

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 4, 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 Council Member Leone.

The Invocation was led by Pastor David DiFalco of the Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Member Leone moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Town Council Meeting of March 4, 2014. Mayor Pro Tem Huntington seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Waive** further reading of all ordinances and read by title only
2. **Approve** the Town Council meeting minutes of December 17, 2013 and the Special Joint Meeting of the Town Council and Planning Commission of January 7, 2014 as presented
3. **Approve** Amendment No. 6 to the contract between the County of San Bernardino and the Town of Yucca Valley for providing animal shelter services
4. **Authorize** staff to send a letter to Assembly Member Brian Nestande and Senator Jean Fuller seeking support against the elimination of the existing Beverage Container Recycling City/County payments
5. **Item Pulled**
6. **Approve** a governing body resolution for the FY 2013-2014 Off-Highway Vehicle grant application
7. **Ratify** the Payroll Registers total of \$272,401.01 dated February 18, 2014.  
**Ratify** Warrant Registers total of \$78,247.92 for checks dated February 21, 2014.

Ron Cohen, Yucca Valley spoke on Item No. 5, stating he would like to see the old Pomona First Federal Building be put back into the tax base.

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

Council Member Leone pulled Item No. 5.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to approve consent agenda items 1-4, 6 and 7. 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

**Item 5-** Administrative Services Director Yakimow presented the staff report regarding the Long Range Property Plan, explaining that each successor agency is required to prepare and approve a long range property management plan that addresses the disposition and use of the real properties of the former redevelopment agency. The LRPMP included with the staff report has submitted by the Successor Agency after review by the Oversight Board in September of 2013.

Yakimow continued to explain that AB 1484 stipulates that the LRPMP must include an inventory and site history of each of the former Agency-owned properties as well as a plan for future use. The recommended dispositions listed for each parcel is in-line with the RDA's approved Five-Year Implementation Plan, Town Facility Master Plans, Old Town Specific Plan and other long-term planning documents. Tonight's action does not commit the Town to purchase anything. These properties are owned by the Successor Agency.

Council Member Leone clarified that this is a procedural item only; the property disposition will be discussed at a later date.

Council Member Abel moved to review and adopt Resolution No. 14-04 affirming the Long Range Property Management Plan (LRPMP) of the Successor Agency to the Dissolved Town of Yucca Valley Redevelopment Agency. Council Member Leone 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**

**8. State Route 62; Discussion of Alternative Access Routes  
Pima Trail, East of Church Street to Palm  
Alley Way, North Side of SR 62, Grand to Palm**

Town Project Engineer Qishta presented the staff report explaining options for developing alternative access routes including Pima Trail between Church Street and Palm Avenue, and the alley between Palm and Grand. The report summarized the various issues related to these two specific roadway segments as well as identified other long term similar circulation issues.

For the alternative access route of Pima Trail, east of Church Street to Palm, there are two right-of-way issues that will need to be addressed on this segment, and the preliminary construction cost estimate to complete the improvements identifies \$178,000 in anticipated costs, not including right-of-way or utility concerns. The unimproved, dirt alley north of SR62 between Palm Ave and Grand Ave has a preliminary construction costs estimate of \$121,000.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Susan Simmons, Yucca Valley commented in opposition of spending anything more than the minimum requirements on these areas, as there are many other needs in residential neighborhoods waiting to be addressed.

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

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained the process of bringing new roads into the Town's maintained road system and reminded the Council of existing alternate routes within the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington questioned the 1.5 miles of maintained dirt roads that the Town inherited with incorporation and agrees with public comment about creating roadways with the sewer project planned for this area. Huntington recommended that a review of the traffic circulation in the entire town might be beneficial and would like to make these alternate routes passable in the most economical way.

Council Member Leone inquired about Traffic Safety Policy No. 5 and spoke of an exposed boulder on Kickapoo Trail.

Mayor Lombardo spoke in agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Huntington and not spend a lot of money making these alleyways passable until we know what is happening with the sewers. The beginning stages should be included in the upcoming FY 2014-15 budget.

Council Member Rowe moved to:

- Direct staff to include funding in the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Capital Projects Budget to evaluate rights of way and utility location for Pima Trail, east of Church Street to Palm Avenue, and for the alley between Palm and Grand Avenue on the north side of SR 62.
- Direct staff to include funding in the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Capital Projects Budget to accept Pima Trail, east of Church Street to Palm Avenue, and for the alley between Palm and Grand Avenue on the north side of SR 62, into the Town’s Maintained Road System until completion of wastewater collection systems by HDWD.
- Direct staff to plan funding for paved and maintained improvements for Pima Trail, east of Church Street to Palm Avenue, and for the alley between Palm and Grand Avenue on the north side of SR 62 following completion of the wastewater collection system by HDWD.

