

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 4, 2011**

Mayor Huntington called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Council Members Present: Abel, Rowe and Mayor Huntington. Council Member Hagerman and Lombardo were absent.

Staff Present: Town Manager Nuaimi, Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, Town Attorney Laymon, Community Services Director Schooler, Administrative Services Director Yakimow, Police Capt. Miller, and Town Clerk Anderson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Huntington

PRESENTATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS

1. Proclamation Proclaiming Fire Prevention Week

Mayor Huntington read and presented the Proclamation, proclaiming the week of October 9-15, 2011 as Fire Prevention Week, to Chief Bush.

2. Longevity Awards

Pulled from Agenda

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Abel commented there was some discussion regarding the Social Host Ordinance and whether or not it had to be re-read and re-introduced. Town Manager Nuaimi advised that there was a typographical error that was corrected and does not require reintroduction.

Council Member Rowe moved to approve the agenda. Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 3-0-2 on a voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approve, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2011 as presented.

- 4. **Waive**, further reading of all ordinances (if any in the agenda) and read by title only.
- 5. **Authorize**, Town Staff to solicit informal bids from three vendors for the purchase and installation of the FY 2010 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) security equipment, and to waive the formal bidding procedures finding that the established procedures (Chapter 3.12) would be impractical for this purchase.
- 6. **Adopt**, Ordinance No. 232, Social Host Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, ADDING CHAPTER 6.10 TO TITLE 6 OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE, IMPOSING LIABILITY ON SOCIAL HOSTS WHO ALLOW MINORS TO OBTAIN, POSSESS, OR CONSUME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND/OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES AT GATHERINGS

- 7. **Ratify**, Warrant Register total of \$362,515.95 for checks dated September 22, 2011, **Ratify**, Payroll Registers total of \$167,164.90 for checks dated September 12, 2011.

Curt Duffy, Yucca Valley, spoke in favor of the ordinance and commented that property rights are not absolute.

Council Member Rowe moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items 3-7. Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 3-0-2 on a roll call vote.

- AYES:** Council Member Abel, Rowe and Mayor Huntington.
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- ABSENT:** Council Member Hagerman and Lombardo

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- 8. **Community Development Block Grant Funds, Community Center Playground Improvement & Splash Park, Authorization to Bid for Design Services.**

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle advised the recommendation is that the Council authorize release of the Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals (RFQ/RFP) for design services for the Community Center Playground Improvement and Splash Park project. The Council previously allocated two years of CDBG funds to the renovation of the Community Center playground, including the addition of a splash park amenity to the facility. Currently a total of \$297,064 has been appropriated for the project, and it is anticipated that approximately 2 additional years of funding will be necessary to complete the project.

Ramon Mendoza, Yucca Valley, expressed concern regarding water usage, and the fact that some of the existing playground equipment is being replaced because it does not meet current standards.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle advised the design of the park will include recycling the water, so use would be a matter of evaporation, and advised that equipment is required to be upgraded due to changes in standards.

Council Member Abel commented that the Town is monitored on a semi regular basis to check the state of our play equipment. Regulations are always changing so there is no guarantee of a 15 year lifespan if there is a change in those standards. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle advised that there are several pieces that need changing due to changes in standards. He noted the design process for the park will include detailed line item construction costs, and there is always an option of changing or modifying features of a public works project to enlarge, reduce, change style, etc. so we have flexibility throughout the design of the project.

Council Member Rowe commented the original estimation of time for full use of CDBG funds was 3 years and then we used one year for Code Compliance. Town Manager Nuaimi commented the project was paused to finalize funding. We have allocated 2 years of CDBG funds and will bring forward a financing strategy based on what the State does with RDA.

Mayor Huntington stated we have \$297,000 for the project now and questioned if there is an estimate of how much the engineering and design costs are going to be. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle advised approximately \$40,000 to \$45,000

Council Member Rowe moved to authorize the release of the Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals (RFQ/RFP) for design services for the Community Center Playground Improvement & Splash Park project. Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 3-0-2 on a voice vote with Council Member Hagerman and Lombardo absent.

9. SR 62/SR 247 Traffic Signal Median Island Project, Approval of Plans and Specifications, Authorization to Advertise for Construction

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle gave the staff report retained in the project files and displayed a PowerPoint presentation during the discussion. Traffic volumes and lack of controlled turning movements north and south on SR 62/247 have resulted in increased delay at the intersection as well as continuous vehicle turning conflict. The Town had requested Caltrans approval for controlled turning movements, but the warrants could not be satisfied. Following multiple requests, Caltrans authorized installation of

controlled turning movements conditioned upon construction of raised median islands on SR 247 and Joshua Lane. Caltrans established the minimum raised median island length on SR 247 and the Town has control after a minimum of 200' of raised median island on Joshua Lane. Staff recommends alternative 2 with the raised median island on Joshua Lane potential terminating at the alley separating Chase Bank from Courtyard Commercial. The alternative provides sufficient distance from the 62/247 intersection to avoid vehicles "stacking" into the intersection, reduces conflict points by 53% and satisfies Caltrans requirements.

Richard Harlan, Yucca Valley, commented regarding the need for street signs at the intersection.

Mark Miller, Yucca Valley, expressed concern that if the outer highway access is blocked east bound off SR 62 people will find other alternatives, and recommended that construction of the medians be delayed until the traffic studies are done in the General Plan.

Ramon Mendoza, Yucca Valley, commented the area has been a problem since incorporated and it is time to take look at the bigger picture. Whatever we do needs to include both the business community and the safety of the public.

Mayor Huntington advised that Bob Dunn not wish to speak but submitted a slip registering that he is in favor of the staff recommendation.

Steve Naylor, Yucca Valley, expressed concern about creating another traffic problem to solve one problem.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle commented the replacement of the signs is part of the Town's efforts. He noted the outer highways were designed in the 50's and 60's, and would not be constructed today. We are dealing with an antiquated circulation system and trying to make best fit for the needs of community. Staff would like to be able to build a complete project and address all problems at one time but we don't have funding for that and need to take incremental steps.

Council Member Abel requested a response to the idea of holding the project until further study and completion of the General Plan. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle advised that the General Plan process is 2 years, a typical project takes another 18 months to get approval from Caltrans, then 6 to 9 months to bid. He noted the Town has received federal dollars for the median islands and traffic signal components for this project and would potentially lose those funds if we wait that long. Town Manager Nuaimi added we currently have 214 turning conflicts with the configuration as it is, and we have stacking issues on the highway. Holding off is a detriment to an existing condition on the highway.

Mayor Huntington questioned if making the west end of the outer highway at Joshua Lane a cul-de-sac and adding highway access midblock will change this recommendation. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle stated that he does not believe it will, and does not see the configuration at Joshua Lane being significantly different than what is proposed. He added if the other needs are met, there will probably be midblock access at some point.

Council Member Rowe expressed discomfort with not having something in writing from Caltrans regarding the mid-block access. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle advised that getting something in writing will require plan submittal which will take a little bit of time to develop. Town Manager Nuaimi cautioned about trying to tie those two different projects together, noting that conditioning one on the other could start a snowball effect on the environmental scope of the project. Council Member Rowe commented regarding the fact that much of our sales tax comes from people outside the Town and expressed concern that people will not double back to go to the businesses on the outer highway.

Council Member Abel stated he is not in favor of moving the item forward with two of the Council Members absent.

Mayor Huntington stated he is in favor of the recommendation and moved to approve the Plans and Specifications for the SR 62/SR 247 Traffic Signal and Median Island Project, and authorize staff to advertise the project for construction following the California Department of Transportation, Headquarters Offices, issuance of authorization to proceed with the project. Motion died for lack of a second.

Town Manager Nuaimi commented that, any time you have a discussion about the alteration of current traffic patterns someone will be disrupted. We are trying to address the problem of 214 conflicts and stacking issues.

Council Member Rowe commented she is all for public safety and the issue has to be mitigated, but she does not see a problem with waiting for 2 weeks.

Council Member Abel stated that public safety comes first, but he would feel much more comfortable looking at it again with a full Council in attendance.

POLICY DISCUSSION

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ramon Mendoza, Yucca Valley, commented regarding the proposed dog park and need to use artificial turf.

Sarann Graham, Yucca Valley, advised the Gourd Art Festival will be the 1st weekend in November.

Richard Harlan, Yucca Valley, commented regarding street signs on the highway and suggested metal signs rather than internally lit signs.

Tim Humphreville, Yucca Valley, commented a new sign ordinance could be a big help for business. The problems with the outer highway could be resolved if there could be improved signage.

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

10. Council Member Lombardo

Absent

11. Council Member Abel

Commented regarding Fire Prevention Week, and reminded everyone of the need to add carbon monoxide detectors.

Commented regarding the Starry Nights festival noting that staff did a wonderful job.

Commented he would like to see the SR 62/247 issue back on the agenda as soon as possible.

12. Council Member Hagerman

Absent

13. Mayor Pro Tem Rowe

Reported regarding attendance at the League of California Cities Annual Conference.

14. Mayor Huntington

Reported regarding attendance at the League Conference.

Reported regarding the upcoming Archaeopalooza at the Community Center on October 15th, The Great Shake Out, October 20th, the upcoming Highway Art Tour, and the kickoff of Red Ribbon Week on October 24th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Town Council Meeting, Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Anderson, MMC
Town Clerk