

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy, City Interpreter Jorge Villaseñor, Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas, and MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Sara Frederiksen, Director, Toppenish Chamber of Commerce, 5A South Toppenish Avenue, Toppenish, responded to the comments made by John Sodini during the March 10, 2008 meeting pertaining to the errors in the Toppenish Chamber of Commerce advertisements in the Yakima Valley 2008 Visitor Guide. She clarified the differences between paid advertising and publisher's editorial content advertising. Director Frederiksen stated that the Yakima Valley Visitor and Convention Bureau advertisement had no errors. She provided the Councilmembers with a copy of her emails documenting her conversations with Yakima Valley Newspapers staff members to verify that the errors in the Yakima Valley 2008 Visitor Guide were made by the publisher and not by the Toppenish Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Kathy Miller, 10001 North Track Road, Toppenish, expressed her support of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lindsey, the new owners of the local newspaper and encouraged the community to continue to support the local newspaper. Ms. Miller recited a statement that had been created by the Toppenish School District staff regarding the rumored resignation of Superintendent Steve Myers and encouraged the community to be at the School Board meeting on March 25, 2008 to express support of Mr. Myers staying in Toppenish.

Mr. Alexander Mejia, 402 Bolin Drive, Toppenish, spoke about his opinions regarding the railroad depot. City Manager Murphy responded that he provided the information that Mr. Mejia had requested, and informed him that in the future he would need to submit a Public Records Request. Mr. Mejia acknowledged that he had not submitted a request.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of the March 10, 2008 Regular Meeting.
- B. Payroll Vouchers for March 15, 2008:
Voucher No. 24564 through 24639 for \$200,753.60.
- C. Claims Vouchers for March 24, 2008:
Voucher No. 37033 through 37125 for \$105,512.30.

Councilmember Rogers moved for the adoption of the Consent Agenda with the exception of Items A and C; seconded by Councilmember Hubert; motion carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Thorington requested an explanation of what was adopted with Resolution 2008-8. Councilmember Taylor responded that the resolution was for the renewal of the agreement with Yakima County Department of Corrections.

Councilmember Thorington moved for the adoption of Item A on the Consent Agenda; seconded by Councilmember Taylor; motion carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Councilmember Thorington requested a clarification on Claim Voucher Numbers 37037, 37069, and 37103. City Manager Murphy responded that Claim Voucher Numbers 37037 and 37069 were for the housing rehabilitation program and Claim Voucher Number 37103 was for equipment and supplies for the wells.

Councilmember Thorington moved for the adoption of Item C on the Consent Agenda; seconded by Councilmember Diaz; motion carried with 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

V. ACTIVE AGENDA.

A. Scanning All The Top-Hi Senior Class Pictures Update: presentation by Louise Potter and Dick Jones.

Louise Potter reported to the Council that the preservation project to scan the Top-Hi Senior Class pictures, which are stored at the Toppenish Museum, is complete. She stated that Baumgardner Imaging in Yakima scanned the pictures that ranged from 1922 through 1967. Mrs. Potter said that the scanned images were burned to a CD and she presented a gold CD to City Manager Murphy for the City records. Mayor Belton mentioned that Dick Jones, June Kitting, and Bob Halvorson were on the committee that assisted in completing the project. Mrs. Potter stated that pictures could be produced from the scanned images if someone would like to purchase a specific class picture. The Council thanked Mrs. Potter and her committee for their work.

B. Errors In Publications: presentation by John Sodini.

John Sodini reported his view to the Council about the consequences of the errors in the Yakima Valley Visitor Guide. He stated that his concerns were for the lost visitors and tourism revenues for the wineries and the four cities because of the inaccurate information in the Yakima Valley Visitor Guide. Mayor Belton stated that he was aware that the Toppenish Chamber of Commerce and a few cities were in communication with the publisher.

C. Ordinance 2008-4.

Ordinance To Establish That The Duties And Powers Of The Planning Commission Include Those Of The Design Review Board Under TMC 17.26 For The Design Review District.

City Manager Murphy reported that the matter was discussed during the March 3, 2008 study session and that is what prompted the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Taylor suggested that the Council table the matter until the Council receives the recommendations from the Planning Commission and the Council decides on the direction it wants to go with the western theme. Mayor Belton responded that it was his understanding that the purpose of the ordinance was to give the Planning Commission the authority and the right to deal with business signs. City Manager Murphy stated that the proposed ordinance does not modify the Design Review District ordinance. Councilmember Rogers reported that he supported adopting the ordinance in the interim to give the Planning Commission authority to handle matters involving the design process until the Council makes a final decision on the matter. Councilmember Rogers moved to adopt Ordinance 2008-4, the motion died without a second. The Council continued to discuss the matter about adopting the proposed ordinance.

Restating his previous motion that died without a second, Councilmember Rogers moved to adopt Ordinance 2008-4 To Establish That The Duties And Powers Of The Planning Commission Include Those Of The Design Review Board Under TMC 17.26 For The Design Review District; seconded by Councilor Díaz; motion failed with 3 yes votes and 4 no votes. Mayor Belton and Councilmembers Díaz and Rogers voted yes and Councilmembers Hubert, Pacheco, Taylor, and Thorington voted no.

VI. COUNCIL MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Councilmember Rogers reported that he and Councilmember Thorington attended the Cable Regulation Board meeting on March 12, 2008 and that new equipment is being purchased which will provide added opportunities to enhance the cable programming.

Mayor Belton reported that he and several other Councilmembers attended the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments General Membership meeting on March 19, 2008 in Grandview. He said that the discussion was about public transit for the lower valley area. Mayor Belton reported that he attended the Mayor's meeting on March 20, 2008. He stated that the discussion was about the communities working together as one voice about the anti-gang and graffiti issues.

VII. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Belton reported that he did speak with the other Mayors and that no City had a flag, but there were three or four communities interested in creating a City flag. Councilmember Taylor reported that he received initial approval to use the stagecoach created by Val Kerby for use of the Toppenish Mural Society. He said that he will receive written authorization from the Toppenish Mural Society for the City to use the drawing on the new City flag. Councilmember Taylor presented the Council with a proposed sketch for the 3 x 5 City flag. He suggested that the Council consider placing the City flag at the new Welcome Center after the AWC conference.

Mayor Belton inquired about the status of opening the new Welcome Center. City Manager Murphy responded that the Welcome Center has to be ADA compliant before the City can receive an occupancy permit. He stated that the Welcome Center Steering Committee is scheduled to meet March 26, 2008 to review the proposed design for the porch area to make it ADA compliant and for some design features to give it a western aspect.

Councilmember Thorington asked if Mayor Belton and Councilmember Pacheco have had an opportunity to talk with the Berger Addition property owners about the LID project. Mayor Belton responded that he, Councilmember Pacheco and a few of the residents of the area would be meeting at his house on March 25, 2008 to settle on a date and time to go door to door to talk with the residents.

Councilmember Díaz stated that he would like to let the Garden Club members know that he has talked with Public Works Director Lance Hoyt about maintaining the flowers around the flagpole at Pioneer Park.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK