

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2024

Mayor Saavedra called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, City Attorney Daniel B. Heid (remotely), Budget and Finance Director Adam Vaughn (FD Vaughn), Chief of Police Joseph Mehline, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Interim Public Works Director Shaun Burgess, Community Economic Development Director Andrew Hattori, Information Technologies Services Manager Van Donley, Fire Captain Dale Northrup, Firefighter Trevor Oswalt, Firefighter Richard Lilienthal, Firefighter Eric Ihnen, Firefighter Dustin Crist, City Clerk Heidi Riojas, and Communications Manager Sean Davido

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

APPROVE AGENDA

Councilmember Sanchez moved, seconded by Councilmember Morfin to approve the November 25, 2024, Amended Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The City Council received comments from the public during the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Garza moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to approve Consent Agenda items a through c:

- a. Approve Minutes of the November 12, 2024, Regular Meeting
- b. Approve Payroll Check Numbers 36840 through 36851, and Electronic Transfers EFTPR3376 through EFTPR3385 in the total amount of \$322,848.06 dated November 22, 2024
- c. Approve Claims Checks Numbers 99865 through 99935 and Electronic Transfers EFTAP431 through EFTAP433 in the total amount of \$649,894.30 dated November 25, 2024, and void Check Number NR99788

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing Regarding the Final 2025 Budget. Receive Staff Presentation and Public Comments on Proposed Final 2025 Budget.

Mayor Saavedra opened the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

FD Vaughn reported that this is the final public hearing required by State Statute for the City to conduct for the 2025 Final Budget. For the benefit of the public, he noted that the Budget sets forth the complete financial program, showing expenditures proposed for each department and the sources of revenues to finance those expenditures. FD Vaughn shared proposed options for Council to consider for the \$1.4 million budget deficit with reduction in services with 15% less workforce by removing six to eight positions, cuts to parks, recreation, and aquatics services, and the reevaluation of fire services.

Trevor Oswalt, a City of Toppenish firefighter and IAFF Local 2328 President, spoke to his support for retaining the City Fire Department.

Tony Galaviz, spoke to his support for retaining the Fire Department.

Eric Martinen, spoke to his support for retaining the Fire Department.

Kara Supnet, spoke to her support retaining the Fire Department and Parks, Recreation, and Aquatics for the community.

Resident, spoke to her support for keeping the Fire Department.

There being no further comments from the public, Mayor Saavedra closed the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Public Hearing Regarding 2025 Revenue Sources and 2025 Tax Levy. Receive Staff Presentation and Public Comments on Proposed 2024 Tax Levy.

Mayor Saavedra opened the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

FD Vaughn reported that the public hearing was to provide the revenue estimates for the 2025 Budget. He noted that the proposed revenues for all funds consist of various revenue sources which include Property, Sales, and Utility Taxes, as well as Charges for Services. He further noted the total projected revenues to be \$16,870,342.

FD Vaughn reported that the 2025 Budget includes an allowable 1% increase or \$9,173.40 in Ad Valorem Taxes, better known as Property Taxes. The anticipated levy rate in 2025 will be an estimated \$1.60 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation compared to the rate of \$1.59 in 2024.

There being no comments from the public, Mayor Saavedra closed the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Saavedra Read Ordinance 2024-17 Into The Record: An Ordinance of the City of Toppenish, Washington, Determining and Fixing the Amount of Moneys to be Raised by Ad Valorem Taxes to Finance the Municipal Operations for the City of Toppenish, Washington, for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025.

Councilmember Prieto Duval moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Belton to adopt Ordinance 2024-17. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2024-37: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Toppenish, Washington Approving an Animal Sheltering Services Agreement with the Yakima Humane Society to Provide Animal Sheltering Services for the City.

Councilmember Prieto Duval moved, seconded by Councilmember Morfin to approve Resolution 2024-37. Motion carried. Councilmember Sanchez voted no.

Resolution 2024-38: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Toppenish, Washington Approving a Consulting Services Agreement with Culton Consulting LLC for Government Affairs Services.

Councilmember Morfin moved, seconded by Councilmember Garza to approve Resolution 2024-38. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2024-48: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Toppenish, Washington Approving a Consulting Services Agreement with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Relations for Government Affairs Services.

Councilmember Morfin moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to approve Resolution 2024-48. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Saavedra Read Ordinance 2024-14 Into The Record: An Ordinance Adjusting Water Rates by Amending Section 13.16.040 of the Toppenish Municipal Code, Providing for Severability, Corrections, and Establishing an Effective Date.

Councilmember Prieto Duval moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Belton to adopt Ordinance 2024-14. Motion carried. Councilmembers Garcia and Garza voted no.

Mayor Saavedra Read Ordinance 2024-15 Into The Record: An Ordinance Adjusting Sewer Rates by Amending Sections 13.44.025, 13.44.030, 13.44.040 and 13.44.045 of the Toppenish Municipal Code, Providing for Severability, Corrections, and Establishing an Effective Date.

Councilmember Prieto Duval moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Belton to adopt Ordinance 2024-15. Motion carried. Councilmembers Garcia and Garza voted no.

Mayor Saavedra Read Ordinance 2024-16 Into The Record: An Ordinance Adjusting Solid Waste Rates by Amending Section 8.10.170 of the Toppenish Municipal Code, Providing for Severability, Corrections, and Establishing an Effective Date.

Councilmember Prieto Duval moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Belton to adopt Ordinance 2024-16. Motion carried. Councilmembers Garcia and Garza voted no.

Resolution 2024-49: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Toppenish, Washington Updating Master Fee Schedules A and B

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Garza to approve Resolution 2024-49. Motion carried. Councilmember Sanchez voted no.

Resolution 2024-50: A Resolution Approving the Attachment A to the Interlocal Agreement Between the Yakima County Department of Corrections and the City of Toppenish, Washington, for the Housing/Detention of Inmates.

Councilmember Morfin moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Belton to approve Resolution 2024-50. Motion carried. Councilmember Garza voted no.

Resolution 2024-51: A Resolution Approving Inter-Local Agreement Between Yakima County Information Technology Services and the Toppenish Police Department Relating to Law Enforcement Information Technology Services.

Mayor Pro Tem Belton moved, seconded by Councilmember Sanchez to approve Resolution 2024-51. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City Councilmembers provided reports of their activities since the last meeting and community announcements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:45 p.m., Mayor Saavedra called for the room to clear for Council to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Executive Session started at 8:46 p.m. The approximate time for the Executive Session is 15 minutes with no action anticipated.

At 9:01 p.m., Mayor Saavedra extended the Executive Session for another 15 minutes.

At 9:16 p.m., Mayor Saavedra extended the Executive Session for another 10 minutes.

At 9:26 p.m., Mayor Saavedra reconvened the meeting back to order.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK