

# TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

## Regular Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2009

### REGULAR SESSION CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Belton called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Present: City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy), City Attorney Philip A. Lamb (CA Lamb), City Interpreter Jorge Villaseñor (CI Villaseñor), MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall (MVTV Devall), and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas (EA Riojas).

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Alexander Mejia, 402 Bolin Drive, Toppenish, summarized his eighteen concerns regarding the City, which include freezing of staff wages, drug testing for police officers and firefighters, cost to insure the train depot property, and repairing of alleys. City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported that Mr. Mejia submitted the list after their meeting together to discuss his reasons for requesting to be put on the agenda. CM Murphy stated that all City police officers and firefighters submit to drug tests and that it is in the best interest of the City to insure the train depot.

### CONSENT AGENDA

**Councilman Thorington moved, seconded by Councilman Hubert to approve Consent Agenda items a through i:**

- a. Approve Minutes of the December 8, 2008 Regular Meeting.
- b. Approve Payroll Vouchers Number 26331 through 26351 in the total amount of \$17,552.50 dated December 15, 2008.
- c. Approve Claims Vouchers Number 66812 through 66851 in the total amount of \$42,790.00 dated December 15, 2008.
- d. Approve Payroll Vouchers Number 26352 through 26432 in the total amount of \$234,168.51 dated December 15, 2008.
- e. Approve Claims Vouchers Number 66852 through 66930 and Claims Vouchers Number 990812011 through 990812014 in the total amount of \$104,367.25 dated December 22, 2008 and void Voucher Number 66929.
- f. Approve Payroll Vouchers Number 26433 through 26516 in the total amount of \$152,050.60 dated December 31, 2008.
- g. Approve Pay Estimate #9 to Pacific Crest Construction for the WWTF Improvements Project in the amount of \$843,485.44 and payment of retainage to escrow in the amount of \$40,928.38.
- h. Approve Claims Vouchers Number 66931 through 67029 in the total amount of \$1,080,462.88 dated December 31, 2008.
- i. Approve Claims Vouchers Number 67030 through 67059 in the total amount of \$175,811.43 dated January 12, 2009.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### NEW BUSINESS

**Introduction of Yakima County Commissioner Kevin Bouchey for brief presentation.**

The Council received a brief presentation from Kevin Bouchey, the new Yakima County Commissioner representing District 2. Commissioner Bouchey reported that the lower valley will be better represented since he resides in the area. Commissioner Bouchey explained that the three Commissioners want to interact more with the Mayors, City Councils, and staff members by meeting either quarterly or semi annually to discuss the issues facing the communities. The Council congratulated Commissioner Bouchey on his new position as a Yakima County Commissioner.

**Councilman Rogers moved, seconded by Councilman Pacheco to remove item 4b [proposed] Resolution 2009-1 Approving the 2009 Budget for the Cable Communications Fund No. 635 for the Cable Regulation Board and Community Access TV of the Cities of Granger, Toppenish, Washington, and Zillah and replace that agenda item with a new item 4b to Approve Claim Voucher Number 67060 in the total amount of \$10,112.64 dated December 31, 2008 Addendum. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Selection of 2009 Yakima Valley Conference of Governments member and alternate.**

**Councilman Rogers moved, seconded by Councilman Pacheco to appoint Councilman Hubert as the 2009 Yakima Valley Conference of Governments member and Councilman Taylor as the 2009 Yakima Valley Conference of Governments alternate. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilman Hubert congratulated Toppenish Volunteer Firefighter Manuel Cienfuegos as being nominated as the 2008 firefighter of the year, the recent promotion of Police Chief Adam Diaz and Fire Chief Tim Smith, and the Letters of Commendation issued to Corrections Officers Zapien and DeOchoa, Police Officer Araguz, and Sergeant Church.

Councilman Rogers reported that he attended the Cable Regulation Board meeting on December 17, 2008.

Mayor Belton reported that he and several Councilmen attended the promotion ceremony on December 31, 2008 for the new Fire Chief and Police Chief.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

CM Murphy stated that he appreciated the Council acknowledging that Manuel Cienfuegos was selected as the 2008 Toppenish firefighter of the year and that he has been a volunteer firefighter since 2005. CM Murphy thanked the Council for acknowledging that Corrections Officer Oscar Zapien, Corrections Officer Vick DeOchoa, Sergeant Jacob Church, and Officer Estevan Araguz were commended for their successful life saving efforts at the jail.

CM Murphy announced that free smoke detectors are available for the public and to please contact the Fire Department about getting the detectors.

CM Murphy stated that on January 12, 2009, he received a \$23,727 check from WCIA representing the claim for the damaged pool boiler and that he has made contact with the Toppenish Community Foundation about its pledge to pay the difference of \$37,000 for replacing the boiler. CM Murphy reported that the City should soon be fully compensated \$61,000 for the replacement of the pool boiler.

CM Murphy reported that the YVCOG General Membership meeting is on January 21, 2009 at The American Legion in Wapato. Mayor Belton and Councilmen Hubert, Ortloff, and Taylor responded that they will be attending the meeting.

CM Murphy stated that City has been requested to proclaim the week of January 18, 2009 through January 24, 2009 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Week. Mayor Belton recited the Proclamation for the benefit of the citizens.

CM Murphy reported that the Council needs to decide on a topic for the February 2, 2009 Study Session. It was the consensus of the Council to revisit the items from the 2008 Planning Session at the February 2, 2009 Study Session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:37 p.m., Mayor Belton announced that the Council would be going into executive session for 45 minutes or less to discuss the City Manager evaluation and contract matters. He stated that the Council might return to take action.

At 8:25 p.m., Mayor Belton announced that the Council would need to have an additional 10 minutes in executive session.

At 8:35 p.m., Mayor Belton reconvened the meeting into regular session. Mayor Belton reported that no action will be taken at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

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HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK