

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL  
Study Session Minutes  
February 1, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Blaine Thorington and Councilmembers Loren Belton Clara Jiménez, Christina Kwan, Mark Oaks, Derald Ortloff, and Randy Taylor.

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT TO COUNCIL REGARDING  
CONTRIBUTION TO BE PAID BY INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE TOWARD  
COSTS OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE**

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported to Council regarding the draft Ordinance that outlines details of the contribution of funds by Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, toward the costs of the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) upgrades. CM Murphy stated that the funding will assist Native American citizens with a reduction of sewer utility rates through a monthly discount by reducing the amount of the rates associated with the capital costs of the current WWTF upgrades project. The rate discount will extend over a twenty-year period, for eligible Native American Indians who are presently served by the WWTF. CM Murphy informed Council that the Yakama Nation in coordination with IHS will determine the discount eligibility based upon the individual qualifying as an enrolled Native American being the owner/occupant and the person on the utility account with the City at the time the Memorandum of Agreement is signed by the parties. IHS Engineer and Technical Advisor Norm Hepner explained that funds are available for IHS to use for water and sewer improvement projects for Native Americans to correct a current sanitary deficiency. Mr. Hepner reported that the Memorandum of Agreement between the City, IHS, and the Yakama Nation needs to be completed within the next two months in order to qualify for the funding.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT TO COUNCIL REGARDING STATUS OF  
NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM GRANT**

CM Murphy reported to Council on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant with Department of Commerce in the amount of \$252,351. Purpose of the Grant is to assist communities to turn dilapidated houses into affordable housing. CM Murphy stated that Council received a copy of the drafted contract between the City and Habitat for Humanity. CM Murphy informed Council that the City is assisting the Department of Commerce to develop a boilerplate contract to be used by other jurisdictions to work with Habitat for Humanity organization in their communities. CM Murphy reported that the City is planning to acquire the properties by September 2010 and have the houses occupied by December 2012.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

CM Murphy reported to Council on the progress of the House and Senate bills supported by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) to address criminal gang intimidation, to provide for civil gang injunction laws, to establish nuisance and abatement laws for real and personal

property used for criminal gang activity, and to establish seizure and forfeiture laws for real and personal property that are used to promote or aid criminal gang activity.

CM Murphy also informed Council that he sent Senator Honeyford an email to encourage him to oppose the proposed Senate Bill to change the election and appointment provisions for municipal court judges.

CM Murphy reported on several proposed bills in the House and the Senate that involve local flexibility with existing revenues; to allow a street maintenance utility; to extend the updating requirements for local GMA from seven years to ten years; and to allow municipalities to direct public records requestors to its City website to obtain the requested information.

**REVIEW RESOLUTION 2006-44, ESTABLISHING POLICIES FOR CITY  
COUNCIL TRAVEL AND EXPENSES**

After discussion, it was decided by Council to make no changes to Resolution 2006-44 at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

---

BLAINE R. THORINGTON, MAYOR

---

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK