

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

Study Session Minutes

April 7, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present: Mayor Loren Belton and Councilors Al Hubert, Ed Pacheco, William Rogers, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy, City Attorney Philip A. Lamb, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

II. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. Gang Ordinance update on legislation signed by Governor on Monday, March 31, 2008.

City Attorney Lamb summarized E2SHB 2712 concerning criminal street gangs for the Council, which was signed by Governor Gregoire on March 31, 2008 and effective July 1, 2008. He stated that the new bill does not have injunctive relief provisions as originally contemplated. City Attorney Lamb reported that the City of Yakima plans to work with AWC and WASPC to develop a model ordinance. He stated that the City of Sunnyside will be modifying its existing ordinance to make it consistent with the new statute. City Attorney Lamb indicated that he has communicated to the Cities of Sunnyside, Union Gap, and Yakima that the City of Toppenish would be willing to work together to develop a consistent local approach. He advised the Council to encourage Sunnyside and Yakima to move forward with the model ordinance, which other communities would later adopt. The Council discussed the fact that the new bill does not address the problems with juvenile crime. Mayor Belton mentioned that Yakima County has offered a pod specifically for juvenile graffiti crime. He said that the juvenile is guaranteed to spend one night at the facility and a parent is required to pick up the juvenile.

Councilmember Hubert moved to direct the City Attorney to coordinate with other cities to adopt a model gang ordinance; seconded by Councilmember Rogers; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

B. Council Retreat: discuss and decide.

1. Participants
2. Location
3. Facilitator

City Manager Murphy suggested that the Council decide on when they want to schedule the retreat and when they want to fill the Council vacancy. Mayor Belton stated that the City of Selah recently had a retreat and he had information available for the Council to look over. The Council decided that they would go over the goals, the direction and issues facing the City. City Manager Murphy reported that he had contacted Michael Moore with Heritage University about facilitating the retreat. He stated that Mr. Moore does not charge for his facilitating services because he considers it part of his community service and a duty of his position at Heritage University. City Manager Murphy mentioned that Mr. Moore suggested that the Council consider a modest donation to Heritage University for scholarships. The Council indicated that they would like to invite the department directors to participate at the retreat and to find out if the meeting room at Benton Rural Electric Association would be available for the City to use for the retreat. After a general discussion about when to schedule the retreat, it was decided that the retreat would be a half day on a Saturday during the month of June 2008, excluding June 7, 2008, which is Mural-In-A-Day.

Councilmember Thorington moved to accept the resignation of Fred Díaz effective April 7, 2008; seconded by Councilmember Rogers; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

It was the consensus of the Council to schedule the interview of candidates on May 5, 2008.

Councilmember Taylor moved to direct staff to commence the advertising process to fill the Council vacancy, and to schedule May 5, 2008 as the meeting for Council to fill the vacancy for the term ending December 31, 2009; seconded by Councilmember Pacheco; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

At the request of Fred Díaz, the City will not be scheduling an open house in his honor

III. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK