

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2008

REGULAR SESSION CALL TO ORDER

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

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Loren Belton and Councilmen Al Hubert, Derald Ortloff, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alexander Mejia, 402 Bolin Drive, Toppenish, inquired about the reason for the lack of longevity with the Finance Director position and commented about the Parker Apartments fire. Mayor Belton stated that the former Finance Director resigned to accept a different job to advance her career.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Rogers moved, seconded by Councilman Taylor to approve Consent Agenda items a through d:

- a. Approve Minutes of the October 13, 2008 Regular Meeting.
- b. Accept Minutes of the October 20, 2008 Public Safety Committee Meeting.
- c. Approve Payroll Vouchers Number 25991 through 26077 in the total amount of \$220,935.71 dated October 15, 2008
- d. Approve Claims Vouchers Number 66464 through 66548 in the total amount of \$116,672.75 dated October 27, 2008.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Recommendations from the Tourism Fund Advisory Committee and the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for Allocation of the 2009 Tourism Development Funds

City Manager Murphy reported that the Council has been provided with the unanimous recommendations from the Tourism Fund Advisory Committee and the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for allocation of \$60,000 for the 2009 tourism development funds. Mayor Belton stated that he participated on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, and mentioned that both committees agreed to reserve money in the fund so that it would be possible to continue a set amount of funding in the future. Councilman Thorington asked about the condition for the Chamber of Commerce, which states that \$2,800 will be used to contract with the Yakima Valley Newspaper LLC for extended distribution of the Visitor Guide. Mayor Belton explained that since the newspaper was a for-profit business and no longer qualifies for funding. Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Riojas reported that the Chamber agreed to the condition, which was not included in its proposal because of the importance of the Visitor Guide to the community.

Councilman Thorington moved, seconded by Councilman Taylor to accept the funding recommendations totaling \$60,000 from the Tourism Fund Advisory Committee and the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for allocation of the 2009 tourism development funds by allocating; \$3,000 to the Yakima Valley Visitor's and Convention Bureau; \$5,000 to the Yakima Valley Rail and Steam Museum Association; \$3,500 to the Central Washington Junior Livestock Show; \$4,000 to the Rattlesnake Hills Tourist Trail; \$2,500 to the Toppenish Western Art Association; and \$42,000 to the Toppenish Chamber of Commerce, with the condition that it

contracts with the Yakima Valley Newspapers L.L.C. for \$2,800 for extended distribution of the Visitor Guide. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2008-16:

Resolution Declaring Certain Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Disposition Thereof.

City Manager Murphy reported that the proposed resolution will authorize surplus of the vehicle used by the Code Enforcement Officer and a vehicle used by the Police Department. City Manger Murphy stated that the Code Enforcement vehicle is in need of a new engine, and explained that the Police Department vehicle is on a five-year vehicle replacement cycle.

Councilman Hubert moved, seconded by Councilman Ortloff to adopt Resolution 2008-16 Declaring Certain Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Disposition Thereof. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Thorington reported that he, Councilmen Hubert, Pacheco, and Taylor attended the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments meeting on October 15, 2008 in Granger, with the presentation subject about the groundwork Yakima County is doing for the 2010 Census.

Councilman Taylor reported that he, Councilmen Hubert and Pacheco attended the Public Safety Committee meeting on October 20, 2008. Councilman Taylor stated that the Committee received an update from Pastor Frank East, Pastor Dallas Sandoval, Father John Shaw, Dave Johnson, and Pastor Rafael Magana as representatives from the various churches involved with the graffiti cleanup project. Councilman Taylor mentioned that the volunteers have been receiving positive feedback from the community. It was reported that the Committee recommended inviting the clergy to the December 8, 2008 Council Meeting to give an update on the cleanup project.

Mayor Belton reported that he attended the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments Executive Board Meeting on October 20, 2008.

Councilman Hubert reported that he attended the Washington State Department of Transportation Open House on October 21, 2008 regarding the proposed safety improvements to State Route 22 that will be starting in 2010.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Murphy reported that the City has a balanced 2009 Budget for the General Fund, which includes Police and Fire Protection Services, Aquatics, Parks and Recreation Services, as well as other funds such as Streets, Water, and Sewer. City Manager Murphy reported that the challenge was in the Garbage Fund because Yakima County is increasing its dumping fees by \$4 per ton. City Manager Murphy stated that he has been working with staff to determine the required increase to cover the costs to keep the enterprise fund self-sufficient.

City Manager summarized the budget schedule for the November 3, 2008 through December 8, 2008 Council meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK