

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
March 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, William Rogers, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.

Absent: Ed Pacheco.

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

Present: City Clerk Heidi Riojas (EA Riojas).

Councilman Thorington moved, seconded by Councilman Taylor to excuse Councilman Ed Pacheco from the March 2, 2009 Study Session. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECEIVE UPDATE FROM MARJORIE DAHLSTROM, AFFORDABLE HOUSING
COORDINATOR FOR THE YAKIMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE HOME CONSORTIUM**

Marjorie Dahlstrom reported that Yakima County has submitted a letter of interest to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) because of the written interest received from the Cities of Toppenish, Wapato, Grandview, and Union Gap about participating in the HOME Consortium. Ms. Dahlstrom stated that the City of Sunnyside was still considering the matter. Ms. Dahlstrom reported that her department met with Gene Weinmann and Page Scott with the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) to discern whether YVCOG has an interest in administering the program or providing technical assistance to communities. The next step is the drafting of the Interlocal Agreement for the HOME Consortium, which is expected to be sent out by the end of March 2009.

Mayor Belton briefly spoke about the YVCOG press release regarding the stimulus funds that Yakima County is expecting to receive for local transportation projects.

DISCUSS 2009 CITY COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) suggested that the Council decide on who will be attending, where and when they want to meet, and if they want a facilitator. After a general discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have the department directors attend the planning session, reserve the Benton Rural Electric Association (BREA) meeting room on a Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and for Mayor Belton to be the facilitator for the planning session. The Council decided to revisit the topics from the June 21, 2008 planning session and reprioritize the list of priorities. CM Murphy stated that he will contact BREA about possible dates and report back.

The Council held a general discussion regarding juvenile gang issues and the partnership with the Toppenish School District for the two Student Resource Officers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK