

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Belton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy, City Attorney Philip A. Lamb, Public Works Director Lance Hoyt, City Interpreter Jorge Villaseñor, Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas, and MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alexander Mejia, 402 Bolin Drive, Toppenish, expressed his concerns about various issues.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of the December 10, 2007 Regular Meeting.
- B. Minutes of the December 17, 2007 Public Safety Committee Meeting.
- C. Minutes of the January 7, 2008 Study Session.
- D. Claim Vouchers for December 11, 2007:
Voucher No. 64431 through 64451 for \$20,698.00.
- E. Payroll Vouchers for December 15, 2007:
Voucher No. 24107 through 24175 for \$182,204.71.
- F. Claims Vouchers for December 19, 2007:
Voucher No. 64452 through 64546 for \$181,001.49.
- G. Payroll Vouchers for December 31, 2007:
Voucher No. 24176 through 24253 for \$140,008.74.
- H. Claims Vouchers for December 31, 2007 Period 13:
Voucher No. 64547 through 64647 for \$182,234.51.
- I. Claims Vouchers for January 9, 2008:
Voucher No. 64648 through 64682 for \$475,938.81

Councilor Thorington moved for the adoption of the Consent Agenda; seconded by Councilor Díaz; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

V. ACTIVE AGENDA.

A. Ordinance 2008-1.

Ordinance Increasing Amount Required For Utility Deposit For Residential Users, From \$80 To \$100, By Amending Section 13.16.030 Of The Toppenish Municipal Code.

City Manager Murphy reported that the problem is that the minimum utility bill is greater than the security deposit. He stated that he has been advised by the Finance Department that there have been a number of requests by property owners, who rent out their property, to increase the security deposit to cover the minimum monthly utility bill. City Manager Murphy reported that Finance Director/City Clerk Mead has recommended that the utility deposit be increased from \$80 to \$100 for new customers.

Councilor Thorington moved for the adoption of Ordinance 2008-1 Increasing Amount Required For Utility Deposit For Residential Users, From \$80 To \$100, By Amending Section 13.16.030 Of The Toppenish Municipal Code; seconded by Councilor Taylor; motion carried with 5 yes votes and 1 no vote. Mayor Belton and Councilors Díaz, Rogers, Taylor, and Thorington voting yes and Councilor Pacheco voting no.

B. Resolution 2008-1.

Resolution Approving The 2008 Budget For The Cable Communications Fund No. 635 For The Cable Regulation Board And Community Access TV Of The Cities Of Granger, Toppenish, Wapato, And Zillah.

Councilor Rogers moved for the adoption of Resolution 2008-1 Approving The 2008 Budget For The Cable Communications Fund No. 635 For The Cable Regulation Board And Community Access TV Of The Cities Of Granger, Toppenish, Wapato, And Zillah; seconded by Councilor Taylor; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

C. MVTV Cable Regulation Board – appoint one member and one alternate.

Councilor Díaz motioned to appoint Councilor Rogers as the member and Councilor Thorington as the alternate for the Cable Regulation Board; seconded by Councilor Taylor; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

D. Public Safety Committee – appoint two members and one alternate.

Councilor Rogers motioned to appoint Councilors Belton, Pacheco, and Taylor as the members and Councilor Díaz as the alternate for the Public Safety Committee; seconded by Councilor Thorington; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

E. Rattlesnake Hills Tourist Trail – appoint one Council representative.

Councilor Rogers motioned to appoint Councilor Thorington as the Council representative for the Rattlesnake Hills Tourist Trail; seconded by Councilor Taylor; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

F. Council Boards and Commissions Selection Committee – appoint three members.

It was the consensus of the Council to leave one position vacant until a Councilor is appointed to fill the vacant position. Councilor Thorington suggested that the Council consider removing the term limits for the advisory commissions.

Councilor Rogers motioned to appoint Councilors Pacheco and Taylor as members of the Council Boards and Commissions Selection Committee; seconded by Councilor Díaz; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

VI. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS.

Councilor Taylor reported that on January 11, 2008 he, Mayor Belton, and Councilor Pacheco attended the AWC training for newly elected officials in Yakima. He stated that the training was informative and helpful.

VII. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS.

A. Receive recommendation from Public Safety Committee regarding changes to downtown parking.

Public Works Director Hoyt presented the Council with the map outlining the parking changes for the downtown area, which the Public Safety Committee has recommended for approval. He went into detail to explain the proposed changes that would provide an additional 56 parking spaces for the downtown corridor. Mayor Belton reported that the downtown business owners provided valuable information that resulted in the proposed parking changes.

Councilor Rogers motioned to approve the proposed change to the parking as indicated by the Parking Revisions Option 2 on the Gray & Osborne map; seconded by Councilor Thorington; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

B. Update on Gang Ordinance.

City Attorney Lamb reported to the Council that he had discussions with the Cities of Sunnyside, Union Gap, and Yakima regarding enforcement of their gang ordinances. He recommended that the Council wait to see what happens with the pending legislation.

C. Accept resignation of Councilor Elaine Willman. Authorize publication of ad inviting application to fill vacancy, set closing date, and schedule meeting date for Council to make selection for term ending December 31, 2009.

It was the consensus of the Council to schedule the interview of applicants on February 11, 2008.

Councilor Rogers moved to accept the resignation of Elaine Willman, to authorize the publication of the ad for applications, and schedule February 11, 2008 as meeting for Council to make selection for term ending December 31, 2009; seconded by Councilor Díaz; motion carried with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

City Manager Murphy provided the Council with an update on the status of the selection of a new Public Safety Director. He explained in detail the reason for the cancellation of the assessment center scheduled for January 15, 2008.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK