

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Lombardo called the Special Joint Meeting of the Town Council and Planning Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Abel, Huntington, Leone, Rowe and Mayor Lombardo
Planning Commissioners Present: Bridenstine, Drozd, Lavender, Whitten and Chair Humphreville.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lombardo.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Leone moved to approve the agenda for the Special Joint Meeting of the Town Council and Planning Commission of February 4, 2014. Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote from Town Council, and a 5-0 voice vote from the Planning Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Lombardo opened public comment for items not on the agenda. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council Member Rowe moved to approve the minutes of the Town Council and Planning Commission Joint Special Meetings of November 19, 2013 and December 17, 2013 as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Huntington seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote from Town Council, and a 5-0 voice vote from the Planning Commissioners.

PUBLIC HEARING

2. Planning Commission Resolution No. PC-14-
Town Council Resolution No, 14-, Yucca Valley General Plan
Yucca Valley General Plan Update Project
Yucca Valley General Plan Environmental Impact Report
State Clearing House No. 20122111021

Mayor Lombardo reconvened the public hearing from January 7, 2014 and inquired if any

written communication has been received on the item. Town Clerk Copeland reported that written communication was received from Mr. Leonard Malin of Yucca Valley.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle introduced the staff report, giving a brief overview of the General Plan update review process and outstanding items from previous meetings.

Wendy Grant from the Planning Center presented alternative language and overlay areas regarding the open space resource areas and wildlife corridors.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments on the item.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley spoke in favor of including the wildlife corridors into the General Plan.

Art Miller, Yucca Valley commented that the new language is an improvement and suggested the Town take the lead on a habitat conservation plan to address local concerns.

Charles McHenry, Yucca Valley commented that as a General Plan Advisory Committee member, the wildlife corridor topic was difficult to get through during the document development stage. McHenry spoke in favor of including the overlay maps into the General Plan since the wildlife areas exist.

Fritz Koenig, Yucca Valley commented favorably of including the wildlife corridor areas into the General Plan.

With no other members of the public wishing to speak, Mayor Lombardo closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Bridenstine spoke of concern about the property owners who currently have property in the designated wildlife corridors.

Commissioner Drozd questioned the accuracy of the map, but is in favor including into the General Plan for the sake of transparency.

Commissioner Whitten offered the explanation that the maps should be included at the best interest of the public and supports the professional expertise of the Planning Center staff.

Chair Humphreville questioned the validity of the environmental studies.

Council Member Abel inquired on the General Plan update process, if future changes are needed.

Council Member Leone spoke of migration patterns of local species and stated these patterns will continue regardless of what is shown on a map.

Council Member Rowe stated concern about the shelf life of the required studies.

Mayor Lombardo commented favorably on the revised language presented by Grant and would like to see the maps included in the document.

Commissioner Whitten moved to adopt Resolution No. PC 14-01, recommending amending the General Plan and adopt the Yucca Valley General Plan Hearing Draft dated August 2013, with recommended amendments as attached to this staff report. Commissioner Drozd seconded. Motion carried 4-1 on a roll call vote, with Chair Humphreville voting no.

AYES: Planning Commissioners Bridenstine, Drozd, Lavender, and Whitten

NOES: Planning Chairman Humphreville

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-03, amending the General Plan and adopting the Yucca Valley General Plan Update Project, General Plan Hearing Draft dated August 2013, with the recommended amendments as attached to this staff report. Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 4-1 on a roll call vote with Council Member Leone voting no.

AYES: Council Members Abel, Huntington, Rowe and Mayor Lombardo

NOES: Council Member Leone

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington thanked the Planning Center.

Mayor Lombardo thanked the Planning Center and staff for this major accomplishment.

Commissioner Drozd thanked the Planning Center staff for their services.

Commissioner Lavender commented on the circulation plan from 1995.

Commissioner Whitten thanked the GPAC members for their assistance in this project and thanked the Planning Center for their guidance.

Vice Chair Bridenstine stated concern for including the wildlife corridor maps in the General Plan, but believes we have comprehensive document.

Chair Humphreville thanked staff and the Planning Center staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lombardo adjourned the Joint Special Meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council and the Planning Commission at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC
Town Clerk