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

**9. 2014-2015 & 2015/2016 Fiscal Year Budget Policy Direction  
 Program and Strategic Priority Direction**

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 Budget Policy Direction, and Program and Strategic Priority Direction. Staff is seeking policy direction and input for the preparation of the Town’s baseline budget. Overarching policies and principles were reviewed as staff understands of a baseline budget, including:

- Balanced budget without the use of reserves
- Public Safety remains the highest budget priority
- Retain the goal of general fund revenues allocated to infrastructure maintenance of up to 10%
- No major program or service deliver modifications or additions are anticipated
- Identify programs or services that have minimal participation and/or that do not create significant quality of life programs for the community, and propose reasonable modifications or alternatives

The public outreach and participation process for budget preparation begins with the Council’s deliberations on policy guidance on these matters in addition to the

presentation of the baseline budget at an upcoming Council meeting.

Stueckle continued to explain that in past recent years, the Town has focused on capital project and infrastructure delivery as well as major programmatic projects such as the General Plan Update and the Development Code rewrite. It is anticipated to focus on service delivery and organizational needs and efficiencies in future budget cycles.

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

Council Member Abel commented favorably on the bulleted items listed in the staff report as target focus areas.

Council Member Rowe inquired about reserves to infrastructure and would like to make sure the general fund revenues allocated to infrastructure read 1 – 10% and not include zero as an option. Also Rowe stated that during budget discussions she would like use the chart on the Pavement Management System and how it is affected by the years when nothing was allocated to this program.

Council Member Leone agreed with Council Member Rowe’s comment on infrastructure allocations.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington commented favorably on the bulleted items as target areas for preparing the budget.

Mayor Lombardo also agreed with the listed target areas and sees the need for vehicle and technology replacement. Lombardo would like to see an increased use of solar options for Town buildings if possible.

Council Member Abel moved to approve policy direction to staff for preparation of the Town’s baseline budget for fiscal years 2014-2016 including to modify the goal of retaining 1 – 10% of General Fund revenues for infrastructure maintenance. 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

**10. Appointment of Voting Delegate to Represent the Town at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Annual General Assembly**

Clerk Copeland presented the staff report requesting an appoint of voting delegate to represent the Town of Yucca Valley at the Southern Association of Governments (SCAG) Annual General Assembly to be held in May 2014. Typically, the SCAG

representative is the same as the SANBAG representative; however any Council Member may be appointed depending upon availability to attend the assembly. Mayor Pro Tem Huntington is the SANBAG representative for the Town.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington stated he is available to attend the assembly.

Council Member Abel moved to designate Mayor Pro Tem Huntington as the Voting Delegate to the SCAG General Assembly on May 1-2, 2014 in Indian Wells. 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**

Mayor Lombardo would like to see Black Rock Canyon Road maintenance placed on a future agenda. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that it would be included in an upcoming Capital Project budget discussion.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Susan Simmons, Yucca Valley asked if the Council would consider approving the paving Warren Way. The traffic has dramatically increased with drivers trying to circumvent the signals along the highway.

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

**STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle gave a brief update on items of interest including:

- roadway clean-up efforts after the recent storm
- Senior Housing Ad Hoc Committee will visit the off-site construction of modules for the project
- Septic system requirements and mandates by the California State Water Quality Control Board

Administrative Services Director Yakimow explained that the Recreation Division is wrapping-up another successful youth basketball program which had approximately 500 participants this year.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

11. Council Member Leone stated he was glad to see some rain in our area.
12. Council Member Rowe thanked the road crews for the quick response.
13. Mayor Pro Tem Huntington invited the public to the upcoming wildflower lecture at the Hi Desert Nature Museum.
14. Mayor Lombardo thanked the road crews for their hard work in keeping the community safe.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., in the Yucca Room of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Town Attorney Laymon read the title of the Closed Session item.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comment on the Closed Session item. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

Mayor Lombardo adjourned to Closed Session at 7:45 p.m.

**REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Town Attorney Laymon reported that Closed Session was adjourned at 8:30 with no reportable action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC  
Town Clerk