

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 3, 2013**

OPENING CEREMONIES

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

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

Staff Present: Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, Administrative Services Director Yakimow, Police Captain Boswell, Town Attorney Laymon, and Town Clerk Copeland

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Rowe

The Invocation was presented by Pastor Stephen Jones, First Southern Baptist Church.

PRESENTATIONS

1. San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig, introduced Dave Benfield as Fire Division Chief for the local area.
2. San Bernardino County Police Chief, Rich Boswell, introduced Melissa Kramer as Sheriff's Safety Specialist
3. Recreation Supervisor, Sue Earnest introduced Ashlie Richardson, Recreation Leader as the recipient of the Town's Employee of the 1st Quarter of 2013. Mayor Abel presented a plaque and well wishes to Ms. Richardson.

AGENCY REPORTS

4. Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce President Jim Lawless presented the monthly update for August 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Huntington moved to approve the Yucca Valley Town Council meeting agenda for September 3, 2013. Council Member Leone seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Waive** further reading of all ordinances and read by title only.
6. **Approve** the Yucca Valley Town Council meeting minutes of August 6, 2013, with the correction to the motion for Item 9 to reflect the wording to Introduce the Ordinance, instead of Adopt the Ordinance for DCA 01-13.

Approve the Yucca Valley Town Council meeting minutes of August 14, 2013, and August 2013 as presented.

7. **Reject** one (1) claim filed against the Town of Yucca Valley submitted on July 31, 2013 by Beau Gabriel Hempel.

8. **Adopt** Ordinance No. 242

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 9, YUCCA VALLEY DEVELOPMENT CODE, BY ADOPTING ARTICLE 6, CHAPTERS 9.90 THROUGH 9.97 SUBDIVISIONS, AND REPEALING ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 13 OF CHAPTER 4 OF DIVISION 3, TITLE 8 DIVISION OF LAND PROCEDURES, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CODE, AS ADOPTED AND AMENDED BY THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY

9. **Authorize** the Director of Administrative Services to execute the final escrow agreement allowing for the payments of retention monies for the SR62 Median & Sidewalk Improvement Project, Transportation Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), Town Project No. 8327 to an approved escrow agent.

10. **Adopt** Resolution 13-30, approving Program Supplemental Agreement No. 011-N, Authorize the Town Manager and/or the Deputy Town Manager to sign all necessary documents for the SR62 Median & Sidewalk Improvement Project, Transportation Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), Town Project No. 8327

11. **Receive and File** the report outlining the fall 2013 programs and events to be organized and conducted by the Community Services Department.

12. **Receive and File**, the Treasurer’s Report for the fourth quarter of FY 2012-2013

13. **Ratify** the Payroll Registers total of \$139, 531.93 for checks dated August 16, 2013, and **Ratify** the Warrant Registers total of \$590,936.86 for checks dated August 22, 2013.

Council Member Huntington moved to approve items 5-13 of the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem 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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

14. Project No. 8340- 2013-2014 Town Wide Slurry Seal Project. Acceptance of Project as Substantially Complete

Town Engineer Qishta presented the staff report and gave a brief overview of the 2013-2014 slurry seal project. Project No. 8340 included the application of a Type II slurry seal and cape seal on designated streets throughout the Town of Yucca Valley. The project included mobilization, traffic control, removal of pavement striping, markings, and legends, application of slurry and cape seal, as well as all appurtenant labor, materials and equipment. Qishta reported work on approximately forty-two lane miles of road maintenance were completed satisfactorily and below the funding estimate at a cost of \$370, 275.74.

Mayor Abel opened public comment. With no members of the public wishing to speak on the item, Abel closed public comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Lombardo moved to accept the project as substantially complete, Authorize staff to file the Notice of Completion, Authorize the reduction of the Faithful Performance Bond to 10%, and direct staff to retain the Labor and Material Bond for six months for Project 8340. Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

15. Resolution No. 13-32; Public Lands Highway Discretionary Funds Project (PLHD), SR62, Apache Trail to Palms Avenue- Town Project No. 8661; Federal Project No. PLHL04-5466(015); Approval of Plans and Specifications; Authorize to Bid for Construction

Town Engineer Qishta presented the staff report and described Town Project No. 8661, the Public Lands Highway Discretionary Funds Project (PLHD) to include raised medians and sidewalks along State Route 62 from Apache Trail to Palm Avenue, and a traffic signal at Church Street.

Mayor Abel opened public comment on the item. With no members of the public wishing to speak, Abel closed public comment.

Mayor Abel inquired on the four-month construction project along the state highway and the potential impacts it may have on local businesses and commuters. Abel continued by commenting favorably on the benefits of sidewalks.

Council Member Leone commented on the turn limitations due to additional medians and inquired about the median width and consistency.

Council Member Huntington stated that the new Church Street signal will be included in the traffic signal synchronization project.

Council Member Rowe moved to adopt Resolution No.13-32 to approve the plans and specifications for Project No. 8661, and to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise and receive bids. Mayor Abel 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

16. Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA); Request for Resolution No. 13-33 of Support; San Bernardino Associated Governments Transit Consolidation Study

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report in support of Morongo Basin Transit Authority for local transportation control and opposes consolidation with other public transit agency service providers in San Bernardino County.

Joe Meer, General Manager of MBTA spoke and explained that at the July 2013 SANBAG meeting, it was announced that a study would commence to see what efficiencies could be gained by many different options, not just consolidation. MBTA will have the opportunity to work with other tactical committee members throughout the process.

Mayor Abel opened public comment on the item.

Nancy Stricker from SANBAG stated that the Town Council may consider removing the reference to efficiency in Section 2 of the proposed resolution, as efficiency is always a benefit in transit.

Bill Neeb, Indio, CA, spoke favorably of MBTA and the services it provides to the Morongo Basin residents.

Mayor Abel confirmed that MBTA would be removed from the consolidation study, but not the efficiency study. Abel commended Meer for his work with MTBA.

Mayor Pro Tem Lombardo commented on the issues with including MBTA with the consolidation study due to the geographical location of its services in relation to the rest of the County.

Council Member Huntington moved to remove “or efficiency purposes” from proposed Section 2 of the resolution and adopt Resolution No. 13-33, supporting continued local control of the MBTA. Council Member Leone seconded. Motion carried 5-0 with a voice vote.

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

ABSENT: None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Pro Tem Lombardo would like to see a public discussion on citizen committees to increase Town volunteers on a variety of interests.

Administrative Services Director Yakimow explained that the Town currently has an active volunteer program in place with many volunteers assisting at the museum and the animal shelter. The program is currently overseen by the Town's Human Resources Manager. Staff is looking to update this program, so during that process, additional volunteer opportunities would be reviewed at that time.

Council Member Leone stated a discussion regarding dirt roads including blind intersections and dust reduction would be beneficial.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jean Essig, Yucca Valley spoke about financial recovery for the Town of Yucca Valley and the United States.

Richard Harwin, Yucca Valley commented on the cost of the potential recall of two Council Members and the cost of the sewer project.

Mike Roddy spoke of private sector jobs, the local economy and on solar energy projects.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley requested that an audit be performed to confirm Town fund and reserve balances. Sturges also spoke of transactions between the Town of Yucca Valley and Hi Desert Water District.

Aaron Wiese, Yucca Valley spoke of a recent incident with local sheriff's deputies.

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle announced that the General Plan Draft EIR is available for public review. The public can submit comments until October 14, 2013. Stueckle commented on prior Town Council positions relating to funding the wastewater/sewer project.

Mayor Abel commented that HDWD is the lead agency on the wastewater project.

Council Member Rowe clarified that the pre-purchase of water was for irrigation use only.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

17. Council Member Leone announced he attended the Telecare Crisis Center open house in Yucca Valley, and commented on the services the organization provides for our community.
18. Council Member Rowe congratulated Ashlie for being selected as Employee of the Quarter and welcomed Melissa Kramer and Dave Benfield to their new positions. Rowe also thanked staff and the GPAC for their hard work on the General Plan Update.
19. Council Member Huntington congratulated Ashlie as Employee of the Quarter and stated he recently attended Congressman Cook's award ceremony for Distinguished Women. Huntington also invited the public to the upcoming discussion with county supervisors on renewable energy.
20. Mayor Pro Tem Lombardo welcomed Benfield and Kramer to their new posts and congratulated Ashlie on her award. Lombardo also encouraged the public to contact him if they would like to volunteer.
21. Mayor Abel also congratulated Kramer and Benfield on their new jobs as well as Ashlie for being Employee of the Quarter. Abel spoke of decorum while at the podium during public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 6:00 pm, in the Yucca Room of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mayor Abel adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC
Town Clerk