

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2020**

CLOSED SESSION

Pending Litigation

The Town Council will meet in closed session pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1) to confer with legal counsel with regard to the following matter of pending litigation:

- A. John Doe v. Town of Yucca Valley; case number: CIVDS 2003722

Potential Litigation

The Town Council will meet in closed session pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) and (3) to confer with legal counsel with regard to one matter of potential exposure to litigation.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Drozd reported closed session adjourned at 5:50 p.m. with no reportable action.

OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Drozd called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

ABSENT:

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Yakimow, Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, Community Services Manager Earnest Public Works Director Baldizzone, Human Resources and Risk Manager Breidenbach-Sterling, Police Captain Niles, Town Attorney Jex (remote), and Town Clerk Copeland

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Human Resources and Risk Manager Breidenbach-Sterling

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merl Abel, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER: Robert Lombardo, Council Member
AYES: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Robert Lombardo, Council Member
SECONDER: Jim Schooler, Council Member
AYES: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

1. Town Council - Special Meeting Minutes- Mar 10, 2020 6:00 PM

MOTION:
 Approve the meeting minutes of March 10, 2020 as presented.

2. Town Council - Regular Meeting Minutes- Mar 17, 2020 6:00 PM

MOTION:
 Approve the meeting minutes of March 17, 2020 as presented.

3. Approve the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Pandemic Local Emergency Policy

MOTION:
 Adopt the Town of Yucca Valley 2019 Novel Coronavirus Pandemic Local Emergency Policy

4. Approve the Budget Amendment, Quality Street Sweeping Services Agreement, Fifth Amendment, Following the March 10, 2020 Strom Event

MOTION:
 Amend the FY 2019/2020 budget by appropriating \$60,000 from Gas Tax Fund 515 undesignated reserves to 515 Gas Tax Professional Services, 515-7110; and

Approve the Fifth Amendment to the Service Agreement with Quality Street Services, Inc., dated June 20, 2017, increasing the compensation from \$90,000 to \$150,000 for fiscal year 2019/2020.

5. Approve the Grant Agreement between the Town of Yucca Valley and Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District for the Installation of EV Charging Stations at the California Welcome Center

MOTION:
 Authorize the Town Manager to execute the Grant Agreement between the Town of Yucca Valley and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District for the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations at the California Welcome Center.

Mayor Drozd opened public comments for the consent agenda items. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS**6. Yucca Together Economic Assistance Package**

Town Manager Yakimow presented the staff report for the #YuccaTogether Economic Assistance Program in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The proposed program would initially run through June 30, 2020 to provide immediate relief to local independent businesses that have borne the brunt of the economic shutdown. The Town's anticipated fiscal impact of the economic assistance program is estimated at \$277,900.

Town Manager Yakimow requested a change to recommendation item #3 to include grants as well as loans.

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

Council Member Lombardo inquired if short-term vacation rentals are considered as a small business and spoke in favor of assisting the Town's small businesses.

Mayor Drozd inquired on the loss of income from short-term vacation rentals.

Council Member Schooler noted he is in favor of helping small businesses and explained short-term vacation rentals may have different options for assistance. Schooler would like to see this program be available for the brick and mortar type businesses only.

Council Member Denison was in favor of the program, expressing the importance of our local businesses.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel thanked staff for pulling this together and would prefer the program to be for brick and mortar type businesses. Abel inquired on recent business registration and licensing transactions since the "stay at home" order has been in place and if Council will be able to review the program if modifications are needed.

Mayor Drozd stated he likes that the program is geared for local small businesses, with a focus on community.

MOTION:

1. Review and approve the proposed Economic Assistance Package as part of the Town's Yucca Together response to assist local businesses in the Town of Yucca Valley, with the exemption to exclude Short-Term Vacation Rentals from the loan/grant portion of the Business Assistance Program.
2. Amend the FY 2019-20 General Fund budget to accommodate the proposed Economic Assistance Package as attached in Exhibit A.

3. Amend the FY 2019-20 Measure Y Fund budget allocating \$250,000 to fund an interest-free loan program and grant opportunities as an extension of the Town's Measure Y Community Partnership Program as attached in Exhibit B, excluding short-term vacation rental businesses.

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

7. **Prop 68 Aquatics & Recreation Center Project Recommendation**

Community Services Manager Earnest presented the staff report, reviewing key takeaways from previous discussions, noting Town Council direction, internal financial analysis review, and financing structure.

