

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STAR VALLEY**

**Tuesday, July 19, 2016 @ 6:00 pm
3675 East Highway 260, Star Valley, AZ
(Star Valley Town Hall)**

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- PRAYER was offered by Pastor Dave Barber of Star Valley Southern Baptist Church
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- CALL TO ORDER
- ROLL CALL:

Mayor McDaniel X , Vice-Mayor Binney X , Council Member Hartwell X , Council Member Henderson X , Council Member Coon X , Council Member McKinney X , Council Member O'Connor X .

- **GILA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORTS FOR MAY AND JUNE, 2016.**
Lt. Tim Scott of the Gila County Sheriff's Office gave the reports for May and June, 2016.
- **HELLSGATE FIRE DISTRICT REPORTS FOR MAY AND JUNE, 2016.**
Fire Chief Dave Bathke of Hellsgate Fire District gave the reports for May and June, 2016.

- **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be voted on with one motion. If discussion is desired regarding any Consent Agenda item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

A. Approval of the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on July 5, 2016.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from July 1, 2016 through July 15, 2016 for the General Fund and for the Water Department.

A motion to approve consent agenda items A and B was made by Council Member Coon, and was seconded by Council Member Henderson.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mayor McDaniel X , Vice-Mayor Binney X , Council Member Hartwell X , Council Member Henderson X , Council Member Coon X , Council Member McKinney X , Council Member O'Connor X .

The motion was voted on and passed 7 - 0.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Discussion and possible action to send letters of condolence to the Chief of Police and Mayor of Dallas, Texas, expressing our support after the tragic deaths of the Dallas Police Officers.**

Council Member Hartwell stated the letters need to go out as soon as possible. Council Member Binney stated there was another shooting in Baton Rouge, and if the Town is going to send out letters of condolence to one community, the Town should send out letters of condolence to all communities involved in recent tragedies. Mayor McDaniel agreed with Council Member Binney.

A motion to appoint Council Member McKinney to author letters of condolence to the Chief of Police and Mayor of Dallas, Texas was made by Council Member Andy McKinney, and was seconded by Council Member Hartwell.

The motion was voted on and passed 7 - 0.

2. **Discussion and possible action to consider continued funding for the Meals on Wheels and Senior Ridership Programs. Update by Debbie Stephens, Director of Payson Senior Center, and Joanne Conlin, Board Member, to make presentation.**

Debbie Stephens, Director of Payson Senior Center, made the presentation. Ms. Stephens thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak with the Council. Ms. Stephens stated too many seniors are left alone, hungry and forgotten, and the statistics state that 1 of 6 seniors are starving. The meals that this program provides, meets the third nutritional daily requirements for the elderly, and are approved by the dietician of the State of Arizona.

Ms. Stephens stated that the Payson Senior Center, together with the Town, has delivered approximately 5,500 meals to the homebound of Star Valley, reaching out to 40 of the homebound in Star Valley, at an average of 17 people per route, 7 meals a week. It is Ms. Stephen's hope the Town continues to support the full seven meals, stating that the service they provide is not just about nutritional meals, but is also about human interaction and opening up a connection to the community. She pointed out that sometimes, it is the only human contact seniors receive throughout that day. It is not just delivering a meal, but a friendly conversation. Ms. Stephens stated it is a strong statement from the leaders of Star Valley, to the seniors of the Town, they are not forgotten, they are not abandoned, and the Town cares about them and considers them valuable.

The Ridership Program has made approximately 1,509 trips in a year, and 421 of those trips were made with wheelchairs, Ms. Stephens reported 23 Town residents participated in the Ridership Program last year, and on average, they traveled about 100 miles a week. She stated that transportation is very important to seniors, as many are no longer able to drive.

The availability of Meals on Wheels and the Ridership Programs, by the community, the Town is valuing and preserving the independence of seniors. Ms. Stephens stated it is a privilege to stand before the Council, and to join with the Town to offer these services. Ms. Stephens thanked the Council for their time, compassion and support, and stated she will do her best to answer any questions the Council has, with backup from Joanne Conlin, Board Member.

Mayor McDaniel asked if Star Valley falls in the "1 of 6 seniors are starving" statistics. Ms. Stephens responded, the "1 of 6" is a nationwide statistic and she believes the Town's numbers are very positive, due to the fact that Star Valley has leaders that care. Council Member Bob O'Connor stated that he has visited the Senior Center numerous times, and believes they offer great programs. Mr. O'Connor is concerned there may be seniors in the Town who have not yet been reached. Council Member Hartwell

made a suggestion that Ms. Stephens remind the seniors being served by these programs, to get the word out to other seniors in need.

Joanne Conlin, Board Member, stated it is an issue of pride, especially with the older generation. They feel there is somebody else who needs it more than they do, even though they are starving. Mayor McDaniel commented the Town is certainly glad to support the Programs because senior citizens need all the help they can get. Town Manager Grier stated he would like to address the financial end, as it is a \$35,000.00 expenditure. Mr. Grier explained this will be the first year the Town will be bringing the entirety of the funding out of the Town's General Fund. Mr. Grier stated the Council should try to find a way to continue the Town's support of Meals on Wheels and the Senior Ridership Programs.

Town Manager Grier pointed out Supervisor Marcanti has worked hard for the Town of Star Valley on three different occasions, with contributions to the Town park facilities and well development. Mr. Grier then proceeded to ask Supervisor Marcanti if he would consider possibly splitting the funding for Meals on Wheels and Senior Ridership Programs. Council Member Coon agrees the Town will need to focus on the budget a little closer, but this is not the time or the place. Council Member Binney stated the Town does not have an option, and the Town made an agreement to this under the CDBG grant. Town Manager Grier stated the Town is not legally bound to the CDBG grant agreement and, if unaffordable, the Town would no longer fund these programs. Town Manager Grier then made a final plea to Supervisor Marcanti for help with funding these programs. Mayor McDaniel commented the Council should consider all options, and hopefully something will come from the request for help with funding from Supervisor Marcanti. The Mayor stated the Council should support the programs.

A motion that the Council authorize funding in the amount of \$26,000.00 to the Payson Senior Center for the Star Valley Meals on Wheels Program, and additionally authorize funding in the amount of \$9,000.00 for the Ridership Program for seniors in Star Valley, was made by Council Member Coon, and was seconded by Council Member Hartwell.

The motion was voted on and passed 7 - 0.

3. Discussion and possible action concerning Resolution No. R 16-16 captioned as follows: A Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Star Valley, Arizona, authorizing the Mayor to consider and possibly execute Intergovernmental Agreement No. 033116 by and between Gila County and Town of Star Valley for law enforcement services.

Council Member Hartwell asked if the Council has completely abandoned any conversation or thought of having a Star Valley police force. Town Manager Grier stated he has not pursued that, and has not been instructed by Council to do so. The Mayor and Council agreed with Grier. Mr. Grier stated he has not pursued anything other than the contract negotiations with Gila County. Council Member Coon stated the Council had considered the idea of a Star Valley police force a few years ago, and the cost was quite extreme. Council Member Binney agreed, and recalled the Town could not afford it.

Town Manager Grier stated his concern that Council understands the Intergovernmental Agreement that has been provided to them. He stated it is a 4 year agreement, and the existing IGA is \$383,000.00. If Council were to choose to enter into the IGA, it would go to the Board of Supervisors for their approval on August 5th. Mr. Grier pointed out the IGA has no change in cost in this current fiscal year, which begins July 1st, 2016. The incremental costs, as outlined in paragraph 3A of the IGA, are approximately a total increase of \$121,000.00 over the term, from the existing contract. Council Member Hartwell asked Town Manager Grier if he has any idea what it would cost for the Town to have its own police force. Mr. Grier responded that the prior Town Manager had in mind to create a Star Valley police force, and that it was alarmingly and prohibitively expensive for the Town. Mr. Grier stated there may be

other options out there, such as the Tonto Apache Tribe, or a hybrid. Mr. Grier does believe Gila County is the Town's best answer, and they provide good service to Star Valley. Mr. Grier stated he does not have current information on the cost for the Town to have its own police force. Mayor McDaniel stated in the past, it was not feasibly financial for the Town to pursue, it was not even an option, and it is not financially feasible for the Town now.

Council Member O'Connor asked Gila County Sheriff Adam Shepherd if he would have the numbers on what it would cost for the Town to have their own police force. District 3 Supervisor John Marcanti responded that he represents the Town of Miami and their budget is \$900,000.00 a year for police protection. Sheriff Shepherd responded that he believes Star Valley is a little larger, and in his opinion, the Town of Miami is just barely covering the basics. Sheriff Shepherd is looking at what the County can do to enhance enforcement of Highway 260, since the Town's loss of photo enforcement. . Sheriff Shepherd stated he is concerned about safety as well, as he is a resident of Star Valley. Mayor McDaniel stated the Town's main concern is the safety of the public and the residents that live here. Council Member Coon stated he has been working with ADOT to reduce the speed limit on Highway 260, but it has not yet been accomplished. Council Member Coon mentioned he would also like to involve ADOT in putting in more signage for the purpose of warning drivers to the lowered speed limit. Supervisor Marcanti believes the Gila County Sheriff put a good package together with the IGA, and that the Board is well aware of the financial dilemma the Town is in with losing the photo radar. Supervisor Marcanti stated he felt the IGA is favorable with the Board.

Council Member Binney believes there should be an escape clause in the contract for the Town. If the Town can't afford it, the Town can drop out. Council Member McKinney asked how the Gila County Sheriff's Office measures the service they are providing. Gila County Sheriff Shepherd responded they have no way of measuring the service they provide. The County took the best information they had, and gave the best answer they could. Sheriff Shepherd stated it is difficult to quantify government services in this way and that costs are based on salaries, benefits, cars and gasoline. Council Member McKinney wanted to know how the County determined what slice of that block of costs comes to Star Valley. Sheriff Shepherd stated it was a combination of the County's historical data of service provided to the Town, and the City of Payson's historical data of service provided to the Town. The County crunched numbers together to determine what part of that resource is spent in Star Valley. At that time, and at present, it is based on calls for service the Star Valley area received, versus the rest of the Northern part of the County.

Council Member Binney stated Star Valley needs more input as to what services the Town receives. If the Town can't afford the increase, the Town needs to cut services and only respond to some things. Council Member Binney believes the Town should force ADOT to patrol Highway 260. Mayor McDaniel reiterated Highway 260 was not in the configuration of the IGA, nor was it ever. Sheriff Shepherd agrees with the Town that ADOT is responsible for patrolling State Highway 260 and that it is just a matter of convincing the powers that be. Council Member O'Connor questioned what month the photo radar cameras were shut off. Town Manager Grier stated the cameras were off in April and the sensors were left on. Redflex compared incidents, defined as vehicles exceeding 11 miles an hour over the posted speed limit, from April 2016 to the prior April, when the cameras were on, and there was a 150% increase in speed. Mr. Grier stated it would not make a difference in the contract price of the IGA for ADOT to patrol State Highway 260. Mr. Grier is concerned the Council has not addressed the problem the Town is going to face, with safety issues for our citizens, once the cameras are turned off on August 5th. Mr. Grier stated the safety issue needs to be addressed, with increased patrol from DPS, and Gila County as well. Mr. Grier does not believe the Town will accomplish anything more by going back

to the table to add clauses and believes the Council needs to continue to discuss what level of law enforcement is working for the Town.

A motion that the Council adopt Resolution No. R 16-16 — A Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Star Valley, Arizona, authorizing the Mayor to execute Intergovernmental Agreement No. 033116 by and between Gila County and Town of Star Valley for law enforcement services was made by Council Member Henderson, and was seconded by Council Member Hartwell.

The motion was voted on and passed 6 - 1.

- 4. Discussion and possible action concerning Resolution No. R 16-18 captioned as follows: A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Star Valley, Arizona approving and authorizing the Mayor to execute the modification of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Town of Star Valley and the State of Arizona Department of Revenue for the administration, collection, audit, and licensing of transaction privilege taxes, use taxes, severance taxes, jet fuel excise and use taxes and rental occupancy taxes imposed by the state, cities or town.**

Finance Administrator Nutt stated the modification is to make adjustments to the IGA that was adopted and effective July 1, 2015. It was a new program the State of Arizona set forth, and the Town was required to participate in. Ms. Nutt stated as the Arizona Department of Revenue took over the collection and distribution of local taxes for every entity in the State of Arizona, it had been found that the IGA did not provide for all circumstances that became apparent. The modifications are being presented to the Council in hopes the Council will adopt them, so the Arizona Department of Revenue can more easily fulfill the original IGA contract, as it was intended to be.

Mayor McDaniel asked Ms. Nutt if she knows the amount of tax that is due for Star Valley. Ms. Nutt answered that this modification does not change the collection amounts or standards for the Town, it has more to do with reporting standards and administrating the duties of the original IGA. Ms. Nutt explained the wording in the Resolution is dictated by the Arizona Department of Revenue. Mayor McDaniel asked how much taxes the Town generates. Ms. Nutt stated the Town generated around \$236,000.00 in taxes and the collection is an annual payment of around \$5,000.00.

A motion that the Council adopt Resolution No. R 16-18 — A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Star Valley, Arizona, approving and authorizing the Mayor to execute the modification of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Town of Star Valley and the State of Arizona Department of Revenue for the administration, collection, audit and licensing of transaction privilege taxes, use taxes, severance taxes, jet fuel excise and use taxes and rental occupancy taxes imposed by the state, cities or towns was made by Council Member Henderson and was seconded by Council Member Hartwell.

The motion was voted on and passed 6 – 1.

- **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

During this portion of the meeting, members of the public may address the Town Council on items that are not on the printed agenda. Any remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a whole and not to any individual member. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes per person unless additional time is granted by the Mayor. The Council may not discuss or act upon matters raised during public comments.

Joanne Conlin with the Payson Senior Center thanked the Council for supporting Meals on Wheels and Senior Ridership Programs. They are important programs and the Town of Star Valley is just amazing in what they have done for the people of their community.

Fire Chief Dave Bathke of Hellsgate Fire District thanked the Gila County Sheriff's Office for their support in responding in a timely manner in keeping the Hellsgate fire crews safe.

There were no further public comments, and the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Henderson, and was seconded by Council Member Hartwell.

The motion was voted on and passed 7 – 0.

APPROVED:

Ronnie O. McDaniel, Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Edie Chapin, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Star Valley held on the 19th day of July, 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 26th day of July, 2016.

Eddie Chapin, Town Clerk