

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 17, 2015**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

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

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

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Yakimow, Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, Town Attorney Laymon, Police Chief Mondary, Finance Manager Cisneros, and Town Clerk Copeland

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Huntington.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Jack McGrath, Yucca Valley introduced his sister, who presented Mayor Huntington with a Saint Patrick's Day gift.

Sarann Graham and Sheldon Hough, Board Directors for Hi Desert Water District, thanked Mayor Huntington and Town Manager Yakimow for supporting the district in Sacramento relating to funding for the wastewater project.

**PRESENTATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS**

**1. San Bernardino County Fire- Benfield Recognition**

Mayor Huntington presented a plaque to San Bernardino County Fire Division Chief Benfield in recognition of his retirement.

**2. Animal Care and Control Update**

Animal Care and Control Manager Crider presented an update, giving statistics and activity reports for 2014.

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

Council Member Lombardo inquired on the activity levels and functionality of the new facility.

Mayor Pro Tem Leone commented on the outreach in the local newspaper and

encouraged the public to consider adopting a family pet.

Council Member Denison inquired on the volunteer hours reported.

Council Member Abel commented on animal adoption rates, and spoke favorably of the local veterinarians supporting the local spay and neuter voucher program.

Mayor Huntington inquired on the increase of incoming phone calls as reported. Crider explained that the new phone system is able to accurately capture the call information.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tem Leone moved to approve the agenda for the Town Council meeting of March 3, 2015. Council Member Denison seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

- AYES:** Council Members Abel, Denison, Leone, Lombardo and Mayor Huntington
- 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 of February 12, 2015, February 17, 2015, and March 3, 2015 as presented.
- 5. **Designate** the SANBAG Representative and Alternate as Voting Delegates to the SCAG Annual General Assembly.
- 6. **Receive** and file the 2014 General Plan Annual Report
- 7. **Receive** and file the AB1234 Reporting Requirement Schedule for the month of February 2015
- 8. **Ratify** the Payroll Register total of \$141,910.77 for checks dated February 27, 2015 and **Ratify** the Warrant Register total of \$450,084.31 for checks dated March 5, 2015

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

Mayor Pro Tem Leone moved to approve the Consent Agenda items 3-8. Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

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

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**9. AB 266 (Cooley) Legislation Position and Letter of Support**

Town Manager Yakimow presented the staff report, explaining that AB 266 (Cooley) has been introduced in the 2015-16 Regular Session of the California Legislature and would amend existing legislation related to Proposition 215 and SB 420. The bill attempts to provide a framework for medical marijuana distribution that upholds local control, addresses public safety concerns, and includes health and safety requirements.

Mayor Huntington opened public comment on the item. Town Clerk Copeland announced that two public comments were receive via email prior to this evening’s meeting by Catherine Brown, Yucca Valley, and Debi Wagner, Yucca Valley, both asking the Town Council to remain neutral on this subject until after the June 2, 2015 special election.

Becki Vowles, Pioneertown spoke in opposition of the item.

Steve Gibson, Yucca Valley spoke in opposition of the item.

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

Council Member Lombardo spoke favorably of AB 266, as it provides a framework for uniformity, and additional safety and control aspects.

Council Member Denison commented that AB 266 reads as an umbrella over the operations of medical marijuana facilities and doesn’t want to blur what the local ordinance provisions include.

Council Member Abel spoke in opposition of submitting a letter of support.

Mayor Pro Tem Leone commented on AB 266, as it would allow for local control.

Council Member Abel moved to receive and file the report and to abstain from sending a letter of support at this time. Council Member Lombardo seconded. Motion carried 3-2 with Mayor Pro Tem Leone and Mayor Huntington voting no.

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

**10. Resolution No. 15-05  
Pima Trail, Palm Avenue to approximately 500 Feet East of Church Street;  
Approximately 660 Linear Feet;  
Accepting that Portion of Pima Trail into the Town’s Maintained Road System**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA ACCEPTING PIMA TRAIL, FROM PALM AVENUE TO APPROXIMATELY 500 FEET EAST OF CHURCH STREET INTO THE TOWN MAINTAINED ROAD SYSTEM

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report, giving explanation that the Town Council action is required to accept or take roads not currently maintained into the Town’s Maintained Road System. Considering prior Town Council action, staff has completed several steps in administratively preparing the roadway for inclusion into the system. Once this portion of Pima Trail is included into the Maintained Roadway System, this segment of road will be maintained by the Town as a dirt road until such time as the Hi Desert Water District completes installation of the sewer collection system.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Leone inquired on the benefits of including the road into the system.

Council Member Denison inquired if there were any flood control issues in this area.

Mayor Pro Tem Leone moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-05, incorporating Pima Trail, from Palm Avenue to approximately 500 feet east of Church Street into the Town’s Maintained Road System. Council Member Denison seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

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

**11. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission Appointments**

Town Clerk Copeland presented the staff report, explaining that there currently are four vacancies on the PRCC. As liaisons to appointed members of Town Commissioners, Council

Members have the opportunity to nominate a representative to the PRCC, with ratification by the entire Council. Terms will be for four (4) years expiring on January 31, 2019, with Council Member Lombardo’s nomination to fill a partial term vacancy expiring January 31, 2017.

After extended recruitment, 10 applications were received for consideration. Since recruitment, two applicants withdrew their applications. Town Council received the remaining applications for review.

Mayor Huntington opened public comment.

The following applicants introduced themselves to the Town Council and spoke of their qualifications: Eric Quander, Ed Keesling, Andrea Riesgo, Gregory Hill, and William Sasnett.

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

Mayor Huntington opened nominations for the position of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commissioner.

Mayor Pro Tem Leone nominated Eric Quander for the position of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commissioner, with term expiring January 31, 2019. Council Member Lombardo seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

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

Council Member Abel nominated Randy Eigner for the position of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commissioner, with term expiring January 31, 2019. Mayor Pro Tem Leone seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

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

Council Member Lombardo nominated Ed Keesling for the position of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commissioner, with term expiring January 31, 2017. Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

- AYES:** Council Members Abel, Denison, Leone, Lombardo and Mayor Huntington

**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**ABSENT:** None

Council Member Denison nominated Gregory Hill for the position of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commissioner, with term expiring January 31, 2019. Mayor Pro Tem Leone seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

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

**12. Independent Audit Appointment**

Finance Manager Cisneros presented the staff report for the selection of the Town’s independent financial auditor. Cisneros explained the Request for Proposal review process, and the Town’s Audit Subcommittee involvement. Cisneros stressed that the audit firm periodically changes their staff assigned to each of their clients to provide a comprehensive and ethical service. It is the Audit Subcommittee’s recommendation to appoint Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott, LLP RAMS) to be the Town’s Independent Financial Auditor.

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

Council Member Abel thanked the Audit Subcommittee for their time in the process.

Mayor Huntington commented on the length of time RAMS has worked with the Town, and spoke favorably of their past services.

Mayor Pro Tem Leone moved to appoint Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott, LLP, to be the Town’s Independent Auditor, and award a contract for services with the firm for a three year period beginning with the fiscal year 2014-15. Council Member Abel seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

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

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Lombardo requested a visioning session to plan for the future needs of the Town.

Mayor Pro Tem Leone would like to discuss bringing dirt roads into the Town's maintained road system.

Huntington reminded the Council that there has been recent discussion on dirt roads.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle gave a brief update on the Dumosa signal project.

Town Manager Yakimow announced that the Town's spring/summer activity guide is out and available for perusal and congratulated the Brehm Family on the grand opening of the Hawks Landing Golf Course.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

13. Council Member Abel thanked all who applied for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission and welcomed the newly appointment commissioners. Abel thanked Deputy Town Manager Stueckle and Project Engineer Qishta on their work on the Dumosa signal project, keeping the traffic moving during construction.
14. Council Member Denison thanked the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission applicants. Denison announced his attendance at the recent Sports Council meeting, noting that it is a very enthusiastic group, working together for the youth of the community.
15. Council Member Lombardo thanked the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission applicants, and expressed his enjoyment playing golf at Hawks Landing this past week and thanked the Brehm Family for the opportunity.
16. Mayor Pro Tem Leone wished Division Chief well on his retirement and thanked him for his service to the community. Leone also thanked the wonderful field of applicants who applied for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission, and congratulated the newly appointed commissioners.
17. Mayor Huntington also reported that he enjoyed the day at the Hawks Landing Golf Course Grand Opening, noting it is great to have the facility back up and running.

Huntington also reported attending the Battle Color Ceremony aboard the Marine Base and congratulated Division Chief Benfield on his retirement. Huntington welcomed the new PRCC members.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.in the Yucca Valley Community Center Yucca Room

**CLOSED SESSION**

**1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

A closed session will be held, pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), to confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation to which the Town is a party. The title of such litigation is as follows: Town of Yucca Valley vs. Yashraj Hospitality, Inc., dba Best Western Yucca Valley Hotel and Suites, Nathsons Hospitality, Inc., Venokumar Nathraj, Charmaine Nathraj et. al; CIVDS1415964; San Bernardino County Superior Court

**2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

A closed session will be held, pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1), to confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation to which the City is a party. The title of such litigation is as follows: Frank Lindsay vs. Town of Yucca Valley; Case Number 515-cv-0036-VAP-DTBx; United States District Court

Town Attorney Laymon announced the Closed Session items, and informed the public that the Report Out on Closed Session will be conducted at Town Hall immediately following Closed Session.

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

Mayor Huntington adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 7:29 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT/ADJOURNMENT**

Town Attorney Laymon reported that Closed Session adjourned at 7:55 p.m. with no reportable action.

Respectfully Submitted,



**YUCCA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

**March 17, 2015**

Lesley Copeland, CMC  
Town Clerk