

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
December 2, 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 Attorney Daniel 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 (IPWD 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, Firefighter Dustin Crist, Communications Manager Sean Davido, 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, Morfin, and Sanchez responded their attendance during roll call.

APPROVE AGENDA

Councilmember Sanchez moved, seconded by Councilmember Morfin to approve the December 2, 2024, Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

RECEIVE UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Councilmember Prieto Duval provided an overview of the November 18, 2024, Public Safety Committee meeting consisting of a presentation by Councilmember Sanchez to empower residents to report crimes and the members set goals. She summarized the Police and Fire reports and highlighted the success of Code Enforcement efforts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Continue discussion for:
Public Works Update on Street Sweeper
Regional Fire Authority

**2025 Budget
Metropolitan Park District
Outside Utility Rates**

Public Works Update on Street Sweeper:

IPWD Burgess updated Council on the progress of the street sweeper attachment with the collection of 62 Tons of debris since August 2024. He noted that the community has not had a functioning street sweeper for over three years.

Outside Utility Rates:

FD Vaughn reported that customers serviced outside City limits are charged an additional 25% for utility services.

Metropolitan Park District:

FD Vaughn stated that the ballot measure for the Metropolitan Park District failed. Communications Manager Davido summarized his community outreach efforts to share the ballot measure with the public.

Regional Fire Authority:

FD Vaughn clarified the role of a regional fire authority (RFA) as a separate taxing entity to provide regional fire services. The RFA would require the creation of a planning committee consisting of three Councilmembers from every participating City to work together in the development of the RFA.

At 6:02 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Belton left the meeting.

2025 Budget:

FD Vaughn summarized staff recommendations for the 20205 Budget to cut six to eight positions, cut parks, recreation, and aquatics, and receive direction for reevaluation fire services. Council discussed the budget shortage and the need for developing a long term solution to the budget deficit for the benefit of the entire community.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

ELPIDIA SAAVEDRA, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, CMC, CITY CLERK