

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

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

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

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 SCE Public Affairs Regional Manager Jennifer Cusack.

The Invocation was led by Pastor Bob Wagner of Joshua Springs Community Chapel

**PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Introduction of Miss Yucca Valley and Court**

The 47<sup>th</sup> Miss Yucca Valley Mariah Muchtar introduced herself and her court to the Town Council; 1<sup>st</sup> Princess Maddy Nimo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Princess Hailey Lasiter, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Princess Aimee Frank.

**2. Southern California Edison Update**

Jennifer Cusack, Public Affairs Regional Manager for SCE presented an update to the Town Council regarding planned outages, an emergency response plan, demand response, infrastructure investments, regulation mandates for grid improvements, and customer outreach.

Council Member Abel inquired on the amount of energy purchased from out of state and also questioned the amount of power generated by local wind farms and solar fields.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington inquired on the costs of the various types of electrical sources.

Council Member Leone inquired if there were any plans for capturing energy from the ocean tidal movement.

Mayor Lombardo inquired about the future of nuclear energy sources in California.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comment.

Tom Fauls, Yucca Valley inquired about future energy production from local solar fields and if these sources benefit local residents.

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

comments.

3. **Employee of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2013**  
Shane Stueckle introduced Diane Olsen, Planning Technician as the recipient for the Employee of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2013. Mayor Lombardo presented the award to Olsen
4. **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Report**- none given
5. **Morongo Basin Emergency Management Council (MBEMC) Meeting Report**  
Administrative Assistant Jessica Rice presented an update on the recent activity of the MBEMC, a group of local agencies collaborating together on the preparation of local disaster response.

Council Member Abel inquired if the United Way 211 reference cards were available at Town offices.

6. **Recognition of Captain Rich Boswell**  
Mayor Lombardo congratulated Captain Rich Boswell for his service to the community and the best of luck on his retirement. Boswell thanked the Town Council for making public safety a priority.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Town Council Meeting of February 18, 2014. Council Member Leone seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

7. **Waive** further reading of all ordinances and read by title only
8. **Approve** the Town Council meeting minutes of December 10, 2013 as presented
9. **Extend** the Town of Yucca Valley contract with Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott, LLP for audit services by one year to include fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 for a not to exceed cost of \$46,160 and direct the Town's Administrative Services Director to execute the annual engagement letter as required.
10. **Direct** staff to prepare a Request for Proposal for the three year period ending June 30, 2017, and return to Council for consideration
11. **Receive and file** the AB1234 Reporting Requirement Schedule for the month of January 2014
12. **Ratify** the Payroll Registers total of \$135,644.95 dated January 17, 2014.

**Ratify** Warrant Registers total of \$882,029.78 for checks dated January 30, 2014 thru February 6, 2014.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comment for items on the Consent Agenda. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to approve consent agenda items 7-11. Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**13. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Prioritization Hearing**

Mayor Lombardo opened the public hearing for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) prioritization

Administrative Services Director presented the staff report, explaining the CDBG program and allocation options. Eight applications vying for portions of available local funding, including the Town of Yucca Valley, Morongo Basin Unity Home, Reach Out Morongo Basin, Family Services Association, Morongo Basin Senior Support Center, Yucca Valley Branch Library and Soldiers Organized Service have been received. The Town's FY 2014-15 CDBG allocation is \$119,995. The Town Council's funding recommendation will be forwarded to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Mary Jo Thornton spoke on behalf of Unity Home explaining the services the organization provides to the community.

Robin Schlosser, Executive Director for Reach Out Morongo Basin spoke in favor of funding for the services the organization provides to the community.

Tom Donahue, Program Administrator for Family Services Association explained the services provided to the local senior nutrition site.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley spoke in favor of providing funding for Unity Home and Reach Out Morongo Basin.

Ramon Mendoza, Morongo Valley suggested that the Town Council use the CDBG

funding for community outreach on septic tank education.

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

Council Member Abel inquired about the CDBG program's funding limits. Abel also spoke of safety concerns at Jacob's Park.

Council Member Rowe thanked the agencies that were represented this evening and what they do for the community.

Mayor Lombardo reopened public comment.

Robin Schlosser, Executive Director for Reach Out Morongo Basin requested that if there would be an opportunity for local partnership funding, that the local agencies be made aware.

Mayor Lombardo closed public comment.

Council Member Leone commented on the possibility of revisiting the long-term lease for Jacobs Park with Morongo Unified School District.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington also thanked the organizations represented and expressed his frustration that the funding is very limited and difficult to spread around with the program's required funding limits in place.

Council Member Rowe moved to:

1. Allocate the Town's FY 2014-15 CDBG allocation of \$119,995 to the following approved Town Projects;  
Jacob's Park Playground Equipment Replacement       \$50,000  
Commercial Corridor/Paradise Valley Code Compliance Program  
\$69,995
2. Allocate \$20,000 of prior program CDBG contingency to the Town's Jacob's Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project.
3. Direct staff to include the outside CDBG applicants in the Town's FY 2014-15 & FY 2015-16 Partnerships and Programs outreach efforts.

Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

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

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**14. Draft Council Manual of Procedural Guidelines**

Town Clerk Copeland presented the staff report, explaining the need to clarify the Town’s procedures on items relating to Council protocol and procedures. In March 2011, the Town Council adopted Ordinance No. 223, repealing and enacting Chapter 2.05, and directed staff and legal counsel to develop a comprehensive manual of procedural guidelines that can be reviewed and adopted by Resolution. The Town Council Rules and Procedures Ad-Hoc Committee met several times with Town staff and legal counsel to develop a draft manual for the full Council review.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington continued the staff report presentation as an Ad-Hoc Committee member and gave additional clarification on Section 9.1 as it relates to the selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem and also section 6.4 on the appointments to the Town’s commissions and committees. The idea behind the language presented in 6.4 is to de-politicize the selection of commission and committee members.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley commented on past procedures of appointing commissions and committee members and spoke against creating an ad-hoc committee for the selection process.

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

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained the purpose in suggesting an application review ad-hoc committee is considered as advisory only. Any recommendation the ad-hoc committee may have, along with all applications received, would be brought before the full council for consideration.

Council Member Abel commented favorably on the new language for the mayor/mayor pro tem rotation, and agrees that the commission and committee appointments should not be political. There needs to be a due process for the applicants.

Council Member Rowe expressed she is in favor of the individual appointments.

Mayor Lombardo explained the process of a three year term instead of a four year term for commission and committee members.

Council Member Rowe voiced concern with the shorter period since commissioners usually spend a significant amount of time, just getting educated on the Town's processes.

Council Member Leone spoke of his past commission appointments. The elected official should be given respect for their knowledge, commitment and responsibility as a council member. Leone stated he is not in favor of the new language and would like to keep the process as it currently is.

Council Member Rowe inquired about the retention schedule for meeting recordings and how that relates to the style of minutes being kept on file.

After discussion, consensus was made to keep the commission and committee appointments as they currently are; change the language of keeping the meeting recordings to reflect current processes; and other minor, non-substantial changes to the document and bring back to the Town Council for further review.

**15. HUD Park Funds Special Revenue Fund 551 Update**

Senior Accountant Cisneros presented the staff report, giving an update on the HUD Park Funds Special Revenue Fund 551. Since December 18, 2012 when Essig Park was accepted as substantially complete, a number of specific activities occurred that impacted the final project accounting including, the FY 2012-13 fiscal year close, the final determinations from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, the approval of the Successor Agency's FY 2013-14B ROPS and the final accounting of the project's revenues, expenditures and credits. Cisneros continued to explain the final project funding and cost summary.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley commented on the dollar amounts given in the staff report.

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

Administrative Services Director Yakimow gave an explanation on how the Development Impact Fees balance is arrived at. With Council action this evening, the General Fund would receive repayment of outstanding DIF transactions.

Council Member Rowe stated she will be voting against the item, due to the principal of the original loan of DIF to complete onsite amenities at the time that Essig Park was built.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to:

1. Receive and file the HUD Park Funds Special Revenue Fund 551 Update
2. Amend the FY 2013-14 adopted budget for HUD Park Funds Special Revenue Fund 551 to accommodate final changes, and close the fund as appropriate.
3. Amend the FY 2013-14 amended budget for Development Impact Fees Special Revenue Fund 350 to reflect increase in transfer for repayment to the General Fund.

Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 4-1 on a roll call vote with Council Member Rowe voting no.

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

**16. CORE Senior Housing Project Naming Recommendations**

Administrative Services Director Yakimow presented the staff report explaining that in preparation for the opening of the National Community Renaissance of California (NCRC) senior housing development in Yucca Valley, NCRC is seeking input from the Town for naming suggestions for the development. Final naming authority will remain at the discretion of the project developer. Yakimow explained that to assist with these efforts, staff developed naming recommendations and solicited the Town’s Senior Club for their input.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comment. With no members of the public wishing to speak, Mayor Lombardo closed public comment.

Discussion among the Town Council commenced, weighing the suggested names. Consensus was made to forward the naming ideas of “Town Senior Village” and “Dumosa Senior Village” to NCRC for consideration.

**17. Ordinance Deleting Yucca Valley Municipal Code Sections 2.08.090 and 2.08.100 Pertaining to Town Manager Separation Issues**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY REPEALING YUCCA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 2.08.090 AND 2.08.100 PERTAINING TO TOWN MANAGER REMOVAL

Town Attorney Laymon read the title of the ordinance and presented the staff report.

Laymon explained that the proposed ordinance repeals code sections relating to the terms of which provide for certain notice and hearing procedures in the event of a Town Manager separation. The current code sections 2.08.090 and 2.08.100 provide a Town manager certain notice and hearing rights that reach beyond what is required by law. Historically, these code sections have been contractually waived in prior Town Manager contracts, deeming them inapplicable in practice.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to introduce the Ordinance deleting Yucca Valley Municipal Code Sections 2.08.090 and 2.08.100, the terms of which provide for certain notice and hearing procedures in the event of a Town Manager separation. Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

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

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Leone would like to discuss speed limits on dirt roads.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley thanked the Town Council members for reviewing the agenda packets and referencing stamped pages when speaking and commented favorably on the dialog and discussion the Council experienced this evening.

Ramon Mendoza, Morongo Valley spoke in apology to Mayor Pro Tem Huntington for mis-speaking at a past meeting.

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

**STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle announced that the Hi Desert Water District Sewer Assessment report is due out in March 2014.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**



- 18.** Council Member Abel offered congratulations to Miss Yucca Valley Mariah Muchtar and her court and thanked Captain Boswell for his service. Abel also congratulated Olsen on her award for Employee of the Quarter.
- 19.** Council Member Leone thanked Captain Boswell and wished him well in retirement. Leone also congratulated Miss Yucca Valley and Olsen for their accomplishments.
- 20.** Council Member Rowe expressed similar kudos and stated that Boswell will be missed in the community.
- 21.** Mayor Pro Tem Huntington reported that restrictions in the retail use of plastic bags are being discussed at the state level and also wished Captain Boswell a happy retirement.
- 22.** Mayor Lombardo thanked the public for their comments and input during the meeting and congratulated Olsen on her Employee of the Quarter award.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., in the Yucca Room of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Mayor Lombardo adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC  
Town Clerk