

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2010**

Mayor Mayes called the regular meeting of the Town of Yucca Valley Council to order at 6:06 p.m.

Council Members Present: Herbel, Luckino, Neeb and Mayor Mayes.

Staff Present: Interim Town Manager Tooker, Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, Town Attorney Haubert, Administrative Services Director Yakimow, Community Services Director Schooler, Police Lt. Boswell, and Town Clerk Anderson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Council Member Luckino

INVOCATION

Led by Mike Kelliher, Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel

PRESENTATIONS, INTRODUCTIONS, RECOGNITIONS,

1. General Clardy, Commanding General Twentynine Palms Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center.

General Clardy commented regarding the importance of their commitment to maintaining an ongoing relationship with the Town of Yucca Valley. Gave an update of events on the base including the commencement of \$500,000,000 in construction projects this year.

Mayor Mayes and the Council thanked General Clardy for attending the meeting and commented regarding the importance of the relationship between the Town and Base. The General and his staff have done a wonderful job maintaining that relationship.

AGENCY REPORTS

Fire Department

2. Monthly Report for March 2010

Battalion Chief Munsey gave the monthly statistical Fire Department report for March 2010 and advised of the importance of properly disposing of hazardous waste.

Division Chief Benedict made a presentation regarding earthquake safety and the importance of creating a personal or family preparedness plan including having a gallon

of water per day on hand for each person and anticipate needing it for 3 days, and to plan for family specific needs such as medications.

Chamber of Commerce

3. Monthly Report

Mike Kelliher, Chamber President, gave the monthly statistical Chamber of Commerce report for March 2010 and advised that Wanda Stadum has been named the Honorary Parade Marshal.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Luckino moved to approve the agenda. Council Member Herbel seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a voice vote with Council Member Huntington absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 4. **Approve**, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2010 as presented.
- 5. **Waive**, further reading of all ordinances (if any in the agenda) and read by title only.
- 6. **Approve**, the Governing Body Resolution No. 10-08 for the 2009/2010 OHV grant application.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE APPLICANT TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE GRANT FUNDS

- 7. **Receive and file**, the AB 1234 Reporting Requirement Schedule for the month of March 2010
- 8. **Ratify**, Warrant Registers in the amount of \$714,777.99 for checks dated April 8, 2010. Ratify Payroll Register total of \$157,856.42 dated April 2, 2010.

Council Member Neeb moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items 4-8. Council Member Luckino seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a roll call vote.

- AYES:** Council Member Herbel, Luckino, Neeb and Mayor Mayes.
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- ABSENT:** Council Member Huntington

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

9. Youth Commission, Maximum Number of Appointments, Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 4.12 OF TITLE 4 OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 4.12.010 (A) RELATING TO MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COMMISSION

Community Services Director Schooler advised that this year there were 39 students appointed to the Commission and noted it is very difficult to manage a group that size and still make it a meaningful experience for the Commissioners.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley, expressed concern regarding how to choose the applicants fairly and the feelings of those teens that are rejected.

Council Member Neeb requested that staff go over possibilities such as limiting terms. Community Services Director Schooler advised that the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission discussed several alternatives and recommended that they work on developing criteria including limitation of terms.

Council Member Herbel questioned if there will be a qualification requirements and how the decision is going to be made regarding who will be on the commission. Community Services Director Schooler advised it has not been determined yet, noting that possibly a more involved application will be developed that might include a more demanding interview process. Council Member Herbel questioned if the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission has addressed the possibility of using some of the members who have been on the commission for a longer time to oversee the younger commissioners. Community Services Director Schooler advised that currently exists where the more seasoned members serve as mentors but staff is also required.

Council Member Neeb agreed that once you get beyond a certain number there are diminishing returns, noting that hopefully there will be a lottery system so that as many as possible would get the experience. There is a limit when you want to give a quality experience.

Council Member Herbel stated she would not want it to become competitive and suggested a lottery be used so that no one feels like they are being left out and will have opportunity to serve. It is important that no one is made to feel inferior.

Council Member Luckino commented that competition isn't a bad thing, and prepares kids for life as an adult. It is important to keep them engaged.

Mayor Mayes agreed with Council Member Luckino that competition is important, noting that feels that 20 members is still too high but he is going to defer to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission to work on the issue.

Town Clerk Anderson read the title of the ordinance.

Council Member Neeb moved to introduce the Ordinance as recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission to amend Chapter 4.12 of the Town of Yucca Valley Municipal Code relating to the Youth Commission. Council Member Luckino seconded.

Council Member Herbel advised she can not support limiting the number of commissioners.

Motion carried 3-1-1 on a roll call vote.

AYES: Council Member Luckino, Neeb and Mayor Mayes.

NOES: Council Member Herbel

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Council Member Huntington

10. Brehm Sports Park

Community Services Director Schooler reported the Parks Master Plan adopted by the Council in the fall of 2008 made specific recommendations to accommodate the deficit and needs for recreational space. One of the recommendations was the expansion of the site where the Boys & girls Club and Tri Valley Little League are. Discussion this evening is to present the plan to the Council and get feedback regarding the intention or willingness to accept maintenance of the facility once completed.

Cindy Melland, Basin Wide Foundation, distributed a snapshot of plans for the Brehm Youth Sports Park Complex which will include soccer fields, multi use fields, an exercise path with an educational walk, and a miracle league field in the middle for handicapped athletes. She introduced Mr. and Mrs. Brehm, major donors, advised the motto is “Together We Can”, and noted that this project encapsulates that motto. She advised of the many partnerships involved with the park including the Town and thanked the Council for its consideration.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley, thanked the Brehms for caring about the community. She expressed concern regarding the cost to maintain the park and where the funding will come from.

Sarann Graham, Yucca Valley, commented regarding what a marvelous opportunity this park is that is going to meet needs of all of our community. The Town should

position itself so that when the time comes to take over there is already a financial plan developed.

Robert Sturges, Yucca Valley, commented regarding privatizing maintenance to get a true figure rather than a guess regarding the costs.

Council Member Neeb questioned how large the deficiency of recreation space is. Community Services Director Schooler advised the generally accepted formula is 5 acres per 1,000 population, noting the Master Plan shows the town about 90 acres short of that goal. The Town has not built any new parks since incorporation, and added that as the population increases the deficit will increase. Council Member Neeb commented this park will put the Town in a better position.

Council Member Luckino thanked Mr. and Mrs. Brehm for giving the Town opportunity, and thanked Mrs. Melland and the Basin Wide Foundation for facilitating the project. The Town has to prioritize, and there are going to be some tough choices and things will fall off the list, but this project is probably at the top of the list, and can build momentum in our community. He questioned the time frame for the project going to the Planning Commission. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle advised the application not complete at this point, so the item has not been scheduled for Planning Commission action for land use considerations. He noted this evening's issue is separate in terms of direction staff is seeking from the Council regarding a partnership.

Council Member Neeb commented the Town can not accommodate the park with our current budget. Priorities are going to have to be revised, and the potential cost impact needs to be discussed during the budget process.

Council Member Herbel thanked the Brehms for a wonderful gift for community, noting the staff report says the transaction would add a \$2-\$5 million recreation facility to the Town's park system with little or no capital cost. She commented regarding the fiscal impact and the discussion at the last strategic planning session where it was said that the Museum is not a typical and common service. She does not want to see the Town trade one for the other and wants to make sure there is some way to keep the Museum as a resource for schools. Interim Town Manager Tooker stated the process is to first give direction that the Council wants to continue to work on the proposal then staff will have to identify what the costs will be. We are already in budget process, but to focus on what that may mean in relation to priorities is a little premature in that we don't know what the target is yet.

Mayor Mayes commented this is essential to this community due to our deficiency of park facilities. The community came up with this project that will include a miracle league field.

Council Member Luckino questioned the cost to build a park. Community Services Director Schooler stated the cost is about \$400,000 per acre with no buildings. Council

Member Luckino stated the Council has to step up to the table and take this on, and make the tough decisions to say what is most important to do with the \$10,000,000 that comes to the community.

Council Member Neeb moved to forward the issue to staff for thorough investigation. Council Member Luckino seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a voice vote, with Council Member Huntington absent.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Luckino requested Council approval to support legislation to suspend AB 32. Upon further discussion and Council agreement Mayor Mayes advised he will work with staff on the issue and place discussion on a future agenda.

Council Member Herbel requested the Council look at the night sky ordinance working with Twentynine Palms and the County. There was not consensus.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarann Graham, Yucca Valley, commented regarding the proposed construction on the base noting that many of our local contractors don't have the ability to bid on the projects and requested the Town meet with the General to see what can be done to allow our contractors can bid on them.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley, commented regarding the census and the fact that Yucca Valley has a low income rating but too many people to be considered rural. Stated that it is almost time for the Concern in the Park series to begin which brings in a lot of people, and recommended the lots be cleaned of weeds etc.

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

11. Council Member Luckino

Reiterated earlier comments by the General regarding \$500 million worth of projects that are going to be starting.

Commented regarding the Fire Departments report on earthquake preparedness and the importance of preparing a plan and kit.

12. Council Member Huntington

Absent

13. Council Member Neeb

Reported regarding attendance at the League of California Cities Environmental Quality Policy Committee where most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of AB 32 and SB 375. Information compiled from that meeting is available on the League's website.

14. Mayor Pro Tem Herbel

Thanked General Clardy for attending the meeting this evening.

Thanked Chief Benedict for his report regarding earthquake preparedness.

Announced that the General Plan is now on the Town's website.

15. Mayor Mayes

Thanked General Clardy for coming out to Yucca Valley, noting that the relationship between the Town and Base is very important.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Town Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Anderson, MMC
Town Clerk