Donley, Communications Manager Sean Davido, Firefighter Trevor Oswalt, Firefighter Eric Ihnen, Firefighter K.C. Frazier, City Clerk Heidi Riojas, and Human Resources Generalist Beltran (HRG Beltran)

HRG Beltran 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, Morfin, and Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:00 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for the Council to go into Executive Session for potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The approximate time for the Executive Session is 20 minutes with no action anticipated.

At 5:20 p.m., Mayor Saavedra extended the Executive Session for another 10 minutes.

At 5:30 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the meeting back to order.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to approve the November 4, 2024, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT FOLLOW-UP FOR OCTOBER 2024

CM Ford updated Council that there were 11 people that spoke during the public comment

period on October 28, 2024, that spoke to the winter weather shelter, concerns from Mr. Mejia, and concerns from Mr. Andersen regarding the City's ban on fireworks.

In addition, CM Ford reported there has been a ban on fireworks for over 20 years as defined in the Toppenish Municipal Code. He noted that the City was able to work with the new Superintendent to take steps to modify agreements with Mr. Andersen to hire a licensed group that was legally able to provide the High School Homecoming fireworks show. He noted that he does have a letter from Chief Smith regarding the City's fireworks ban.

RECEIVE UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Councilmember Prieto Duval reported the Public Safety Committee is working on proposing ordinances to stay out of drugs area and exclusion from parks. Those ordinances are currently being reviewed by the Prosecutor and legal counsel. She summarized the Police and Fire reports and highlighted the success of Code Enforcement efforts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Continue discussion to submit letter to Legislators and Commissioners to share the City's need for more public safety funding.

Councilmember Sanchez updated the previous letter shared on October 28, 2024, to be from the Council and share the needs of the Fire Department. The final letter will be shared with the lobbyists.

Continue discussion on updating the meeting schedule

CM Ford restated the purpose of the discussion to decide whether the Public Safety Committee meeting schedule should change to before a Regular Council meeting. Councilmember Prieto Duval and Councilmember Sanchez, two members of the committee stated that they will keep the Public Safety Committee meeting dates as scheduled and will not be changing them at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Receive Compensation and Class Study Results.

CM Ford introduced Alexandra Sheeks, with Cabot and Dow Associates. Ms. Sheeks presented Council with the results of the Compensation and Class Study to perform a total compensation analysis of all City positions.

Department Overview Budget Presentation

FD Vaughn provided the Council with an overview of the proposed 2025 Preliminary Budget, along with goals for each department. He noted that the first of three public

hearings for the 2025 Budget process will be held on November 12, 2024, and two public hearings will be held on November 25, 2024.

2025 CQC Scholarship Application for Toppenish High School Students

Mayor Saavedra shared with Council an overview of the AWC Central for Quality Communities (CQC) Scholarship Application process as a positive opportunity to recruit Toppenish High School Students to apply for a college scholarship. Mayor Saavedra, Mayor Pro Tem Belton, and Councilmember Sanchez agreed to serve as the CQC scholarship selection committee members..

Approve Contract for New City Attorney.

Resolution 2024-45: A Resolution Approving Professional Services Agreement for City Attorney Services.

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve Resolution 2024-45. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK