

TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL

Study Session Minutes

October 6, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Belton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council 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 and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE OBJECTIVES FROM THE JUNE 21, 2008 COUNCIL/STAFF PLANNING SESSION

City Manager Murphy gave the Council a report on the progress on each of the twenty-five items listed on the document entitled *Top Three Priorities Determined At the 6/21/2008 Planning Session as follows:*

- Hiring an assigned code enforcement officer would be considered this week during the budget meetings that he had scheduled for the week.
- Police department was looking into the matter about establishing an internship with Heritage University and/or Yakima Valley Community College.
- The City was instrumental in organizing the community churches to work together to eradicate graffiti on September 20, 2008. Each congregation was assigned a geographical area in the community to remove graffiti. City Manager Murphy reported that Chamber President Mike Gordy stated that he would speak with the Chamber business owners about promptly removing the graffiti and not wait for the City or someone else to remove it.
- City Manager Murphy stated that the City was currently using trustees to help with picking up litter and clean up for code enforcement issues. The Council discussed the extra litter caused by the dances and various options to influence the business owners to clean up litter caused by their event.
- He talked with Superintendent Myers about having the Senior Class students take on a cleaning activity for their class project.
- Difficulties that the police department has experienced with recruiting volunteers for a Block Watch. Councilman Thorington spoke about his involvement with a Block Watch in his neighborhood. Councilman Hubert reported on the informal Block Watch in his neighborhood.
- Residents are being educated on the new lawn parking ordinance before they will be penalized. He requested that the Council notify him if they see any lawn parking violations.
- Police department was working with Judy Devall for broadcasting on MVTV.
- Distributed a copy of the documents that are being distributed to customers at City Hall to answer frequently asked questions.
- Revision of the nuisance ordinance was in progress.
- Parks and Recreation Board members would be working on selecting and acknowledging a City yard for the month or the year.
- The Council decided to remove the item about partnerships with all clubs.
- Nuisance violations do not result in fines because the violations are corrected before the hearing.
- Police department has created an alliance with the police departments in Wapato and Zillah to assist with personnel for emphasis patrols for juvenile and gang crimes. He said that the police department has been utilizing cameras in strategic locations to combat graffiti. City Manager Murphy stated that the police department is using crimereports.com to track crime for focusing patrols in the community. City Manager Murphy spoke about the history of the relationship between the police department and Tribal police department. He said that the Tribal prisoners are housed at the City jail. Mayor Belton stated that the four

lower valley Mayors have been meeting to collaborate in creating a law enforcement center for the four communities and the Tribe. Councilman Ortloff spoke about his involvement in the research for planning a central jail on the reservation for Toppenish, Wapato, and the Tribe. He said that the Department of Justice suggested to the Tribe to collaborate with other agencies for the project.

- Clean up of the site next to Ideal. Councilman Ortloff reported on the status of the ownership of the property, which was currently in probate. Councilman Ortloff said that the Tribe would like to create a recycling site on the property.
- Yards in the housing complex on Buena Way. Councilman Ortloff stated that it is difficult for the residents in the housing complex to pay their water bill. City Manager Murphy stated that the property was outside the City limits so a 25% surcharge is applied to the water bill for the residents of the housing complex.
- Employee Orientation Program for new employees. City Manager Murphy talked about the new City employees that would be introduced to the Council during the next meeting.

Councilman Taylor expressed his concern about the lack of edging in the City parks. Councilman Pacheco said that his out of town family members give him positive comments on the City parks. Councilman Thorington commented about the weeds in the area by the flagpole in Pioneer Park. City Manager Murphy reported that the Public Works employees were putting the finish touches on the Visitor Center for the community dedication on October 7, 2008. The Council discussed the questions that they have been receiving from residents about the condition of the budget. City Manager Murphy stated that the Council would receive a preliminary budget at the October 13, 2008 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

LOREN O. BELTON, MAYOR

HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK