

**TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY
TOWN COUNCIL/ SUCCESSOR AGENCY**

**SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES – May 28, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Cusack called to order the special session of the Apple Valley Town Council at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken with the following members present:

Roll Call

Present: Council Members Bishop; Emick; Nassif; Mayor Pro Tem Stanton; Mayor Cusack.

Absent: None.

OPENING CEREMONIES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Emick

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eric Larsen, Apple Valley Ranchos Water, stated that the proposed budget makes no mention or budget allocations for the Town's water condemnation efforts. He believed that the Town had already spent nearly \$922,000 on this issue. He stated that the Town should be willing to speak openly about this matter instead of having discussions closed to the public.

Council Member Nassif provided clarification as to why specific issues discussed by the Town Council are held in Closed Session as directed within the Brown Act.

Frank Robinson, Town Manager, provided additional clarification regarding closed session discussions as well as posting requirements regarding closed session on the agenda so that the public is thoroughly notified of those discussions. He reminded the public that any action that takes place in closed session is reportable to the public for transparency.

Mayor Cusack reminded the public that the Carlisle Group has placed Ranchos Water up for sale and that the Town of Apple Valley will simply be making an offer for that purchase.

Council Member Bishop stated that he feels confident in the actions of the Town of Apple Valley.

1. Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget Workshop

Marc Puckett, Assistant Town Manager, stated that the budget workshop session is an act of transparency for the public. He noted that members of the community can access budget information or any information from the Town of Apple Valley through the Town of Apple Valley records request process. He also noted that much of the information is also available on the Town of Apple Valley website.

Mr. Puckett briefed the Town Council on the process that will occur for the budget review session which would include discussing goals, key changes this fiscal year, goals and departmental reviews. He stated that the budget process actually begins in December with submittals from each department in January/February. Budget hearings are held with each department prior to review with the Town Council. He also stated that the Capital Improvement Budget is also reviewed as each department works to meet the needs of the community.

Mr. Puckett stated that staff was pleased to present a balanced budget of \$103,249,908 for review. He discussed the General Fund Appropriations which included transfer to the Park and Recreation Fund as well as the Golf Course Fund. General fund resources were also discussed including transfers into the budget. He stated that the second largest funding source to the budget was the Sales and Use Tax with an estimated revenue of \$5,985,000. The property tax estimate for the year is \$3,484,000.

Mr. Puckett continued with review of the budget discussing the Parks and Recreation Fund, and the Apple Valley Golf Course Fund. He explained that the Golf Course Fund does not include savings that may be realized by the new well or the use of reclaimed water. He continued review of the budget discussing the program highlights for Town departments.

Mr. Puckett stated that copies of the proposed budget are available for viewing at the Town Clerk's Office, the receptionist desk and the Town of Apple Valley webpage.

Council Member Emick pointed out that the Town expends a significant amount of funding for water usage. He thanked Mr. Puckett for the excellent budget presentation and the document presented for review. He spoke of the detail of the document and the amount of information that it contained making it easier to read and understand.

Mayor Cusack commented on the success of the budget process and thanked Mr. Puckett for his hard work and commitment in preparing an excellent document.

Council Member Nassif spoke of the balanced budget presented by staff and the hard work of each department in preparing the budget.

Council Member Bishop spoke of the transparency in Apple Valley ensuring that the public has access to information.

Mayor Pro Tem Stanton also thanked Mr. Puckett for the excellent budget document. She asked for clarification on the Apple Valley Golf Course Fund and the interfund transfers. With the consensus of the Town Council, she recommended that a specific line item be included that showed the specific spending amount for acquisition of Ranchos Water Company.

Mayor Cusack also thanked Mr. Puckett for the presentation and his diligence in preparing a complete document for the Town Council's review.

Mr. Puckett thanked each department for their hard work and assistance in preparing their departmental budgets and he also thanked the Finance Department for their hard work in preparing the financial documents for Council review.

TOWN MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Frank Robinson, Town Manager, thanked Mr. Puckett for his hard work. He stated that staff would develop a mechanism that will help track and make transparent the costs for acquisition of Ranchos Water Company.

Mr. Robinson asked staff to update the Town Council on the issues surrounding an animal placed at the Apple Valley Animal Shelter.

Marc Puckett, Assistant Town Manager, commented on the two individuals that spoke at the Town Council Meeting on May 26, 2015, regarding a dog at the Animal Shelter. He stated that the owners had placed the dog "DJ" in the home of a resident who is now being investigated for animal cruelty.

Gina Whiteside, Animal Services Manager, provided an update on this investigation and presented slides showing the condition of not only the home, but the animals including the dog "DJ". She stated that the animals residing in this residence were starved and two had to be euthanized due to their condition. She explained that before "DJ" could be returned, there were issues that had to be resolved to insure that the animal was returned to a safe environment.

Ms. Whiteside also commented on the lack of records for the animals that were in the home by both the home owner as well as the shelter/rescue organization that originally held some of the animals.

Council Member Stanton expressed concern for the owners who appeared to be emotional over their quest to have the animal returned to them. However, she stated that she understood the need to do a thorough investigation before the animal is returned.

Mr. Robinson stated that the rescue organization that attended the previous meeting may be desirous to get their animal back due to concerns of being connected in a criminal investigation or possibly losing its 501c3.

Mr. Puckett confirmed that statement and also indicated that it appeared that the organization was not complying with standards set forth by law in keeping animals.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Motion by Council Member Emick, seconded by Council Member Bishop, to adjourn the meeting of the Apple Valley Town Council at 8:09 p.m.

Larry Cusack
Mayor

La Vonda M-Pearson,
Town Clerk