

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 15, 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, Attorney Steve Onstot, for Town Attorney Laymon, and Town Clerk Copeland

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lombardo

The Invocation was led by Pastor Wayne Morrow, Desert Hills Presbyterian Church

**PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Community Services Update**

Recreation Supervisor Earnest presented an update, reviewing programming conducted in the Recreation Division for the past winter months. Youth Basketball participation was successful with approximately 600 children. The Healthy Hearts Run reached an all-time record attendance. The Youth Commission is currently working on a video on the topic of teen sleep deprivation.

Museum Program Coordinator Ritter continued the presentation by offering a review of recent Hi Desert Nature Museum activities and invited the public to attend the upcoming Earth Day event.

**AGENCY REPORT**

**2. Hi-Desert Water District Monthly Water/Wastewater Update**

HDWD Public Information Officer, Jennifer Poland presented a calendar of future public outreach sessions regarding the wastewater project. Operations Manager, Mark Ban reported that design plans for the wastewater collection system are 90 percent complete. HDWD Chief Financial Officer Rochelle Clayton spoke of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Grant application process, which takes 2-3 months. Plans are moving forward to seek a grant through Mojave Water Agency. Clayton also presented preliminary sewer assessment figures.

Council Member Abel inquired about the Mojave Water Agency grant.

Council Member Rowe asked for clarification on total project costs.

Council Member Leone inquired about the completion time with keeping the project in-house compared to awarding an outside contract.

Mayor Lombardo inquired about obligation bond rates.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Town Council Meeting of April 15, 2014. 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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

3. **Waive** further reading of all ordinances and read by title only
4. **Approve** the Town Council meeting minutes for the regular meetings of March 18, 2014 and April 1, 2014 as presented
5. **Receive and file** the monthly Statistical Fire Department Reports for the month of March 2014
6. **Approve** Special License, SPL 01-14 based on the recommended Conditions of Approval
7. **Authorize** the Town Manager to release the RFP for street sweeping services
8. **Authorize** the Town Manager to release the RFP for Emergency Storm Cleanup and Shoulder Maintenance Contract Services
9. **Receive and file** the AB1234 Reporting Requirement Schedule for the month of March 2014
10. **Ratify** the Payroll Register total of \$154,046.72 dated March 28, 2014.  
**Ratify** Warrant Register total of \$718,818.92 for checks dated April 3, 2014.

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

Council Member Rowe moved to approve consent agenda items 3-10. Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

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

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### 11. **Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Trust Administrator Agreement**

Human Resources Manager Breidenbach-Sterling presented the staff report and introduced Mitch Barker from Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) to give an overview of a trust used to meet the needs of Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) requirements. Barker explained that PARS is a consulting firm with one area of expertise is in OPEB trusts. The goal is to lower the Town's liability for post-employment benefits. There is no down side in pre-funding OPEB and is considered a long-term investment. PARS has IRS approval on its OPEB trusts. The Town nor participants will be taxed. PARS offers local control over the trusts, versus other programs such as PERS.

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

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.

Council Member Rowe inquired about the plan's administration fees.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington stated that though the administration fees are greater than PERS, they are still relatively minimal.

Mayor Lombardo inquired if risk levels can be diversified.

Administrative Services Director Yakimow reminded the Town Council that PARS is currently the Town's consultant for part-time staff benefit plans.

Council Member Abel moved to:

- Approve the establishment of an IRS compliant Section 115 Irrevocable Trust to prefund Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) health care costs with Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS), and appoint PARS as the administrator of the Trust:
- Appoint the Town's Director of Administrative Services as the Town's OPEB PARS Plan Administrator for the program, and authorize the Plan Administrator to execute

the administrative documents on behalf of the Town and to take whatever additional actions are necessary to administer the Town’s program.

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

**12. FY 2014-16 Partnership Funding Requests Review**

Administrative Services Director Yakimow presented the staff report by explaining the application process for local agencies seek partnership funding through the Town’s budget process. Yakimow explained that a total of 12 funding requests were received and explained examples of in-kind support that the Town already provides.

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Ron Cohen, Yucca Valley, stated he would like to see the first level of upcoming budget figures and finds it difficult to consider these partnership requests without knowing where the upcoming budget currently stands.

Tom Donahue of Family Services Association (FSA) spoke that though the Town does provide the facilities for the Senior Nutrition Program at a reduced cost, FSA should not be required to pay the \$500 per month they are currently being charged. Donahue continued to explain the costs incurred in providing meals to not only residents of Yucca Valley but to residents in other communities in their local service area. Yucca Valley is a centralized location and meals are delivered to other cities and county areas.

Council Member Rowe asked if other cities in the FSA service area contribute to the costs of these services.

Robin Schlosser, Reach Out Morongo Basin (ROMB) spoke of the services provided to local residents and the transportation grant with Morongo Basin Transit Authority. Schlosser explained that the ROMB budget includes 30 percent from fundraising

Gideon Smith, Morongo Basin Tennis Association explained the variety of programs provided to local youth of the community.

Sue Tsuda, Center for Healthy Generations (formally Morongo Basin Senior Support Center) thanked the Town Council for their past support and introduced the volunteers present. Tsuda stated that the center’s programming runs on volunteer services and funds are being requested to assist in repairing the roof.

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

Administrative Services Director Yakimow explained the history of prior year funding as included in the agenda packet and clarified that tonight's discussion is for a recommendation only. The final approval will be included with the full budget adoption.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle reminded the Town Council of recent Council direction during Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) discussions as considering the funding requests similar to past allocations. The final partnership funding approval will occur with the final budget adoption.

Council Member Abel questioned Schlosser about the demographics of clients Reach Out Morongo Basin serves and commented favorably in support of ROMB.

Council Member Rowe questioned the timing of these partnership discussions, as it seems early in the process compared to years prior and stated she would like to wait until budget numbers are in, before deciding upon the partnerships.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington stated he hopes that we can maintain last year's partnership funding levels, but would also like to see more of the proposed budget before the decision is made.

Mayor Lombardo also inquired about CDBG regulations and funding levels and how this affects the Town's partnership program.

Consensus was made among the Town Council to receive and file the Partnership Funds Requests and continue the discussion during the 2014-16 fiscal years budget review.

**13. Ordinance No.  
Traffic Speed Surveys  
Establishing Updated Radar Enforceable Speed Zones  
Town-Wide Locations**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 12 OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 12.20.020 ENTITLED "CHANGES IN STATE LAW SPEED LIMITS" OF CHAPTER 12.20 OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS

Town Project Engineer Qishta presented the staff report and introduced the ordinance, required for radar enforceable speed limit establishment. Qishta explained that state law requires review of speed limits every seven years, and presented the recommended changes in speed limits on local roadways. Mayor Lombardo opened public comments.

Ron Cohen, Yucca Valley recommended to change the speed limits on dirt roads to 35 miles per hour.

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

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle stated that the subject of speed limits on dirt roads will be coming before the Town Council in the near future. Currently, 15 years of past discussion on the topic is being reviewed by the Town Attorney.

Council Member Abel questioned Lieutenant Wilke of enforceable speeds. Wilke stated that in order to enforce by radar, these speed surveys must be in place. Qishta explained that with the completion of this survey, all Town maintained roads will be radar enforceable.

Council Member Leone clarified that these surveys are only for Town maintained roads and spoke of high rates of speed on non-maintained dirt roads, creating unhealthy and unsafe conditions.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington stated he would like to see the speed limits on Joshua Lane from Warren Vista to San Andreas be at 40-45 miles per hour. Huntington also inquired on the number of citations given on non-highway roadways.

Mayor Pro Tem Huntington moved to introduce Ordinance No. 249, amending Title 12, Chapter 12.20 of the Town of Yucca Valley Municipal Code, Section 12.20.020, Entitled “Changes in State Law Speed Limits” by establishing the recommended speed limits, and rescinding that portion of the Ordinance that establishes the existing speed zones. 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

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None stated.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Lombardo opened public comments for items not on the agenda.

Ed Montgomery, Yucca Valley commented on the closed session item and suggested the Town Council reconsider the choice for an in-house recruitment. Charles McHenry, Yucca Valley

commented on the Town's maintained road system and specifically Attachment D, showing Black Rock Canyon on the maintained road list. McHenry stated this road is in desperate need of repair.

Ginny Moore, Yucca Valley spoke of the exterior paint colors of her pet grooming business along Hwy 62 in the Old Town area.

Dennis Pask, Yucca Valley commented on the issues going on in his neighborhood, spoke favorably of his neighbor, David Falossi and presented a petition of other neighbors with similar support.

Janis Pask, Yucca Valley spoke in support of neighbor David Falossi and has no issues with his approved home-based business.

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

#### **STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle spoke of current legislation in Sacramento, AB 2547, which could affect SANBAG. SANBAG has requested agencies to write a letter of opposition to this legislation.

Qishta have a brief update on the TCRP- SR62 project and presented ADA compliant guidelines, explained that the sidewalks being constructed along the highway are ADA compliant. The project is scheduled to be complete by the end of April 2014.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle announced the application dates established by National CORE for the Dumosa Senior Village. Stueckle also briefed the Town Council on the action taken on a code compliance case recently referenced in a letter to the editor in the local newspaper.

#### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

- 14.** Council Member Abel thanked HDWD staff for the informative update on the wastewater treatment project. Abel also thanked Qishta for the TCRP update, yet is disappointed in how the contractor approached the project as it is disrupting both sides of the highway, for what seems like an extended period of time. Able also thanked the local non-profit groups in our area and their addition to the quality of life in our community, and spoke favorably on seeing revitalization with businesses in the Old Town area.
  
- 15.** Council Member Leone spoke favorably of the colors on the dog grooming building in the Old Town area as presented during public comments. Leone stated he was disappointed in seeing only six concerts being planned this summer and would like to see more concerts scheduled.

16. Council Member Rowe thanked HDWD for the informative update.
17. Mayor Pro Tem Huntington also thanked HDWD staff for their presentation and announced the Earth Day Celebration this Saturday. Huntington also announced support for over 300,000 non-profit groups through San Bernardino County's campaign at [www.givebigsbcounty.org](http://www.givebigsbcounty.org) and encouraged local non-profits to register.
18. Mayor Lombardo also expressed support to HDWD for a successful project ahead, and thanked the volunteers in the community. Lombardo also invited the public to attend future budget discussions.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Lombardo opened public comment on closed session items.

Ed Montgomery, Yucca Valley explained that mixed up his comments and commented on the closed session during public comments. Montgomery continued to state his dissatisfaction in the way that a code compliance case is being handled.

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

Mayor Lombardo adjourned to closed session at the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

**REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION - ADJOURNMENT**

Attorney Onstot announced that the closed session was adjourned at 10:06 pm with no reportable action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC  
Town Clerk