

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 25, 2011**

Mayor Huntington called the special meeting of the Town of Yucca Valley Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Abel, Hagerman, Rowe, and Mayor Huntington.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Huntington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Town Council – Interviews and Appointment

Interview Michal Alaniz, David Cooper, Jeff Drozd, Roger Johnson, Dr. Robert Lombardo, and Andrew Mueller

Cary Harwin, Yucca Valley, spoke in favor of choosing someone with a financial background.

Scott McCone, Yucca Valley, spoke in support of Jeff Drozd.

Charles McHenry, Yucca Valley, commented the Council is not hearing from or listening to the people of Yucca Valley by appointing Lori Herbel or holding a special election.

Mayor Huntington reviewed the process advising that before tonight's meeting each candidate drew names to see who would go first. Candidates will be interviewed in the following order: Michal Alaniz, David Cooper, Robert Lombardo, Andrew Mueller, Roger Johnson, and Jeff Drozd.

After the interviews were held, Mayor Huntington thanked all the applicants noting that council has a tough decision to make.

Council Member Abel expressed appreciation to everyone for applying. He commended Michal Alaniz for her ideas regarding blue ribbon committees; David Cooper for his light handed comments, accounting background and long track record; Robert Lombardo for his open mindedness; Andy Mueller for his comments on smart growth; Roger Johnson for being a great listener, his Mayoral experience, also agreed the homeless issue has not been addressed and needs to be looked into; and Jeff Drozd

for his involvement in the community. Stated his hope is that the candidates not selected would run for office in the future or become involved in Town Committees.

Council Member Hagerman commented he is not sure if it is worse to campaign for the job or interview, noting the good part regarding the process is meeting new people who love the town as he does. Any of the candidates could run a campaign and win.

Council Member Rowe recommended all the candidates either run for office or get involved in any area of our community.

Mayor Huntington thanked all the candidates who applied noting is a great group and he hopes all of them will participate in the election in 2012. He feels this is a great opportunity to fill the position with someone with the skills to add to Council, with a strong financial background, familiar with the General Plan and Development Code and able to balance environmental issues.

Mayor Huntington distributed ballots which received two votes for David Cooper, one for Robert Lombardo and one for Jeff Drozd.

Council Member Abel advised he is looking for someone who can help fill some of the void lost when the two previous Council Members stepped down.

Council Member Rowe advised she voted for Jeff Drozd for what he brings to the table, and noted her second choice is Robert Lombardo.

Mayor Huntington advised he did not vote for Robert Lombardo because he didn't want to deplete the Planning Commission of a senior member.

Council Member Hagerman advised he voted for Robert Lombardo, noting his community involvement.

Mayor Huntington advised that David Cooper served on the Planning Commission, noting he does his homework, comes to meetings prepared and bring a well thought out diverse opinion to the table. He noted that Jeff Drozd was his second choice.

Council Member Rowe commented regarding Robert Lombardo's familiarity with the General Plan and Development Code.

Council Member Abel agreed with Mr. Drozd and Lombardo's attributes, but noted that he is concerned with the financial issues and wants someone who does have a financial background who will fill the void for the next term and then let the voters decide at that point. He noted his 2 choice would have been Robert Lombardo.

Upon casting the second votes the results were two each for David Cooper and Robert Lombardo.

Council Member Hagerman requested the ability to ask more questions of the two finalists. Council agreed.

Upon further questioning, and private discussions between Candidates Cooper and Lombardo, Candidate Cooper removed himself from consideration.

Council Member Hagerman moved to appoint Robert Lombardo to the Council. Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 4-0 on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

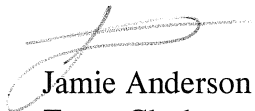
None

Council Member Rowe thanked David Cooper for stepping aside and welcomed Robert Lombardo to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


Jamie Anderson
Town Clerk