

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2014**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Lombardo called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Council Members Present: Abel (Arrived at 6:35 p.m.) 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 Mayor Lombardo

The Invocation was led by Pastor Bill Wilcox, Evangelical Free Church

AGENCY REPORT

1. Wanda Stadum, Marketing Director for Desert Regional Tourism Agency presented a performance report for the local California Welcome Center.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Town Council Meeting of April 1, 2014. Council Member Leone seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a voice vote, with Council Member Abel absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Waive** further reading of all ordinances and read by title only
3. **Approve** the Town Council meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 4, 2014, the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2014, and the Regular Meeting of March 4, 2014 as presented and

Amend the Town Council meeting minutes of the Joint Special Meeting with the Planning Commission of February 4, 2014 to reflect a correction to a public comment, as Yucca Valley resident, Margo Sturges was in favor of including wildlife corridor maps in the General Plan document and

Approve the Town Council meeting minutes of the Joint Special Meeting with the Planning Commission of February 4, 2014 as amended.

4. **Approve** the Community Development Block Grant Cooperation Agreement and the

City-County Delegate Agency Agreement with San Bernardino County for fiscal years 2015-16, 2016-17 and subsequently automatically renew unless terminated, and authorize the mayor to execute the agreement

- 5. **Approve** Resolution No. 14-08 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.
- 6. **Ratify** the Payroll Register total of \$126,315.94 dated March 14, 2014.
Ratify Warrant Register total of \$336,373.69 for checks dated March 6, 2014.

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.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to approve consent agenda items 2-6. Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 moved on a roll call vote.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- 7. **Town-Wide Slurry Seal Project- Town Project No. 8340; Approval of Plans and Specifications; Authorization to Advertise for Construction**

Town Project Engineer Qishta presented the staff report for the 2014-15 Town-Wide Slurry Seal Project, known as Town Project No. 8340. The benefits of applying slurry to regularly maintained roads were explained. The goal of the street maintenance program is to have streets in sufficient condition to slurry seal every street in the Maintained Road System every five to seven years. Several local roadways have deteriorated beyond the slurry stage and require more expensive maintenance and repair. Estimated costs for slurry treatment is \$0.20 per square foot, cape seal treatment is \$0.45 per square foot and road reconstruction at \$8.00 per square foot. The 2014-2015 fiscal year slurry program is estimated at \$550,000.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Charles McHenry, Yucca Valley questioned the inclusion of partial roadways in the schedule instead of maintaining the entire section of road.

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

In response to public comment, Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained the section of roadway questioned as omitted in the 2014-15 slurry schedule was maintained a couple of years ago under a separate project and is not on the same maintenance schedule as the rest of the roadway.

Mayor Lombardo asked for clarification on the ongoing maintenance cost if all the roads were up to the same standard to be maintained by the slurry process. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle stated that a slurry process for all Town maintained roadways would be approximately \$1 million per year.

Council Member Rowe questioned how many square feet are lost from the slurry to cape seal category each year a road is unfunded. Rowe continued and requested this information for the upcoming budget discussions to explain the monetary effects when roadway conditions move beyond the level of routine slurry maintenance. The current year impacts would be nice to have included in budget discussion.

Council Member Rowe moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-09, approve the plans and specifications for Project No. 8340, and authorize the Town Clerk to advertise and receive bids. Mayor Pro Tem Huntington seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a roll call vote.

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

8. Council Manual of Procedural Guidelines

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY AMENDING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 2.05 AND TITLE 4 REFERRING TO THE PROCEDURES FOR TOWN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS AND REPEALING CHAPTER 4.02 OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Town Clerk Copeland presented the staff report for the Council Manual of Procedural Guidelines explaining that the recommended changes from prior Town Council review have been included in the current document.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Ron Cohen, Yucca Valley commented on Section 8.1 to consider moving the questions of

staff and council discussion, prior to opening the public hearing.

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

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that the reasoning behind receiving public comment prior to questions of staff or council discussion, as it allows the council to receive public opinion prior to taking a specific stand on an issue.

Town Attorney Laymon also offered that when the council converses with staff or each other and new information is brought up, it is not uncommon to reopen public comment on these new revelations.

Council Member Huntington commented that the current practice of receiving public input prior to council discussion works well.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to:

- Receive the Draft Manual of Procedural Guidelines including amendments requested by the Town Council at the February 18, 2014 meeting
- Adopt Resolution No. 14-10 adopting the Manual of Procedural Guidelines for the Conduct of Town Council and Constituent Body/Commission Meetings and repealing prior resolutions to the extent such resolutions conflict with the Manual.
- Introduce Ordinance No. 248 removing Town Code provisions in conflict with the Manual of Procedural Guidelines and accurately referencing provisions between Town Code and the Manual of Procedural Guidelines.

Council Member Rowe seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a roll call vote.

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

Council Member Abel arrived at 6:35 p.m.

9. FY 2014-16 Baseline Budget Revenue Review

Administrative Services Director Yakimow presented the staff report for the fiscal years 2014-16 Baseline Budget for revenue. The presentation explained primary revenue

assumptions, with anticipated revenues of \$9.38m and \$9.65m, Sales tax growth rate of 4.5% and 5.5%, property tax growth rates of 3.5% and 2.5%, with the remaining categories essentially flat. Revenue source percentages are Property/VLF 45% (\$4,261,000), Sales Tax 34% (\$3,145,000), Franchise Fees / TOT 10% (\$960,000), and Services / Other at 11% (\$1,015,000).

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

Council Member Abel stated he likes seeing the area in a state of recovery and looks forward to future reports after the new retailers are open and generating tax revenue. Abel questioned the impact the sewer project may have on retailers.

Council Member Rowe agreed with Council Member Abel and reported that Hi Desert Water will be having a meeting tomorrow night that will hopefully present helpful information on the upcoming sewer project.

Council Member Leone commented that the Town's TOT tax rate is low compared to others and would like to see it raised.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington thanked Yakimow for the presentation and taking a conservative approach in revenue projections.

Council Member Abel moved to receive the initial base budget revenue forecast for the 2014-16 fiscal years budget. Mayor Pro Tem Huntington 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 speed limits on dirt roads placed on a future agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Charles McHenry, Yucca Valley commented on a travel concern he has with increased traffic on Joshua Drive and the 40 MPH speed limit the road has near Acoma.

Fritz Koenig, Yucca Valley distributed written communication to the Town Council and spoke on concerns with Home Occupancy Permit, HOP 11-05.

John Barraige, San Diego/Lucerne Valley, stated he is an attorney representing Mr. Koenig and spoke of the conditions of approval of HOP 11-05 and requested that the Town Council review the report they received.

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

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Town Project Engineer Qishta presented an update on various capital projects and private land development projects, including the Senior Housing Project, Hawks Landing Golf Course, Marshalls/Petco commercial building, Panda Express/Taco Bell construction, TCRP- SR62 Improvements, PLHD- SR 62 Improvement Project, the SR 62 Signal Synchronization, Safe Routes to School and the Dumosa Traffic Signal.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

10. Council Member Abel spoke of misinformation in the community and is glad that staff is here to present informative updates so the correct information is available. Abel also stated that he understands that commutes are being disrupted, yet looks forward to a safer highway when the projects are complete.
11. Council Member Leone stated he is opposed to the median projects along the highway, but does approve of the sidewalks along SR 62.
12. Council Member Rowe asked if the fire department personnel could be at a future meeting to attend a future meeting to report if there is any impact by the new medians.
13. Mayor Pro Tem Huntington reported that he recently attended a Soroptimists Award Ceremony and attended the City/County conference in Lake Arrowhead. Huntington also announced that Earth Day and a Science Saturday event is coming up at the Hi Desert Nature Museum.
14. Mayor Lombardo stated it is nice to see the movement in the community with the commercial projects underway and invited the public to attend future budget discussions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., in the Yucca Room of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lombardo adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC
Town Clerk