

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

Study Session Minutes

February 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

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

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None.

Staff City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy) and Executive Assistant/Deputy

Present: City Clerk Heidi Riojas (EA Riojas).

PRESENTATION BY MARJORIE DAHLSTROM, AFFORDABLE HOUSING COORDINATOR FOR THE YAKIMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE HOME CONSORTIUM

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported that Marjorie Dahlstrom was present to address the questions that were discussed during the January 26, 2009 Council meeting regarding the HOME Consortium about whether the jurisdictions that join in had to be abutting and if a 25% match is required to participate in the program. Ms. Dahlstrom presented the Council with handouts regarding the HOME Investment Partnerships Program that was authorized by Congress in 1990 and funding has been appropriated since 1992. Ms. Dahlstrom explained the various factors used to determine the allocation of HOME funding for each jurisdiction. Ms. Dahlstrom reported that the jurisdictions need to have a border in common to be eligible to participate in the consortium. A first year consortium is required to meet a minimum \$750,000 threshold, and anything less than \$750,000 will require a buy-in amount to make up the difference. Ms. Dahlstrom stated that Yakima County is considering using the recording fees generated from HB 2060 Local Funds to pay the buy-in amount for the HOME Consortium, if there is enough interest from the Cities. Ms. Dahlstrom reported that the program requires a 25% match for any funds, except for funds to pay for administration fees and funds paid to community housing development organizations. It was the consensus of the Council to direct the City Manager to send an email to Marjorie Dahlstrom to notify her that the City intends to participate in the HOME Consortium, but without making a commitment to do so.

STAFF PRESENTATION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL/STAFF PLANNING SESSION PRIORITIES

The Council discussed the memo that CM Murphy prepared to give an update on the priorities from the June 21, 2008 Council/Staff Planning Session. Councilman Rogers expressed support of the plan that Fire Chief Smith and Code Enforcement Officer Scaife are using to address code enforcement matters. Councilman Pacheco asked if there was a plan to take action to improve street lighting. CM Murphy stated that he was providing information and that the item was not included in the 2009 budget. Councilman Rogers asked if the street lighting improvements could be paid with old program income. CM Murphy reported that he would have to look into Councilman Rogers' idea for a creative use of the old program income. CM Murphy suggested

reviewing the criminal activity in certain areas and evaluate whether additional lighting might help reduce crime. Councilman Pacheco requested an update on the progress of the work of the Special Project Assistant. CM Murphy responded that he has given Mr. Kehm a full-page outline of what he has in mind for him to do and that he will be meeting with him every two weeks. CM Murphy said that he will report back on the progress on the areas relating to economic development, the vacant downtown business buildings, and potential annexations.

Councilman Ortloff reported on the deterioration of the mural on the old Pacific Power building and his lack of response from the Mural Society. CM Murphy suggested that he contact Susan Treneer at the Chamber office.

Councilman Rogers reported that the Toppenish High School students will be acknowledged during the February 23, 2009 Council meeting. It was the consensus of the Council to present a Proclamation to declare a day as Toppenish High School Silver Award Day.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK