

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 10, 2011**

Mayor Huntington called the special meeting of the Town of Yucca Valley Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Hagerman, Luckino, Rowe, and Mayor Huntington.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Huntington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Town Council Vacancy – Review applications for appointments

Mayor Huntington advised the purpose of tonight's meeting is to review the list of candidates for the vacancy and determine how to proceed from this point. He noted there is no town ordinance in place to dictate how the Town should fill vacancies on Council, and without such an ordinance State law requires that we appoint, call a special election within 60 days or leave the seat vacant. At the Special Meeting of April 25, 2011, Council directed staff to prepare applications in order to fill the vacancy through an appointment process. If we had chosen to call a special election it would not have taken place until late August and cost a minimum of \$25,000. The Council has several decisions that needed to be made before August, such as the senior housing project and sewer and infrastructure financing, which requires a super majority of 4/5 of the Council. He noted that Mayor Pro Tem Luckino, as a matter of public record, is employed by the Hi Desert Water District, and they have requested the Attorney General to rule on his potential conflict of interest, which could affect his ability to participate in certain decisions and discussions. If so ruled this could reduce the Council to 3 members on water, sewer and related issues until after the August Election if an appointment is not made.

Curt Duffy, Yucca Valley, commented regarding his qualifications for the position.

David Mahaffey, Yucca Valley, spoke in opposition to expending the funds for a special election and stated it is his hope that here can come to a mature understanding and fill the seat.

Ramon Mendoza, Yucca Valley, stated he is totally opposed of the process council elected to use to fill the vacancy.

Michal Alaniz, Yucca Valley, commented that Curt Duffy has the skills of innovation and vision to help the Town.

William Swinnerton, Yucca Valley, questioned who directed staff to come up with the questions that were going to be asked.

Tim Humphreville, Yucca Valley, spoke in opposition to appointing Lori Herbel to the council.

Charles McHenry, Yucca Valley, spoke in opposition to the appointment process stating the people have a right to vote for their representatives.

Claudia Sall, Pioneertown, spoke in favor of appointing Lori Herbel or Curt Duffy

Lori Herbel, Yucca Valley, stated the people would like someone that they voted for placed on the Council, noting it would be a good idea to either get someone who has experience or calling a special election.

David Fick, Joshua Tree, commented regarding the Wal-Mart EIR.

Jennifer Collins, Yucca Valley, reminded council they were elected and the Community looks to them make decisions for us. The person you select for the position should be for the community's future.

Mayor Huntington address Mr. Swinnerton's questions regarding why the appointment process was selected and the fact that the Town Manager asked each Council Member to give him 10 questions which were then discussed at the special meeting and pared down to the final 10.

Council Member Hagerman advised he did vote one way or the other on every single question.

Mayor Huntington advised the issue of a special election is timing more than cost. He advised that each Council Member has been given a sheet with all 9 candidates listed on it, requested the Council advise of their criteria for selecting candidates and vote on those candidates they wish to interview.

Council Member Rowe added that the Council is using a ballot so that no one is swayed by another's votes.

Upon discussion it was determined that candidates who received three votes from Council would be invited back to interview.

Council Member Luckino expressed concern regarding filling the position for 3 ½ years and suggested that no one would challenge Council's decision to make a short term appointment and clean up the process with an ordinance thereafter.

Council Member Rowe questioned if that would be violating state law. Town Manager Nuaimi answered state statute gives two options one to appoint for the duration of the term or call a special election. Because we do not have an ordinance in place we have to follow state law. Whether or not someone would challenge it is unknown and calls into question the actions taken over the next several months. Mayor Huntington advised he would be against not following state law.

Mayor Huntington advised that he had 10 criteria: 1) that the applicant demonstrated dedication to the community through service, volunteerism or other form of commitment; 2) the candidate would consider running for Council in 2014; 3) candidate has respect for and is respected by Council and staff and would work toward consensus; 4) the candidate has tenure in the community and has remained in touch with the Town's issues; 5) candidate is representative and respected by the voters based on the past election and the candidate's position; 6) the candidate is without a special agenda, a specific agenda, except for the betterment of Yucca Valley; 7) the candidate has the time and ability to meet the demands of office; 8) the candidate possesses values which are balanced and can be representative of both sides of an issue; 9) candidate has experience and expertise which will contribute and be beneficial to Council issues; and 10) candidate goals represent reasonable and valid expectations for the Town.

Council Member Luckino requested clarification that there would be a vacant seat until after an election in August. Town Manager Nuaimi advised the election in August would have had to have been called by May 4th so is no longer available as an option, and now the special election would be in November. He added that the seat would remain empty until that election. Council Member Luckino advised his criteria was education; community involvement; and communication;

Council Member Rowe stated she looked at applicants who have genuine care and concern for the community and basin; volunteerism and a knowledge of the community; understanding of the inner workings of the Town; time and ability to serve; and the ability to work well with various personalities.

Council Member Hagerman looked at what a majority of the voters voted on; involvement in the community; and time in the community.

The Council voted to interview the following candidates as follows:

Hagerman: Abel, Alberg, Cooper, Johnson and Leone

Rowe: Abel, Alberg, Cooper, Duffy, Herbel

Luckino: Abel, Alberg, Cooper, Duffy, Herbel, Leone, Mueller

Huntington: Abel, Cooper, Duffy, Herbel, Johnson

Candidates to be interviewed are Able, Alberg, Cooper, Duffy, and Herbel

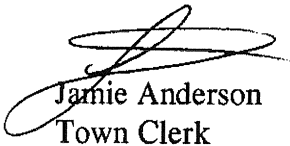
Upon discussion consensus was to allow each applicant 30 minutes to interview with a 2 minute opening statement, individual Council questions and a 1 minute closing statement. The interviews will be held in an open forum with all applicants present. The decision of who to appoint will be made at that meeting.

Mayor Huntington thanked all the applicants, noting this is a very important decision for the Council and you have made it easier by your participation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


Jamie Anderson
Town Clerk