

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2020**

CLOSED SESSION

Conference with Legal Counsel- Potential Litigation

The Town Council will meet in closed session pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) to confer with legal counsel with regard to one matter of potential initiation of litigation.

Conference with Real Property Negotiator

A closed session will be held pursuant to Government Code 54956.8 to enable the Town Council to consider negotiations regarding certain real property.

APN: 0595-071-04-0000 and 0595-091-06-0000
56625 Little League Drive, Yucca Valley, CA
Tri-Valley Little League/Richard Bradshaw
Town of Yucca Valley/Curtis Yakimow, Real Property Negotiator

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle reported that Closed Session adjourned at 5:50 PM with no reportable action.

OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Drozd, Abel, Denison (Remote), Lombardo, Schooler

ABSENT:

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Yakimow, Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, Human Resources and Risk Manager Breidenbach-Sterling, Town Attorney Jex (Remote), Community Services Manager Earnest, Public Works Director Baldizzone, Accounting and Finance Supervisor Gumbish, Police Captain Niles (Remote), Police Lieutenant Walker (Remote), and Town Clerk Copeland

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey

Mayor Drozd requested a moment of silence for the civil unrest experienced around the country.

PRESENTATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS

1. San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey, Deputy Chief Tom Marshall, and Supervisor Dawn Rowe presented information on the proposed FP-5 Special Tax.

Mayor Drozd opened public comments.

Dorothy Hennacy, Yucca Valley inquired on the property clean-up process for fire prevention.

David Jarvi, Yucca Valley spoke in opposition of the proposed tax, and suggested research be conducted on Yucca Valley forming its own fire department.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Abel thanked Chief Munsey for the presentation and commented on fire station placement. Abel inquired on the lack of a competing ballot measure.

Council Member Lombardo inquired on the proposed 3% increase every year and noted concern that Yucca Valley already pays for a larger portion of fire services.

Council Member Schooler expressed that the emotions are still high in the community on the past FP-5 tax, thanked San Bernardino County Fire and Supervisor Rowe for the presentation and the County's consideration of reducing costs with increasing efficiency. Schooler inquired on any potential funding alternatives if the FP-5 tax measure is not successful in November.

Council Member Denison spoke on fabulous fire service delivery levels in the area for residents and visitors.

Mayor Drozd reported he has heard a few comments on the topic in the community, mostly for equitability among all parcels.

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: Merl Abel, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER: Jim Schooler, Council Member
AYES: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

- 2. **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.

- 3. **Adopt Resolution No. 20-27 Calling A General Municipal Election for Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE OF THE HOLDING OF A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020 FOR THE ELECTION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS IN DISTRICT 2 AND DISTRICT 4 AS REQUIRED BY THE PROVISION OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RELATING TO GENERAL LAW CITIES

MOTION:
 Adopt Resolution No. 20-27 calling and giving notice of a General Municipal Election on November 3, 2020, for the election of certain officers for District 2 and District 4.

- 4. **Adopt the Review of Covid-19 Emergency Proclamation**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA PROCLAIMING THE CONTINUING EXISTENCE OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION AND LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE WORLDWIDE SPREAD OF COVID-19

MOTION:

1. Review the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and determine that a local emergency continues to exist within the Town of Yucca Valley; and
2. Adopt Resolution No. 20-28 proclaiming the continued existence of a local emergency with a review period to be at least once every 60 days, until its termination is proclaimed by the Town Council.

- 5. **Approve the FY 2020-21 Public Safety Contract Amendment**

MOTION:

1. Approve an amendment for fiscal year 2020-21 to the contract with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$5,629,615 and authorize the Town Manager or Mayor to sign on behalf of the Town.
2. Direct staff to include funding for the proposed amended contract as part of the final FY2020-21 Proposed Budget.
3. Direct staff and the Sheriff's Department to develop an alternative Schedule A that

reflects a 5% - 10% reduction in service cost for FY 2021-22 and return for Council discussion and consideration by September 2020.

6. Approve the 2020 San Bernardino County Point-in-Time Count Final Report

MOTION:

Receive and file this informational report about the 2020 Point-in-Time Count Final Report.

7. Approve the Community Contract Agreements

MOTION:

1. Approve the proposed agreement and scope of service for the Town's Chamber of Commerce contract services agreement for FY 2018-20 and authorize the Town Manager or Mayor to sign on behalf of the Town, including funding in a not to exceed amount of \$25,000 for FY 2020-21.
2. Authorize Amendment Three to the professional services agreement for marketing services between the Town and Desert Regional Tourism Agency and authorize the Mayor or Town Manager to execute the amendment.

Mayor Drozd opened public comments for the consent agenda items.

Art Miller, Yucca Valley spoke as President of DRTA and thanked the Town Council for the support.

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

Town Manager Yakimow noted that Agenda Item No. 7 does not have a dollar amount included in the motion and the amount of the agreement will be determined during upcoming budget discussions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. Public Nuisance Abatement at Town's Expense

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, CONFIRMING STATEMENTS OF COSTS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY FOR ABATEMENTS OF PUBLIC NUISANCES AND DIRECTING THAT SAID STATEMENTS OF COSTS CONSTITUTE A LIEN UPON SAID PROPERTIES.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report, for the placement of liens on the tax roll for those property owners who have not reimbursed the Town for costs incurred in public nuisance abatement procedures. For this item, there is one property (APN: 0595-371-38) the Town conducted an emergency abatement for polluted water and costs are \$1,253.

Mayor Drozd opened the public hearing. With no members of the public wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Drozd inquired if the issue would be resolved with the sewer system.

MOTION:

Adopt Resolution no. 20-29, placing tax liens for Code Compliance abatements on the FY 2020/2021 San Bernardino County Tax Rolls.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

9. FY 2020-21 General Fund & Measure Y Partnership Funding Allocations

Finance and Accounting Supervisor Gumbish presented the staff report for the 2020-21 Measure Y Partnership Funding, noting that the Town's Revenue Measure Oversight Commission approved the allocation of \$100,000 for the program in May 2020.

Mayor Drozd opened public comments.

Gigi Connell, Yucca Valley spoke on behalf of Mara's Christmas Wish explaining the proposed event in December 2020.

Dorothy Hennacy, Yucca Valley spoke on behalf of the Center for Healthy Generations and thanked the Town Council for the support.

Wendy Higginson spoke on behalf of Morongo Basin Tennis Association, providing information on the proposed group activities.

Nancy Eubanks, Yucca Valley spoke on behalf of Our Lady of the Desert / Ingleside Lodge.

Astrid Johnson, Twentynine Palms spoke on behalf of Morongo Basin Arch and thanked the Town Council for the funding to support their services to the area's homeless population.

Pastor Wayne Morrow spoke on behalf of the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church and explained the need for funding for their proposed program.

_____ (no name provided) spoke on the services provided by the Mil-Tree Veteran Project.

Travis Hill, Yucca Valley spoke on behalf of Yucca Valley BMX, providing an update on activities and projects happening at the local BMX track.

Wanda Stadum, Yucca Valley commented on her previous experience as a BMX track operator and spoke favorably of an electric starting gate for the local track.

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

Mayor Drozd requested the Council to consider funding the request from Yucca Valley BMX.

Council Member Lombardo spoke favorably of Yucca Valley BMX and inquired if a capital project could be funded through this program.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel thanked everyone attending this evening and thanked the public for their support of Measure Y, which is funding this program. Abel expressed he would have liked to see all the applicants present to field questions relating to their applications and requested to postpone the decision for those not in attendance this evening. Abel inquired on the amount of funding needed for the BMX race gate only.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel moved to approved staff recommendation, funding only those applicants attending this evening, postponing funding decision for the remaining recommended recipients until a future meeting, adding \$5,328 to Yucca Valley BMX for a race gate, and inviting the balance of those recommended and not in attendance to return to speak on behalf of their organization.

Council Member Denison spoke favorably of Yucca Valley BMX as an organization that has utilized prior funding well and expressed agreement to Mayor Pro Tem Abel's motion.

Council Member Schooler expressed he supports Yucca Valley BMX and inquired if the Revenue Measure Oversight Commission reviewed the applications and confirmed from staff that the applicants were not required to attend the meeting.

Council Member Lombardo noted he also thinks the applicants should be in attendance to field questions and seconded the motion.

Dorothy Hennacy, Center of Healthy Generations requested clarification on attendance.

MOTION:

1. Approve the allocation of the Town’s FY2020-21 Measure Y Partnership to the recommend applicants who were in attendance:

Mara’s Christmas Wish	\$10,000
The Center for Healthy Generations	\$ 7,000
Morongo Basin Tennis Association	\$ 5,500
Our Lady of the Desert / Ingleside Lodge	\$ 9,300
Morongo Basin ARCH	\$ 5,000
Desert Hills Presbyterian Church	\$ 5,000
Mil-Tree Veteran Project	\$ 5,000
Yucca Valley BMX	\$ 5,325
2. Postpone the review and funding allocation of remaining proposed recipients until a future meeting, and
3. Invite those applicants not in attendance to return and speak on behalf of their organization

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

10. Summer 2020 Community Services Programs – COVID-19 Update

Community Services Manager Earnest presented the staff report, giving an update on modified summer programming due to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

Mayor Drozd opened public comments.

Travis Hill, Yucca Valley inquired if alternative locations were considered to launch the fireworks and suggested Joshua Springs as a potential launch location.

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

Mayor Drozd commented on the possible concern of the public gathering in nearby streets from the fireworks launch site.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel expressed his attempt to follow up with Morongo Unified School District on their response of declining the Town's request to use Yucca Valley High School for the fireworks launch site and thanked staff for researching options. Abel noted he likes the idea of scheduling a concert in conjunction with the fireworks.

Council member Denison expressed agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Abel comments and understands the challenges of trying to close off streets and open areas around the

launch site to keep people from gathering. Denison explained he is in favor of the recommendation of hosting a concert and fireworks display for a Labor Day celebration.

Council Member Schooler understands the challenges in adapting to the current times.

Council Member Lombardo spoke favorably on the creativeness of being able to provide a modified aquatics program and also in favor of postponing fireworks with a concert and canceling the remaining 3 concerts.

MOTION:

Approve the modifications to the Summer 2020 Community Services Programs

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

11. FY2020-21 Preliminary Special Revenue Funds Budget Review

Finance and Accounting Supervisor Gumbish presented the staff report for the preliminary budget review, noting that the final budget approval is scheduled at the Town Council meeting of June 16th.

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

Council Members thanked Gumbish for the presentation and did not have any requested changes.

MOTION:

- Receive and file the staff presentation of the proposed budget for Special Revenue Funds for fiscal year 2020-21.
- Direct staff to incorporate any desired changes and return the proposed special revenue funds budget for adoption with the implementing resolutions as part of the Town’s comprehensive fiscal year 2020-21 Proposed Budget.

RESULT: RECEIVED AND FILED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Jeff Drozd, Mayor
SECONDER: Jim Schooler, Council Member
AYES: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

12. Public Health and Welfare Update - COVID 19

Town Manager Yakimow presented an update on the current COVID-19 public health event.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Council Member Denison and Council Member Schooler thanked Town Manager Yakimow for the presentation.

Council Member Lombardo reminded the public to take use of the free COVID-19 testing being offered by San Bernardino County at Copper Mountain College.

Mayor Drozd announced that Morongo Basin Transit Authority is offering rides to the testing location at Copper Mountain College.

MOTION:

Receive an update regarding State, County and Town actions related to the COVID-19 event and provide input or policy direction as desired.

RESULT:	RECEIVED AND FILED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Robert Lombardo, 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.

Dorothy Hennacy inquired on notification of Measure Y partnership funding.

Doug Hassett spoke on behalf of the 2020 Census thanking the Town for supporting the effort, Yucca Valley is doing well with the responses. Hassett explained Census efforts are being extended through October due to COVID-19.

Wanda Stadum, President and CEO of Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce provided an update to the Town Council on the Hometown HERO program, and 'OPEN" sign program.

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

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Captain Niles thanked Ms. Stadum for her support of the community and wished a Happy Birthday to Council Member Denison and Council Member Schooler.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle reported the animal shelter is open for business and updated the Council on current capital projects. Caltrans repair of Hwy 62 is not scheduled until Spring 2021.

Town Manager Yakimow updated the Town Council on the upcoming meeting schedule.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Council Member Denison thanked Supervisor Rowe for joining us this evening and thanked San Bernardino County Fire for the presentation. Denison thanked the community for supporting Measure Y as the funds are doing great things in the community and thanked the public for their respectful, peaceful protests.

Council Member Lombardo thanked staff for the hard work and encouraged the public to research FP-5 for an informed vote. Lombardo announced he will be running for the Town Council seat for District 4 in the November 2020 election.

Council Member Schooler thanked Chief Munsey, Supervisor Rowe and Deputy Chief Marshall for the FP-5 presentation and reported on his recent tour of the new library building. Schooler expressed he is excited to see the sidewalks nearing completion along Pueblo Trail by Yucca Valley Elementary School and thanked Ms. Stadum for taking charge of the community's morale.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel thanked Supervisor Rowe and San Bernardino County Fire for the FP-5 Presentation and wished a Happy Birthday to Council Member Denison and Council Member Schooler. Abel Thanked Doug Hassett for the Census update and reminded the public to take the brief Census survey.

Mayor Drozd expressed his thanks to the group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The next regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Yucca Valley Community Center Yucca Room.

Mayor Drozd adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC
Town Clerk