

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Abel, Denison, Leone, Lombardo, Huntington

ABSENT:

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Yakimow, Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, Police Captain Joling, Finance Manager Cisneros, 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 all in a moment of silence.

**PRESENTATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS**

**1. Third District Supervisor James Ramos- Staff Introductions**

San Bernardino County Supervisor James Ramos introduced his newly appointed 3rd District Field Representative, Mark Lundquist and Executive Aide Christina Garcia.

**2. Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce**

Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Wanda Stadum presented the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Report.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Leone inquired on the Leads Luncheon schedule.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 3. 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.

- 4. Approval of August 18, 2015 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:**  
Approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2015 as presented

- 5. Approve the Ordinance No. 257 Adoption

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE YUCCA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 8, ADDING CHAPTER 8.05, IMPLEMENTING AB 2188, PROVIDING AN EXPEDITED, STREAMLINED PERMITTING PROCESS FOR SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEMS.**

**MOTION:**  
That the Town Council Adopts Ordinance No. 257

- 6. Approve the LTF Claim for Local Streets and Roads

**MOTION:**  
Authorize the Finance Manager to file a claim with the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) for Local Transportation Funds (LTF) in the amount of \$26,426.

- 7. Approve the Treasurer's Report for the Quarter Ending June 30, 2015

**MOTION:**

Receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the fourth quarter of FY 2014-15.

8. **Approve the Warrant Registers dated August 14 and August 20, 2015**

**MOTION:**

Ratify the Warrant Register totaling \$651,225.35 dated August 20, 2015. Ratify the Payroll Register totaling \$144,571.12 dated August 14, 2015.

9. **Approve the 2015/2016 Town Wide Slurry Seal Project – Town Project No.8340; Acceptance of Project as Substantially Complete**

**MOTION:**

That the Town Council accepts the project as substantially complete, authorizes staff to file the Notice of Completion, authorizes the reduction of the Faithful Performance Bond to 10%, and directs staff to retain the Labor and Material Bond for six (6) months for Project No.8340.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

10. **Budget Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2015**

Finance Manager Cisneros presented the staff report, reporting the final budget figures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Revenue exceeded the final budget by \$492,965 and expenditures were \$721,836 less than anticipated for the year. The excess in revenue is primarily due to a one time increase in Transient Occupancy Tax in the amount of \$318,000 and an increase in property tax revenue of \$150,000. Expenditures were less than the final budget largely as a result as savings realized in insurance, professional services and operating supplies throughout various departments within the Town.

Total General Fund Reserves are \$8.3 Million, an increase of \$596,268. Staff will bring back to Council at the next meeting, options to allocate the positive net change in fund balance.

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

Council Member Lombardo commended staff on a great year and thanked Cisneros for the report.

Council Member Abel thanked staff for taking a conservative approach with the approved budget and requested additional explanation on the water pre-purchase

agreement with Hi Desert Water and loan for the Senior Housing Project as identified in the non-cash reservations of \$621,000.

**MOTION:**

**Receive and file the Budget Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015**

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

**11. Capital Projects and Engineering Update**

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report providing project status updates and anticipated schedules on capital projects, special studies, and private land development activities currently underway in the Engineering Division.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Leone inquired on safety concerns along Hwy 247 in the construction zone.

Council Member Lombardo commented on the summary of funds available for street construction projects, and asked if the \$8.6 million meets the need of the infrastructure construction.

Council Member Denison commented favorably on the Dumosa Signal and the importance of having a signal at this location.

Mayor Huntington thanked Stueckle on the report and spoke of concerns in coordinating schedules with HDWD and the installation of the sewer system and stated he would like to see new berms to improve drainage and bicycle lanes included in areas as road sections are completed.

**MOTION:**

**That the Town Council receives and files the report.**

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

**12. Town Facility Update and Policy Direction**

Town Manager Yakimow presented the staff report giving a status update on possible uses for the former Pomona First Federal Bank building, and the adjacent lot. In April 2015, the Council provided direction to move forward with the engagement of Gillis and Panichapan Architects, Incorporated to assist the Town in evaluating the property to determine feasibility of utilizing the property for appropriate Town purposes, as a lease option for County facilities, or alternatively, identify other potential uses consistent with the current municipal use designation for the facility.

In accordance to the State-approved Long Range Property Management Plan for former RDA properties, the Town is allowed to dispose of the property, though doing so would likely require the disbursement of any proceeds to go to the affected taxing agencies according to prior pass-thru formulas. In such a case, the Town's portion would be limited to approximately 17% of any proceeds.

Mayor Huntington opened public comments.

Phyllis Schwartz, Yucca Valley would like to see the building used as a community cultural arts building.

Esther Shaw, Yucca Valley spoke in favor of using the former PFF building as a cultural arts center.

Bonnie Brady, Yucca Valley expressed the need for venues to display art and to host art events and would like some art components considered in the use of the former PFF building.

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

Council Member Lombardo spoke in favor of alternative three, to see what options the current consultant will bring to the table. Lombardo also expressed interest in incorporating a cultural component if feasible.

Mayor Pro Tem Leone stated he looks forward to the current study and would like to see the building used for municipal use for a higher visibility in the community, especially for public safety.

Council Member Abel inquired on the square footage of the building, and spoke favorably of incorporating art within the site. Abel stated he supportive of option three at this point in the process.

Council Member Denison thanked the public for their input, and expressed he is interested in seeing the results of the current consultant's study before entertaining the other options.

Mayor Huntington also would like to see the study before committing to a different approach.

Consensus was made among the Council, to move forward with the current municipal use approach, and defer further private development analysis pending the results of the current study and associated recommendations.

**MOTION:**

**It is recommended that the Town Council:**

- 1. Receive and file the status update of the former Pomona First Federal bank building;**
- 2. Provide policy direction related to seeking an additional market demand and highest and best use analysis for the existing facility, with a focus on potential private/commercial uses for the existing site(s).**

**RESULT: RECEIVED AND FILED [UNANIMOUS]**

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

**SECONDER:** Robert Lombardo, Council Member

**AYES:** Abel, Denison, Leone, Lombardo, Huntington

**13. Strategic Planning Process and Calendar**

Town Manager Yakimow presented the staff report requesting input on the upcoming strategic planning process.

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

Council Member Lombardo encouraged the public to participated in the upcoming strategic planning process.

Council Member Abel looks forward to stakeholder input for the strategic planning process.

**MOTION:**

**It is recommended that the Town Council:**

- 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:** Robert Lombardo, Council Member  
**SECONDER:** Rick Denison, Council Member  
**AYES:** Abel, Denison, Leone, Lombardo, Huntington

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None Stated

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Captain Joling updating the Council on recent public safety activity in Yucca Valley.

Town Manager Yakimow announced a "Save the Date" for the Mayor's State of the Basin luncheon scheduled for October 29th and thanked the Chamber for their outreach in promoting Yucca Valley.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

- Council Member Abel- thanked Captain Joling for the update and the Sheriff's Department presence around our local schools. Abel welcomed Lundquist and Garcia to their posts at the County Supervisor's Office and is looking forward to the Town's upcoming Strategic Planning sessions.
- Council Member Denison- thanked Captain Joling for the update and the wonderful collaboration with public safety agencies and the community on the recent Wal Mart fire. Denison also welcomed Mark Lundquist to his new office.
- Council Member Lombardo also thanked Captain Joling for the update and welcomed Lundquist and Garcia. Lombardo thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their hard work this past year in marketing Yucca Valley and supporting the local businesses and asked the public to participate in the strategic planning sessions in October.
- Mayor Pro Tem Leone welcomed Mark Lundquist and Christina Garcia to their new assignments.
- Mayor Huntington also expressed congratulations to Lunquist and Garcia and thanked the fire department for their quick response at the Wal Mart fire. Huntington explained the expansion of the annual State of the Town address to include other local agencies for a nice State of the Basin event this year.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

The next regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Yucca Valley Community Center Yucca Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was closed at 7:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC

Town Clerk