

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2013**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Abel called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Council Members Present: Huntington, Leone, Lombardo, Rowe and Mayor Abel.

Staff Present: Town Manager Nuaimi, Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, Community Services Director Schooler, Administrative Services Director Yakimow, Police Capt. Boswell, and Deputy Town Clerk Copeland

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Abel

INVOCATION

Led by Ralph Clinger, Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Huntington moved to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Lombardo seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

AGENCY REPORTS

1. Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Collins presented monthly reports for March and April 2013.

CONSENT AGENDA

Public comment -- Ron Cohen (Item 8) -- regarding the proposed traffic signal on SR 62 at Dumosa Ave, and gave alternatives for traffic flow

The following council members asked for items to be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion: Huntington (#8 and #11); Leone (#5, #8 and #12); Abel (#9).

2. **Approve**, Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of April 16, 2013, as presented.
3. **Waive**, further reading of all ordinances and read by title only.
4. **Receive and file**, AB1234 Report Requirement Schedule for the month of April 2013

- 5. Item Pulled
- 6. **Received and file**, monthly statistical Fire Department report for April 2013
- 7. **Adopt Resolution No. 13-20**, directing the preparation of an assessment engineer’s report describing any new improvements or any substantial changes in the existing improvements in the existing assessment districts; preliminarily approving the engineering reports for the existing assessment districts and directing the filing of such reports with the Town Clerk; setting a date for conducting a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 in the Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley, CA 92284 pursuant to California Streets and Highways Code Sections 22552 and 22553 and Government Code Section 53753.5 to consider the levy of annual assessments upon real property.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, CAUSING AN ENGINEER’S REPORT TO BE PREPARED FOR ASSESSMENTS TO BE LEVIED WITHIN EXISTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS DURING THE 2013-2014 TAX YEAR AND PRELIMINARILY APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ENGINEERING REPORTS AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO CONSIDER THE LEVY OF ASSESSMENTS WITHIN THE EXISTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR THE 2013-14 TAX YEAR.

- 8. Item Pulled
- 9. **Adopt Resolution No. 13-22** in Support of H.R. 1676, the Johnson Valley National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area Establishment Act

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1676, THE JOHNSON VALLEY NATIONAL OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATION AREA ESTABLISHMENT ACT

- 10. **Authorize** the Town Manager to execute all right-of-way documents and authorize payment to the property owners to temporary construction easements (TCE’s) for the Transportation Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), SR 62 Median Improvement Project-La Honda to Dumosa, Right of Way Acquisition as indicated in Attachment “A”.
- 11. Item Pulled
- 12. Item Pulled

Mayor Pro Tem Lombardo moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10. Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

AYES: Council Members Huntington, Leone, Lombardo, Rowe and Mayor Abel
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Item 5- Rejection of One (1) Claim

Town Manager Nuaimi introduced the item regarding the submission of one claim by Friederich Koenig on April 25, 2013. Council Member Leone moved to take this item into closed session for discussion. Council Member Huntington seconded. Motion carried, 5-0 on a roll call vote.

AYES: Council Members Huntington, Leone, Lombardo, Rowe and Mayor Abel
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Item 8- Budget Amendment, Professional Services Agreement, Design Services, SR 62 @ Dumosa Ave Traffic Signal Project, Albert A. Webb Associates, San Bernardino Associated Governments, Major Local Highways Program Funding, Resolution

Town Manager Nuaimi reported on the item, explaining the process for awarding the professional services agreement for the design of the traffic signal slated for SR 62 at Dumosa Avenue.

Mayor Pro Tem Lombardo questioned the cost involved if the alternative suggestion by Mr. Cohen was implemented. Nuaimi explained the traffic flow patterns in the vicinity of the senior housing project and the Town Hall complex.

Council Member Huntington inquired about the bidding process for the design services.

Council Member Leone voiced concern with the proposed changes in traffic flow patterns around the Yucca Valley Community Center and expressed that this is the first time hearing that the plan was to limit thru-traffic on Antelope Trail. Leone recommended not having a signal at the Dumosa Ave location.

Council Member Rowe explained that Town Council has had prior discussion on the traffic on Antelope Trail and has received input from residents living on the street. Rowe also asked for clarification on the obligation toward the senior housing project related to the Dumosa signal.

Mayor Abel asked about the traffic signal synchronization program schedule. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that the project plans are approved, the project is fully funded, and waiting for a federal funding letter to move forward. Abel mentioned that he supports the Dumosa signal for additional pedestrian control, especially with the senior housing project, park visitors, and shopping center visitors in this highly used area.

Council Member Huntington commented that there are alternate traffic patterns being proposed such as those included in the Compass Blueprint Civic Center Plan and expressed that he is not concerned about SANBAG approval.

Council Member Leone moved to wait on approving the SR 62 at Dumosa Avenue signal until approval is received from SANBAG. Motion died for a lack of second.

Council Member Leone moved to wait on approving the SR 62 at Dumosa Ave signal until the public has more time to comment on the changes to traffic flow on Antelope Trail. Motion died for a lack of second.

Council Member Huntington moved to Adopt Resolution No. 13-21 amending the 2012/2013 FY Budget, and award a contract or professional design services to Albert A. Webb Associates for the preparation of plans, specifications and estimates, including bid ready documents, for the design of the traffic signal project at SR 62 and Dumosa Avenue, in the amount of \$72,262.00 and \$3,738.00 for incidental charges (printing, mileage, postage) for a total of \$76,000, and authorize the Town Manager, Town Attorney, and the Mayor to sign all necessary documents to complete the project. Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried on a 4-1 roll call vote.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, APPROPRIATING MEASURE I FUND 522, MAJOR ARTERIAL FUNDS, FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES FOR THE SR 62 AT DUMOSA AVENUE TRAFFIC SIGNAL FOR EXPENDITURES PRIOR TO SAN BERNARDINO ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS PROJECT FUNDING

AYES: Council Members Huntington, Lombardo, Rowe and Mayor Abel
NOES: Leone
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Item 9- Resolution in Support of H.R. 1676 the Johnson Valley National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area Establishment Act

Town Manager Nuaimi presented the staff report, explaining HR 1676.

Council Member Leone moved to approve Resolution No. 13-22 in support H.R. 1676, the Johnson Valley National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area Establishment Act. Council Member Lombardo seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1676, THE JOHNSON VALLEY NATIONAL OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATION AREA ESTABLISHMENT ACT

AYES: Council Members Huntington, Leone, Lombardo, Rowe and Mayor Abel
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Item 11- Ratification of the FY 2012-13 Audit Engagement Letter

Administrative Services Director Yakimow presented the item concerning the FY 2012-13 Audit Engagement letter. Council Member Huntington questioned cost and bidding.

Council Member Huntington moved to ratify the FY 2012-13 Audit Engagement Letter between the Town of Yucca Valley and Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott, L.L.P. concerning audit services for the year ending June 30, 2013. Council Member Lombardo seconded. Motion carried, 5-0 on a voice vote.

AYES: Council Members Huntington, Leone, Lombardo, Rowe and Mayor Abel
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Item 12- Warrant Register, May 16, 2013

Council Member Leone questioned warrant register regarding citation processing, payment to San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, electrical costs and joint marketing costs to the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Council Member Huntington moved to ratify the warrant register total of \$398,824.44 for checks dated May 2, 2013 and ratify payroll register total of \$147,867.14 for checks dated April 26, 2013. Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

AYES: Council Members Huntington, Leone, Lombardo, Rowe and Mayor Abel
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

13. FY 2013-14 Baseline Budget Update No. 5

Administrative Services Director Yakimow presented the staff report and Powerpoint.

Ron Cohen, suggested eliminating Town Council health benefits, eliminate employee leave buy-out, reduce meetings and travel, eliminate car allowances, reduce conferences, eliminate bank charges, eliminate school resource officer, and to reduce information technology expenditures.

Richard Harwin, Yucca Valley questioned bank charges included in the proposed budget.

Edith Jones-Poland, Yucca Valley thanked the Town Council for funding the aquatics program and the museum and would like a review of the Town's car allowance policy.

Council Member Rowe asked for clarification between a school resource officer and a juvenile officer. Lt. Toms responded a school resource officer is paid through contracts with the Town of Yucca Valley and the Morongo Basin Unified School District. A juvenile officer responds to juvenile issues within the community and the school.

Rowe also asked for an explanation of the bank charges. Administrative Services Yakimow explained that the majority of these charges are for the use of credit cards by residents when paying for Town services. These costs are included in the formula for cost recovery within most of these services. In prior budget years, the net difference in revenue was reported in the budget. For the proposed 2013-14 budget, the fees have been reported separately as a form of transparency.

Council Member Leone suggested a future discussion with the school district and the contracts between agencies regarding law enforcement. Leone spoke in favor to place some of these policy discussions on a future agenda.

Council Member Huntington suggested that the term: budget surplus should be titled, funds not budgeted in the current proposed budget. Also there are several items not budgeted for such as the Boys and Girls Club facility use agreement, expenses for a possible election, and pending partnerships with the California Welcome Center and the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce. Huntington continued by addressing comments made by Mr. Cohen, and suggested to appoint an independent finance committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Lombardo spoke of concern of the lack of provisions for maintenance of infrastructure and would like to see this addressed. Town Manager Nuaimi spoke to explain that the proposed budget is not a surplus budget. However, if there is an excess of revenues over expenditures, the Council may choose to apply any excess toward items on the Town's underfunded, capital improvement plan.

Council Member Leone would like to place a review of the Town's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) program on a future agenda.

Council Member Lombardo asked for clarification on the process of placing a special tax such as for TOT on a ballot to go to the voters.

Mayor Abel commented he is not hearing in the community a confidence to support a revenue measure especially one for such a limited source as an increased TOT tax.

Council Member Huntington suggested if Hi Desert Water needs the Town's assistance for a revenue measure, let that agency pay for it. Consensus was expressed among the council members on this statement.

Council Member Rowe asked for an update on pending community partnerships.

Council Member Leone discussed the potential benefits of an increased TOT tax rate.

Council Member Huntington responded that if the TOT tax was increased by 3 percent, the annual increase of revenue would be approximately \$65,000. Because of the cost of a special election is approximately \$60,000 we would not see any benefit in the 2013-14 budget.

Mayor Abel commented that timing is everything and would like to wait until the next budget cycle to discuss a revenue measure. Abel also complemented staff for taking the extra steps in educating the public on the proposed budget.

Nuaimi asked the council for direction on the use of any excess revenue over expense funds. Council Members Huntington, Rowe, Lombardo are in favor of using for infrastructure costs. Council Member Leone would like any excess to be used toward items in jeopardy, such as the California Welcome Center. Mayor Abel commented he would like to wait until the funds are before the Town Council and can be decided upon its use at that time.

Council Member Rowe moved to receive the updated baseline budget report for the 2013-14 fiscal year. Council Member Huntington seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

- AYES:** Council Members Huntington, Leone, Lombardo, Rowe and Mayor Abel
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- ABSENT:** None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Dunn, spoke in support of the Town Council and their thankless jobs in the public eye.

Edith Jones-Poland, thanked Council Member Huntington for endorsing a finance committee.

STAFF REPORTS & COMMENTS

None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

17. **Council Member Leone** thanked the public for attending the tonight's budget workshop and council meeting and their interest in the budget process
18. **Council Member Rowe** thanked public safety personnel for their assistance with the recent fatal carjacking in our community.
19. **Council Member Huntington** thanked the public for coming out tonight and reported he continues to chair the Mojave Desert Mountain Integrated Waste Joint Powers Authority.
20. **Mayor Pro Tem Lombardo** thanked the public for attending and their interest in the budget process, thanked the sheriff's department for keeping us safe, and invited the public to attend the upcoming Grubstake Days events
21. **Mayor Abel** reminded the public that the 63rd Annual Grubstake Days event coming up and to watch for the updated parade route to end at Brehm Park this year, and thanked Supervisor Ramos for his generous support for the Town of Yucca Valley's Summer Music Festival this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Town Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, 2013, Yucca Valley Community Center, Yucca Room

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC
Deputy Town Clerk