

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Special Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2009

Council/Staff Planning Session
Benton Rural Electric Association Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Belton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Loren Belton and Councilmen Al Hubert, Derald Ortloff, William Rogers, and Randy Taylor.

Absent: Blaine Thorington.

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy, Finance Director/City Clerk Linda B. Mead, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Parks and Recreation Director James Cole, Police Chief Adam Diaz, Public Works Director Lance Hoyt, Special Projects Assistant Tom Kehm, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Belton served as the Facilitator for the meeting and requested each Department Director and the City Manager to speak about their respective department and the progresses since the 2008 Planning Session. Mayor Belton explained that the group would be going over the accomplishments achieved to address the top three priorities established at the 2008 Council/Staff Planning Session, which are 1) Town Image, Resident Pride, Code Enforcement Issues, City Entrance, and Graffiti; 2) Gangs/Crime; and 3) Tribal Relations, City Entrance, and Clean Up.

2008 PLANNING SESSION PRIORITIES

The group went through each of the priorities and secondary priorities and discussed the progress, benefits, and accomplishments of each priority. It was decided to remove neighborhood watch from the list since it is addressed with the police department's crime prevention program with a different approach to recruit more community involvement.

PDCA (PLAN, DO, CHECK, & ACT)

Mayor Belton directed the group in discussing ways to continue tackling the top three priorities facing the community. During the discussion, it became apparent that the group had successfully accomplished or addressed each of the 21 secondary priorities. The following is a brief summary of the topics that were tackled during the year or are continuing to be dealt with as an on going issue facing the City:

1. Town Image, Resident Pride, Code Enforcement Issues, City Entrance, Graffiti
 - a. Hire an assigned code enforcement officer
 - b. Establish internship with Heritage University and/or Yakima Valley Community College

- c. Graffiti & Litter ordinance to enforce
- d. Workforce – hire 2 seasonal employees to pick up litter, clean up for code enforcement issues, remove graffiti - utilize youth – trustees
- e. Create lawn parking ordinance
- f. Education – talk on KDNA radio/broadcast programs on MVTV/post on website
- g. Create packets to be issued for new business licenses and building permits [rules and regulations]
- h. Revise nuisance ordinance
- i. Garden Club Members – City yard of the year
- j. Partnerships with all clubs
- k. Issue fines for clean up

2. Gangs/Crime

- a. State funding – legislature – gang ordinance
- b. Educate citizens to contact legislators for gang funding
- c. Continue SRO program
- d. Dispute resolution center – continue with school district involvement
- e. Gang unit – small town can not afford to take an officer off the street – Federal funding – project Safe Neighborhood
- f. Continue Gang Task Force involvement - Yakima
- g. Improve street lighting
- h. Complaints – create list of complaints for each district for tracking activity
- i. Block Watch Program – residents
- j. Assigned officer for Gang Task Force

3. Tribal Relations, City Entrance, Clean up

WORKING LUNCH AT NOON

CONTINUE PDCA DISCUSSION

The group discussed the positive and negative aspects of the planning session. Positive items included: 1) progress made regarding the top priorities from last year; 2) good assistance with budget; 3) teamwork; and 4) being on a Saturday was listed on both the positive and negative side.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK

