

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 26, 2010**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Councilmember Mark Oaks.

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy), City Attorney Gary M. Cuillier, Special Projects Assistant Tom Kehm (PA Kehm), City Building Official/Planner William Rathbone, City Interpreter Jorge Villaseñor, MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

Councilmember Taylor moved, seconded by Councilmember Jiménez to excuse Councilmember Oaks from the July 26, 2010 Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judy Calahan, 305 Berger Lane, Toppenish, stated that she was concerned about the condition of the sidewalks, park benches and picnic tables in the City. City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported that Ms. Calahan has some valid points concerning the sidewalks and activities in the parks that result in the destruction of the benches and tables; and stated that he will pass on to the park concerns to the Parks and Recreation Director so that he can take a closer look at the condition of the benches and tables.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Thorington and Councilmember Belton abstained from voting on Consent Agenda Item "a" since they were not at the meeting.

Councilmember Jiménez moved, seconded by Councilmember Taylor to approve Consent Agenda items b through f:

- b.** Approve Minutes of the July 6, 2010 Study Session.
- c.** Receive June 2010 Budget Report and Update memorandum submitted by Finance Director/City Clerk Linda Mead.
- d.** Approve Pay Estimate #1 to Columbia Asphalt & Gravel, Inc. for the Guyette Lane Extension Project in the total amount of \$91,689.93 with retainage held in the amount of \$4,678.06.
- e.** Approve Payroll Checks Number 30025 through 30129 in the total amount of \$273,363.39 dated July 15, 2010.
- f.** Approve Claims Checks Numbered 70922 through 71033 and EFT99100726 in the total amount of \$320,127.61 dated July 26, 2010, and void Munis Payroll Check #26346 and Vision Claims Check #70693 and #70948.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Taylor moved, seconded by Councilmember Kwan to approve Consent Agenda item a:

- a.** Approve Minutes of the June 28, 2010 Meeting.

Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Presentation by Dennis Klukan, Director of Yakima Health District.**

Dennis Klukan, Director of Yakima Health District, reported on the progress of the Health District since its inception in 1911, which was established to assist with preventing another typhoid fever outbreak that happened in 1910. The 1910 outbreak was determined to be caused by the privies (outhouses) being placed alongside wells and causing contamination of the ground water. Mr. Klukan provided the council with a video presentation to provide detailed background information regarding the history of the formation of the first Health District in the nation, which was Yakima Health District for the purpose of providing public health services for education and prevention to deal with health threats affecting the community such as infectious, chronic disease control and drinking water protection.

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

Mayor Thorington reported that on July 15, 2010, he attended a New Vision meeting in Granger and commented on the erroneous reporting in the Yakima Herald-Republic concerning a shooting that actually occurred outside the City limits and was reported to have happened in Toppenish. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have CM Murphy contact the Yakima Herald-Republic to request a meeting to discuss the concerns of the City Council and the City Manager regarding the inaccurate reporting that has a negative public perception of the City of Toppenish.

Councilmember Belton reported that on July 19, 2010, he attended the Executive Board meeting of Yakima Conference of Governments and the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Regional Transportation Planning Organization meeting and announced that \$432,000 was awarded for the East McDonald Road project and \$357,000 was awarded for the Train Depot for a rehabilitation project. Councilmember Belton reported that on July 20, 2010, he and Councilmember Taylor attended the first meeting of the Yakima County Gang Commission.

Councilmember Kwan reported that on July 23, 2010 she went to the City of Sunnyside to meet a few of the finalists for the Sunnyside City Manager position.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

CM Murphy reported the City Building Official/Planner William Rathbone was appointed as the Chairman of the HOME Consortium Technical Advisory Committee and that the City has had eight inquires concerning the Downtown Revitalization Program as a result of the media reports, the broadcast on MVTV, and by posting the information on the City website.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Mayor Thorington called for two executive sessions to be held consecutively starting at 7:36 p.m. Mayor Thorington informed the public that the purpose of the first session was to discuss litigation that the City reasonably believes may be commenced by or against the City. Mayor Thorington stated that the executive session would convene for less than 10 minutes.

The purpose of the second executive session was to discuss litigation to which the City is a party, regarding a claim for assessments by the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency and that the executive session would convene for less than 10 minutes.

Mayor Thorington announced that it was anticipated that no action would be taken when the Regular Session reconvened.

Mayor Thorington called the regular session back to order at 7:56 p.m. Mayor Thorington stated that no action would be taken at this time as a result of the two Executive Sessions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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BLAINE R. THORINGTON, MAYOR

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HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK