

**JOINT SPECIAL MEETING**  
**ADELANTO CITY COUNCIL**  
**HESPERIA CITY COUNCIL**  
**VICTORVILLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES – August 14, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Bishop called to order the Joint Special Meeting of the Adelanto City Council, Hesperia City Council, Victorville City Council and the Apple Valley Town Council at 6:15 p.m.

Roll call was taken with the following members present:

Adelanto City Council Members

Present: Council Members Camargo; Valvo; Wright; Mayor Pro Tem Baisden; Mayor Thomas.  
Absent: None.

Hesperia City Council Members

Present: Council Members Blewett; Holland; Leonard; Mayor Pro Tem Schmidt; Mayor Smith.  
Absent: None.

Victorville City Council Members

Present: Council Member Kennedy; Mayor Pro Tem McEachron; Mayor Cox.  
Absent: Council Members Garcia; Valles.

Apple Valley Town Council Members

Present: Council Members Emick; Nassif; Stanton; Mayor Pro Tem Cusack; Mayor Bishop  
Absent: None.

<b>OPENING CEREMONIES</b>
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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Art Bishop, Town of Apple Valley.

<b>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / REVIEW</b>
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**1. Introduction of Presentation and Citygate Consultant by Mike Podegracz, Hesperia City Manager**

Mike Podegracz, Hesperia City Manager, thanked the Council Members for their attendance at the joint meeting. He briefly commented on the feasibility study and introduced the members of Citygate who would be making the presentation to the Councils.

**2. Presentation of Public Safety Joint Powers Authority Feasibility Study by Citygate.**

Mr. Gary, Citygate Consultants, introduced Dan Feathers, General Government and Fiscal Consultant and Mary Beth Redding of Martell and Associates, the pension actuary employed to provide the pension calculations for the study.

Mr. Gary provided an overview of the study's findings regarding police services pension savings, conversion paths, cost controls on facility, fleet, dispatch and internal service costs and staffing scenarios as either transitional staffing or a high level functioning service approach. The presentation included a 20 year cost and savings projection and concerns related to CalPERS cooperation, cost sharing among partners, the labor market, start-up costs, the implementation workload and the presence and stability of the design team for total JPA implementation.

Ms. Redding provided an overview of pension costs and CalPERS implementation, as well as estimated employee and retiree benefits.

Mayor Pro Tem McEachron, City of Victorville, inquired about the study's findings on the comparison of costs for services provided by the County but contracted through the JPA instead of individual cities.

Mr. Gary indicated that this scenario was not included in the study and the only foreseeable benefit to this scenario would be speaking with one voice instead of four individual voices, but that the costs would likely remain the same.

Mayor Pro Tem Schmidt, City of Hesperia, addressed the legend for the graph on Chart 58 of Page 29. Mr. Gary indicated that there was a typographical error on the legend involving the ampersand which should be removed.

Council Member Kennedy, City of Victorville, expressed his concerns about the "unknowns" beyond five years, and that looking towards the five years, there appears to be no real cost benefit to establishing the JPA. Mr. Gary agreed that the cost benefits will be beyond the five year projection. However, he stated that there may be a benefit in making a policy decision now to make the Victor Valley independent, prior to possible unforeseen reductions in general fund revenues and the eventuality of rising costs for police and fire services, as well as having local control.

Council Member Kennedy asked what value had been placed by other communities on local control for police and fire services. Mr. Gary responded that the value has been stronger for police than for fire and that there has been more positive interaction between elected officials and the local police chief and assigned captains.

Regarding unfunded liability, Council Member Stanton, Town of Apple Valley, asked why employees would elect to give up current benefits. Ms. Redding responded that existing police and fire employees, if they elect to work for the JPA, will retain their current benefits until joining the JPA and at that time will be earning benefits at a different level than the County. The unfunded pension liability will remain with the County as their responsibility.

Mayor Bishop declared a recess at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Bishop reconvened the joint meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem McEachron commented to the consultant that there must be similarities in the study's findings that mirror each other between police and fire services and requested that the differences only be highlighted with regards to the fire services feasibility study.

Mr. Gary indicated that there are a few unique differences in fire. The presentation provided information regarding County Fire produced incident workload, geographic coverage, staffing and deployment comparisons as well as levels of staffing scenarios and conversion cost considerations.

Discussion ensued with multiple Council Members speaking to unfunded pension liability, employee pension sharing and mutual aid contracts.

Mayor Cox, City of Victorville, requested an opportunity to review with staff and the City Manager to discuss the issues and policy changes necessary to implement the conversion. He realized that it was likely that talks with the consultants would need to resume after the individual councils reviewed the study.

Mayor Pro Tem McEachron indicated that it is important for each municipality to hear from the Sheriff and County Fire Chief to allow them to respond to the feasibility study.

This was an informational item only. There was no action taken.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tamara Alinez, Apple Valley, spoke to unknown administration costs and how they might be shared between the four municipalities.

Mr. Gary responded indicating that it is common in JPA's to have a lead agency perform the administrative duties such as Human Resources and Risk Management.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Joint Meeting of the City Councils of Adelanto, Hesperia, Victorville and the Town of Apple Valley was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Art Bishop, Mayor

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La Vonda M-Pearson, Town Clerk