

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
November 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, Mark Oaks, Derald Ortloff, William Rogers, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.

Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy), Finance Director/City Clerk Linda B. Mead, MidValley Television Manager Judy Devall, Parks and Recreation Director James Cole, Public Works Director Lance Hoyt, Fire Chief Tim Smith, Special Projects Assistant Tom Kehm, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

BUDGET REVIEWS

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) stated that Finance Director/City Clerk Mead distributed an updated budget for Tourism Fund 106 incorporating the recommendations adopted during the October 26, 2009 Council meeting.

Cable Television:

MidValley Television Manager Devall reported on the proposed 2010 budget summary for Cable Television. Ms. Devall stated that no budget enhancements were requested for the 2010 budget and that there was a slight increase for the repair and maintenance line item to cover the insurance plan for the on-air equipment. Ms. Devall reported that the equipment is holding up and that there was no need to transition to high definition since Charter was still broadcasting in digital at this time. CM Murphy stated that the proposed budget includes several line item reductions for vehicle and vehicle fuel.

Parks and Recreation:

Parks and Recreation Director Cole reported on the proposed 2010 budget summary for the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Cole stated that the pool had an increase in attendance and participants for swim lessons during the 2009 swim season because the Wapato pool did not open in 2009, and is not expected to open in 2010. The Yakama Nation scheduled all its pool parties at the City pool in 2009; and will be doing the same in 2010. It was reported that the Yakima Athletic Club used the City pool for its 2009 swim meet, and is scheduled to have its 2010 annual swim meet at the pool in June 2010. Director Cole stated that the 2009 pool repair and maintenance line item covered the costs for repainting the bottom of the pool, replacing the drain covers, and to replace the heater for the showers, and repair the showers in the locker room. Mr. Cole reported that this year the City used Express Personnel to hire the seasonal part-time employees. Director Cole briefly explained the plan to replant the area and replace the irrigation system around Old Glory Plaza in 2010.

Public Works:

Public Works Director Hoyt reported on the proposed 2010 budget summaries for the various funds in the Public Works Department, which include enterprise funds for garbage, streets, street capital, welcome center, cemetery services, railroad depot facility, water operations, and wastewater operations. Director Hoyt stated that the proposed budget has line item increases to cover the projected costs for electricity and gas. Mr. Hoyt stated that the budget enhancements include putting funds in the vehicle replacement fund to purchase a backhoe, purchase a chemical deicer system, replace 100 of the 90 gallon refuse containers, and purchase a used 30-50 Hp tractor for mowing, spraying, snow blading, and other miscellaneous duties. Director Hoyt briefly went over the various projects planned in 2010 for the Public Works Department that include the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Project, the Linden Street Lift Station, the Guyette Lane Project, and for new Well Number 9. CM Murphy informed Council that due to the increased dumping fees at the Yakima County Landfill and the continued reduction in Solid Waste fund balance, Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc. has been directed to prepare a Solid Waste rate study.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Smith reported on the proposed 2010 budget for the Fire Department and that the budget enhancement for the department is the proposed Command Vehicle purchase, if his 2010 Casino grant is approved. Chief Smith informed Council that the current Command Vehicle would remain in the vehicle fleet to be used for hauling fire hoses and other necessary larger items. Chief Smith identified an additional line item in the Fire Department 2010 preliminary budget to provide transfer of funds into the Vehicle Replacement Fund for the future replacement of Fire Suppression vehicles. It was stated that step increases for firefighters are approved after additional training and certification is achieved, and not automatically by having longevity with the City. Chief Smith explained that the EMS Levy is based on population, property value, and number of calls, which he reported an increased call volume in 2009, compared to the prior year.

CM Murphy reported that on November 9, 2009, CM Murphy has scheduled presentations by Chief Adam Diaz for the Police Department Budget, Director Linda Mead for the Finance Department Budget, and that he will present the Legislative and Administrative Budgets.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK