

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL
Study Session Minutes
October 5, 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), Police Chief Adam Diaz (PC Diaz), Special Projects Assistant Tom Kehm, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

**UPDATE ON CITY ORDINANCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES
DEALING WITH CRIMINAL GANGS.**

City Manager Murphy (CM Murphy) reported that Police Chief Diaz (PC Diaz) will be giving an update on law enforcement activity regarding gang and criminal activities. PC Diaz stated that his department works with other communities and organizations to strategize together to gain more manpower to combat crime. The police department actively updates its database and has 283 documented gang members. PC Diaz reported that from January 1 through September 30, 240 officers have participated in various drug and narcotics emphasis patrols, warrant enforcements, which involves his department working with U.S. Marshalls, DEA, Violent Crimes Task Force, and other organizations. The police department uses the media to educate the public about crime prevention with car safety, locking doors, community policing, promoting National Night Out, Block Watch, and encourage the community to become involved to report crime. PC Diaz also reported on the cities' success in securing a grant to continue providing two Student Resource Officers in the schools, which has been a valuable resource for the department to educate the elementary students and the parents.

CM Murphy provided the Council with a copy of his memo that he submitted to the Public Safety Committee on September 21, 2009 that explains in detail the process of using civil injunctions to deal with gang activity by not allowing gang members to gather in groups and allowing police officers that witness the socializing to arrest the gang member(s) for violating the injunction(s). CM Murphy proposed sending the legislators a letter to give them a summary of what the matter is about to educate and invite them to meet with City Council face to face so that they know what to do when they receive a proposal from the Attorney General to pass a statewide anti gang civil injunction law. It was the consensus of the Council to send a copy of the letter to the Governor, Attorney General, other District Legislators, local Mayors and cities, Yakima County, and the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments. CM Murphy suggested drafting the letter for the entire City Council to sign. It was the consensus of the Council to invite the legislators to a meeting, even if a Special Meeting needs to be scheduled to accommodate all parties.

CM Murphy provided the Council with a preliminary 2010 budget that is a balanced budget and maintains all services with a 3% utility tax reduction, for a 15% reduction over the past three

years. In the morning, CM Murphy plans to meet with staff to go over the schedule for presentations to the Council that will start with the first meeting in November until all Department Directors have presented to the Council.

Ms. Riojas asked for a head count on attendance at the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments General Membership meeting on October 21, 2009 at Mt. Adams Golf Course in Toppenish. Mayor Belton, Councilman Hubert and guest, Councilman Rogers and guest, Councilmen Thorington, Oaks, and Ortloff stated that they will be attending the meeting.

CM Murphy provided the Council with a copy of the letter that is being mailed out regarding the sign matter at 411 Washington Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK