

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 20, 2015**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Abel, Denison, Leone, Lombardo, Huntington

ABSENT:

Staff Members present were: Town Manager Yakimow, Police Chief Joling, Finance Manager Cisneros, Community Services Manager Earnest, Town Attorney Laymon and Town Clerk Copeland

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Mayor Huntington

**INVOCATION**

With no member of the clergy present, Mayor Huntington invited the public in a moment of silence.

**PRESENTATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:**

Council Member Lombardo moved to approve the meeting agenda for October, 20, 2015 as prepared. Mayor Pro Tem Leone seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESULT:** APPROVED [4 TO 0]

**MOVER:** Merl Abel, Council Member

**SECONDER:** Robert Leone, Mayor Pro Tem

**AYES:** Merl Abel, Rick Denison, Robert Leone, George Huntington

**ABSTAIN:** Robert Lombardo

Council Member Lombardo voted to approve consent agenda items 1, 2, 4-6, however abstained from the approval of Item 3- October 6, 2015 meeting minutes.

- 1. Waive further reading of all ordinances (if any in the agenda) and read by title only.**

**MOTION:**

Waive further reading of all ordinances and read by title only.

**2. Approval of September 15, 2015 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:**

Approve the Town Council meeting minutes of September 15, 2015 as presented.

**3. Approval of October 6, 2015 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:**

Approve the Town Council meeting minutes of October 6, 2015 as presented.

**4. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Town of Yucca Valley (Town) and Morongo Unified School District (District) for the School Resource Officer Program.**

**MOTION:**

That the Town Council approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Yucca Valley and the Morongo Unified School District regarding service relative to the School Resource Officer Program and authorize the Town Manager to sign all necessary documents.

**5. Approve the AB1234 Reporting Requirements**

**MOTION:**

Receive and file the AB1234 Reporting Requirement Schedule for the month of September 2015

**6. Approve the Warrant Registers**

**MOTION:**

Ratify the Payroll Registers for checks dated September 25, 2015, and October 9, 2015, totaling \$154,564.93 and \$136,274.42 respectively.

Ratify the Warrant Register for checks dated October 8, 2015, totaling \$560,761.75.

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

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**7. 2015-16 Youth Commission Appointment**

Community Services Manager Earnest presented the staff report on the appointment of Youth Commissioners for the 2015-16 school year and invited the candidates that were present to introduce themselves.

Applicants include: Francisco Gonzales, Kavanaugh Clow, Blake Rowe, Miranda Green, Courtney Linzner, Caitlin Rowe, Emily Sheckler, Madison Tuttle, Zoie Gianforte, Angelina Quirnte, Vianne Militar, Zoe Beers, Gabrielle Kanuch, Caleb Robinson, Aurora Valdes, Tommy Cruz, Rachael Kee, Angel Rodriguez, Timothy High, and Veronica Rodriguez.

The following applicants were recommended for selection as Youth Commission Alternates: Noah Fraser, Destiny Spruell, George Lewis, Mandy Lewis, and Sierra Rogers.

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

Mayor Abel thanked the applicants and stated it was nice to see many returning faces.

Council Member Denison welcomed the applicants and noted their willingness to step up in the community and be a part of local government.

Council Member Lombardo thanked the applicants for their introductions and willingness to make a difference in their community.

Mayor Pro Tem Leone and Mayor Huntington also welcomed the applicants and thanked them for their interest.

**MOTION:**

Appoint the applicants recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission to the 2015-16 Youth Commission, and authorize the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission to review future applications and make subsequent appointments on behalf of the Council.

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|------------------|--|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Robert Lombardo, Council Member            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Robert Leone, Mayor Pro Tem                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Abel, Denison, Leone, Lombardo, Huntington |

**8. Facility Use Policy Approval**

Community Services Manager Earnest presented the staff report explaining that a review of the Facility Use Policy is necessary to ensure that the document is up to date and sufficiently guides decisions regarding the use of Town buildings and outdoor areas. Earnest gave an overview of suggested modifications to the facility use policy.

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

Council Member Lombardo inquired on the use of facilities and if recent use is consistent with prior activity.

Mayor Pro Tem Leone commented on a variety of user groups using the facilities and thanked staff for coordinating the use process.

Council Member Denison inquired on the procedure of refunding deposits for last minute cancellations.

Council Member Abel asked about the amount of activity on outside table and chair rentals and also requested clarification on the fee waiver review process through the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission.

Mayor Huntington inquired if non-resident/commercial fees were based on cost recovery.

**MOTION:**

Review and approve the suggested modifications to the existing Facility Use Policy as approved by the Town’s Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission

- RESULT:**           **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
- MOVER:**           Robert Leone, Mayor Pro Tem
- SECONDER:**       Merl Abel, Council Member
- AYES:**             Abel, Denison, Leone, Lombardo, Huntington

**9. Authorization of Additional payment to CalPERS Side fund Loan**

Finance Manager Cisneros presented the staff report to request authorization of an additional payment to the CalPERS Side fund loan. Cisneros explained that by paying off the full Side Fund Loan, the Town would save \$169,936 in interest expense over the term of the loan. The Side Fund Loan currently has an interest rate of 7.5%.

It is projected that at the end of FY 2015-16, the Town's unrestricted reserves will be \$5,818,143 or 58% of budgeted operating expenditures. With the requested appropriation of funds, the unrestricted reserves will decrease this projection to \$5,316,591 or 54% which is still within the modified reserve policy range and significantly above the reserve policy balances adopted by Council in April 2015.

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

After discussion, consensus was made among the Council Members in favor of paying off the CalPERS Side Fund Loan.

**MOTION:**

1. Amend the 2015-16 Budget to appropriate \$501,552 in the General Fund from unrestricted reserves to pay in full the side fund loan balance portion of the unfunded liabilities.
2. Authorize payment in the amount of \$501,552 to CalPERS to pay in full the side fund loan balance portion of the unfunded liabilities.

**RESULT:**           **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:**           Robert Lombardo, Council Member  
**SECONDER:**       Merl Abel, Council Member  
**AYES:**             Abel, Denison, Leone, Lombardo, Huntington

**10. Strategic Planning Calendar and Update**

Town Manager Yakimow presented the staff report, giving a brief background on outreach sessions currently underway for the Council's strategic planning process. Strategic Planning workshops were held prior to the regular Council Meetings of October 6th and October 20th. An online survey is also seeing activity, bringing additional input from the community. The anticipated schedule for the Strategic Planning process is outreach and public input during the month of October, the completion of the draft Strategic Plan update of goals, objectives and initiatives and a proposed work plan for review in November. In December, the Council will consider approval of the final Strategic Plan update of goals, objectives and initiatives, work plan, and give policy guidance to staff regarding the integration of the work plan into the 2016-18 budget process.

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

The Town Council held discussion on topics targeted through the outreach process including public safety, infrastructure, government services including recreation, cultural and arts, code compliance, community planning, building and safety, animal control and fire and EMT services, and current and future resources.

**MOTION:**

1. Receive and file the proposed calendar of activities related to the Town's 2015 Strategic Planning efforts;
2. Provide input as desired for background information, topical information, or general areas of interest to include as part of the Town's Strategic Planning activities.

**RESULT:** RECEIVED AND FILED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Merl Abel, Council Member  
**SECONDER:** Robert Lombardo, Council Member  
**AYES:** Abel, Denison, Leone, Lombardo, Huntington

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Denison requested an update on the Town’s medical marijuana regulations and how they relate to recent legislation at the State level.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Huntington opened public comments.

Clayton Donnell, Yucca Valley spoke of local crime.

Rebecca Havelly, 29 Palms spoke in support of a local community arts theatre.

Ronald Stimbert, Yucca Valley spoke in favor of a community arts theater in Yucca Valley.

Becki Vowles, Pioneertown, thanked the Town for the community outreach and requested the Town Council updated the medical marijuana ordinance.

Tyson Smith, Yucca Valley reported on the homeless population in Yucca Valley and the need for services.

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

**STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Town Manager Yakimow gave update on the clean up efforts from the recent rains. The Community Services Department is hosting a Halloween Spooktacular event on Saturday, Oct 31st from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Captain Joling announced that San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department is hosting a large neighborhood watch training meeting on November 16th in the evening. Joling also reminded the public of Citizen on Patrol meetings that occur on the first Tuesday of month in the Yucca Valley Community Center Mesquite Room. The public is invited to attend.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Council Member Abel- congratulated the Youth Commission and thanked the Commissioners for their participation tonight. Abel thanked the public for participating in the Strategic Planning process.

Council Member Denison- thanked the Sheriff's Department on addressing the local crime incidents, and thanked the public for their input this evening.

Council Member Lombardo- welcomed the newly appointed Youth Commissioners.

Mayor Pro Tem Leone- also thanked the Youth Commission and expressed appreciation to the public for giving input on important issues in our community.

Mayor Huntington- thanked the attendees at the meeting for their participation and welcomed the Youth Commissioners.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming Meeting Agenda**

The next regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Yucca Valley Community Center Yucca Room.

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

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

Attorney Laymon read the Closed Session item. Any reportable action will be announced immediately after Closed Session at Town Hall.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

A closed session will be held, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4) because the Town is considering whether to initiate litigation in one (1) case.

**REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION/ADJOURNMENT**

Town Attorney Laymon reported that Closed Session ended at 8:40 p.m. with no reportable action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC

Town Clerk