The LPA team, John Courtney LPA Project Manager, Irash Idnani LPA Director of Sports+Recreation, and Darin Barr Ballard*King Principal presented remotely, providing a summary of the concept process, previous Town Council discussion and concept plans 1-6.

Mayor Drozd opened public comments.

Clint Stoker, Yucca Valley (Planning Commission, Prop 68 Project Citizen Advisory Group Member) spoke on concern with the plans being presented and the cost of proposed options increasing at each presentation. Stoker continued to express that Concept 2 is not a robust enough project for a new facility of this type.

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

Council Member Denison stated he would like to strive for the best facility we can and noted the importance of including staff areas. Denison likes Concept 6 but may come back to Concept 2 for phasing options.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel inquired if the proposed Boys and Girls Club facility site is causing the construction costs to increase and questioned the cost of the splashpad option. Abel expressed he likes Concept 6, but as noted in public comment, is concerned about the presented costs.

Council Member Schooler also expressed the need for a nicer facility for the community and would like to strive for Concept 6. Schooler also agreed with comments made from Mr. Stoker and spoke of staffing concerns for year-round programming.

Town Manager Yakimow commented on staffing levels included in the analysis.

Council Member Schooler expressed the need to keep this facility busy and would like to see the inclusion of the splash pad with the project.

Council Member Lombardo also noted he prefers Concept Plan 6 as it is important to have an indoor pool and a splash pad, and hopefully savings can be found along the way.

Mayor Drozd expressed Concept Plan 6 is a great facility to shoot for and commented on the previous conversation to possibly add a couple more indoor lanes, not sure if that is possible.

Mayor Drozd called a brief recess at 7:25 PM to attend to technical challenges with LPA's remote connection. The meeting was reconvened at 7:46 PM.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel inquired again, if the facility site was the reasoning for the facility amenities going down while costs going up.

MOTION:

1. Approve Design Concept 6 for the Prop 68 Aquatics & Recreation Center Project and direct staff to move forward with the creation of an application for Phase 1b and Phase 2 of the Project for submission to the state under the Statewide Park Program - Desert Community Program.
2. Direct staff to move forward with the CEQA process for both Brehm Park site locations as discussed.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Jeff Drozd, Mayor
SECONDER: Robert Lombardo, Council Member
AYES: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

8. Agreement for Professional Services, Proposition 68 Project, California Environmental Quality Act Review - PlaceWorks;

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report, requesting the approval of a professional services agreement with Placeworks relating to the CEQA process for the Prop 68 Recreation and Aquatics Facility location.

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

MOTION:

Authorize the Town Manager to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with PlaceWorks, to prepare an addendum to the '2010 Adopted Mitigated Negative

Declaration for the Brehm Youth Sports Park project' for the Town's Proposition 68 Aquatics and Recreational Center Project, with a maximum contract value of \$71,320 with a 10% contingency of \$7,132.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Rick Denison, Council Member
SECONDER: Jim Schooler, Council Member
AYES: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Drozd opened public comments for items not on the agenda. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Town Manager Yakimow reported on a recent local multi-agency meeting regarding the current Covid-19 health crisis and presented the Town's local COVID-19 webpage. With the State's directive, Town offices will be kept closed until April 30, 2020 or until the stay at home order is lifted.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Council Member Denison reported on the recent press conference in Yucaipa, CA and asked the public to practice social distancing.

Council Member Lombardo stressed to the community to stay safe, remember to be compassionate and kind to others and thanked those are helping with food and health care.

Council Member Schooler commended Town staff for their quick reaction to the current event and keeping the Council and the public advised.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel thanked staff for the public outreach, remind public to go online to complete the Census information. Abel reported that MBTA is providing free transportation during this health crisis and expressed the new library facility is looking wonderful. Abel inquired on the senior meal program with pickup and home delivery.

Community Services Manager Earnest reported homebound meals have stayed steady and drive thru pick up has doubled this past week. Earnest also reminded the public that Reach Out Morongo Basin is available with volunteers to run errands for our local senior residents.

Mayor Drozd thanked staff, congratulated Captain Niles on his promotion, and reminded the public to respect others during this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The scheduled meeting of Tuesday, April 7, 2020 has been canceled due to a lack of agenda items.

The next regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Yucca Valley Community Center Yucca Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Drozd adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC
Town Clerk