

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
April 7, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Mayor Elpidia Saavedra and Councilmembers Naila Prieto Duval, George Garcia, and Josh Garza
Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Loren Belton and Councilmember 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, , and Councilmembers Prieto Duval, Garcia, and Garza responded their attendance during roll call. Mayor Pro Tem Belton and Councilmember Sanchez were not present at the meeting.

Councilmember Garcia moved, seconded by Councilmember Garza to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Belton and Councilmember Sanchez from the April 7, 2025, Study

APPROVE AGENDA

Councilmember Garcia moved, seconded by Councilmember Garza to approve the April 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 on the public comments received in March 2025, regarding community safety and pool concerns.

DISCUSSION

Presentation by Budget and Finance Director Vaughn on Taxes and Metropolitan Park District.

FD Vaughn presented the Council with an update on the City's current budget, highlighting a deficit of \$345,398. He explained that as a result of the 2024 election in

which the City's ballot measure failed, the 2025 Budget does not allocate funding for the recreation and aquatics programs and only supports limited maintenance of park service. FD Vaughn provided comparative data on property and sales tax rates between Toppenish and neighboring communities.

Update on Amendment to TMC 17.26 Design Review District.

CED Hattori presented Council with an overview of the Design District Map, along with the construction and site design standards for the area. He explained that the Planning Commission has been exploring ways to help property owners address the challenges of updating aging structures, which are often prohibitively expensive to bring into compliance with the requirements of Toppenish Municipal Code Chapter 17.26. The Planning Commission is considering options to either reduce the boundaries of the Design District or repeal it altogether, offering property owners greater flexibility in remodeling and designing their buildings. CED Hattori also outlined plans for community outreach, including open house meetings to give business owners and residents an opportunity to share their feedback on the proposed changes.

Presentation by Rob Roscoe, Deputy Director with Washington Cities Insurance Authority for training.

Deputy Director Roscoe with Washington Cities Insurance Authority conducted a training session for the Council on strategies to avoid liability exposure for the City.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK

