

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2008

REGULAR SESSION CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: William Rogers.

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy, City Interpreter Jorge Villaseñor, Finance Director/City Clerk Linda B. Mead, Public Works Director Lance Hoyt, Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas, and MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall.

Councilman Taylor moved, seconded by Councilman Ortloff to excuse Councilman William Rogers from the July 28, 2008 Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alexander Mejia, 402 Bolin Drive, Toppenish, expressed his concerns about the use of funds for the new Welcome Center. Mr. Mejia spoke to the Council regarding his view about parking vehicles in the front yard and about posting signs in yards. City Manager Murphy responded that the City obtained a Federal grant for the funding to purchase the new Welcome Center.

Mayor Belton requested Mr. Mejia to put down and turn off his camcorder because it was a disruption to the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Thorington stated that he would not vote on item a of the Consent Agenda since he was absent from the meeting. He requested to put a hold on Consent Agenda item d.

Councilman Hubert moved, seconded by Councilman Taylor to approve Consent Agenda items a through f, with the exception of item d.

- a. Approve Minutes of the July 14, 2008 ~~Special~~ Regular Meeting.
- b. Accept Minutes of the July 21, 2008 Public Safety Committee Meeting.
- c. Approve Payroll Vouchers for July 15, 2008:
Voucher Number 25306 through 25414 for \$247,226.91
- d. Approve Claims Vouchers for July 28, 2008:
Voucher Number 65833 through 65902 for \$125,672.50.
- e. Ordinance 2008-14:
Ordinance Amending The Sign Ordinance In TMC Chapter 15.10 To Provide More Specific Guidance To The Public And To The Planning Commission About Requirements And Prohibitions For Signs Within The Design District (TMC Chapter 17.26) And Elsewhere Within The City Of Toppenish, Including Deadlines For Bringing Non-Conforming Signs Into Compliance.
- f. Ordinance 2008-15:
Ordinance To Establish That The Duties And Powers Of The Planning Commission Include Those Of The Former Design Review Board Under TMC 17.26 For The

Design Review District, And Requiring All Signs Within The Boundaries Of The Design District To Comply With TMC Chapter 15.10, By Amending TMC Chapter 17.26.

Motion carried unanimously. Councilman Thorington abstained from voting on item a of the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Thorington requested a clarification on voucher number 65882 to Tyler Technologies for \$30,000. City Manager Murphy responded that it was for the annual maintenance contract with Tyler Technologies for the MUNIS program. He mentioned that prior administration obligated the City to pay the annual maintenance fee to maintain the system.

Councilman Thorington moved, seconded by Councilman Hubert to approve Consent Agenda item d. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Set Agenda For August 4, 2008 Study Session

Councilman Taylor suggested a review and update on the MUNIS conversion. He mentioned that he would like to have a more detailed update on how the MUNIS program is working for City staff. City Manager Murphy responded that City staff has been working diligently to resolve issues with the MUNIS program. Mayor Belton mentioned that it would be helpful to provide the Council with an update on the graffiti meeting. City Manager Murphy stated that he would be able to provide a recap of the graffiti meeting for the Council. It was the consensus of the Council to have an update on MUNIS and to receive an update on the graffiti issue on the agenda for the August 4, 2008 Study Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Replacement Of Garbage Truck Per The City's Vehicle Replacement Plan Presentation By Public Works Director Lance Hoyt

City Manager Murphy reported that an ordinance has been prepared to be adopted along with Resolution 2008-12 for the matter that Public Works Director Hoyt would be presenting to the Council. Public Works Director Hoyt stated that he has a four-year cycle for replacing a garbage truck and each year \$63,000 is budgeted for the vehicle replacement fund. He stated that currently \$195,000 was available to purchase a new garbage truck. He explained in specific detail how the City could save an estimated \$38,000 by ordering the new garbage truck now instead of waiting until next year because of rate increases. Public Works Director Hoyt stated that it would cost around \$252,000 for a new garbage truck, which he has two thirds of the funds available in the vehicle replacement fund. He mentioned that the City would be financing the garbage truck for two years by securing funding through the State of Washington Local Option Capital Asset Lending (LOCAL) program funds with 4% to 4.5% interest rate. Public Works Director Hoyt stated that he is requesting the approval of the expenditure of \$252,027.43 to purchase the new refuse truck and to authorize the Finance Director to prepare the appropriate budget amendment, as needed.

Resolution 2008-12: Reimbursement Obligation Resolution

City Manager Murphy reported that Ordinance 2008-17 Authorizing The Acquisition Of Personal Property And Execution Of A Financing Contract And Related Documentation Relating To The Acquisition Of Said Personal Property would also need to be adopted to be in accordance with Resolution 2008-12. He stated that the documents would also authorize the acquisition of a new lawn mower for the Parks Department. City Manager Murphy reported that the City has lost service of one of the riding mowers. He said Parks and Recreation Director Cole acquired an estimate of \$18,000 for a new lawn mower. He went to another dealer and received an estimate for \$18,000 to purchase a new lawn mower, plus a used lawn mower that was used as a demo.

Councilman Thorington moved, seconded by Councilman Hubert to authorize the acquisition of the new garbage truck and the new lawn mowers, and the adoption of Resolution 2008-12 Reimbursement Obligation Resolution, and the adoption of Ordinance 2008-17 Authorizing The Acquisition Of Personal Property And Execution Of A Financing Contract And Related Documentation Relating To The Acquisition Of Said Personal Property. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2008-16:

Ordinance Regulating Parking On The Front Yard And Vehicles Elevated Above Ground; Enacting A New Chapter 10.52 Of The Toppenish Municipal Code

City Manager Murphy stated that the proposed ordinance was on the agenda, because the parking of vehicles in yards in residential areas had been a concern during the council/staff planning session. He said that this would be the first opportunity of the Council to discuss the issue. Councilman Thorington inquired who would be enforcing the ordinance. City Manager Murphy responded that the Code Enforcement Officer, the Police Officers, and the Public Safety Director would be authorized to enforce and issue citations for violations. Councilman Thorington stated that he was in support of the ordinance because it takes away from the quality of life and deteriorates the City. He suggested that the citizens be educated on the matter before enforcement of the new ordinance. City Manager Murphy stated that he believes that the citizens should be informed and educated before penalized. Councilman Hubert mentioned that he was in favor of the new ordinance and that the code enforcement officer will need additional help to enforce the issue. Mayor Belton reported that part of the education for the citizens would be watching the television and reading about the issue in the local newspaper. Councilman Pacheco mentioned that the citizens should be educated and contacted by the code enforcement officer and the police officers. He said that he was concerned about the increase in the volume of cases, which the code enforcement officer is not able to handle. City Manager Murphy responded that the code enforcement officer, the police officers, and the public safety director would be authorized to enforce the ordinance. He said that he would direct City staff to contact citizens and try to get voluntary compliance. Councilman Taylor reported that he supported the proposed ordinance. The Council requested to have the Ordinance on the August 11, 2008 agenda.

Resolution 2008-13:

Resolution Declaring Certain Property As Surplus And Authorizing The Disposition Thereof

Councilman Taylor moved, seconded by Councilman Hubert to adopt Resolution 2008-13 Declaring Certain Property As Surplus And Authorizing The Disposition Thereof. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Taylor reported that the Public Safety Committee had a meeting on July 21, 2008 to discuss downtown crosswalk safety. He said that the committee decided to address the problem by educating the citizens and by changing the striping in the crosswalk areas. He stated that the police department would follow up with an emphasis patrol after the educational period. On July 24, 2008, he attended the budget meeting provided by Finance Director/City Clerk Linda Mead and Deputy Finance Director/City Clerk Debbie Zabell and that it was very helpful.

Mayor Belton reported that on July 21, 2008 he attended the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments meeting, which discussed the success of Tribal Transit. He said that on July 24, 2008 he met with representatives that are using the old U & I Sugar Plant. Mayor Belton stated that the representatives had positive comments about the help they have received from City staff.

Councilman Pacheco requested an update on the Welcome Center. City Manager Murphy responded that a few problems were discovered and reported to him regarding the location of the ramp and the quality of the sidewalk cement. Public Works Director Hoyt stated that on July 29, 2009 Job Corps would start to work on correcting the problems. Councilman Thorington inquired if a contractor would be

completing the porch. City Manager Murphy responded that Building Official/Code Enforcement Officer Fletcher Scaife was completing the design of the porch. Councilman Pacheco expressed his concern about the lack of a Western Theme for the building. City Manager Murphy responded that the design for the Welcome Center was approved by a committee with two Councilmembers, representatives of the Mural Society and the Chamber of Commerce, a local contractor, and a provider of lumber and building supplies. He said that there is talk about putting a mural on the building.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK