

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

**Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 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 Rim View Community Church.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- CALL TO ORDER
- ROLL CALL:
Vice Mayor McKinney X , Council Member Davis X , Council Member
Armington X , Council Member Binney X , Council Member Rappaport X ,
Mayor Coon X .

- **HELLSGATE FIRE DISTRICT REPORT FOR MARCH 2019**

Chief John Wisner of Hellsgate Fire District gave the report for March 2019.

- **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 April 2, 2019.

**B. Approval of Claims Payable from April 1, 2019 through April 15, 2019 for the
General Fund and for the Water Department.**

A motion to approve consent agenda items A and B was made by Council Member Davis and was seconded by Council Member Armington.

A roll call vote was taken:

**Vice Mayor McKinney X , Council Member Davis X , Council Member Armington X , Council
Member Binney X , Council Member Rappaport X , Mayor Coon X .**

The motion was voted on and passed 6 - 0.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 1. The Honorable Dorothy Little, Star Valley Magistrate Court, will administer the Oath of Office to Belle McDaniel, Council Member.**

The Honorable Dorothy Little administered the Oath of Office to Belle McDaniel, Council Member.

- 2. Presentation by APS Construction Maintenance Supervisor Scott Jones regarding wildfire mitigation policies.**

APS Construction Maintenance Supervisor Scott Jones explained his four key points regarding wildfires and preparations for the year. The first is that public safety and coordination with first response and fire management agencies are the highest priority for APS in helping to prevent and respond to wildfires. APS has power lines all over the countryside and anytime there is a fire near those they work alongside with the agencies that are working on those fires. The number one priority is public safety and if they need to take a power outage on those lines, they do that without question. It does make longer power outages for people, but safety is most important. Secondly, explained Mr. Jones, there may be service interruptions to customers during high risk times of the year as well as during fire-fighting activities. If the power goes out, they send someone out to physically walk that line to verify there is not fire on the ground before they test the line and put it back in service.

Thirdly, reported Mr. Jones, a higher wildland threat is faced every year due to residential areas being inside the wildland urban interface, heightening the risk of damage to properties. APS has a project called the dispensable space around poles in which they clear the right of way as best as they can as well as pull down some of the hazard trees around their lines. Any pole that has equipment on it is cleared ten feet all the way around that pole which helps to keep fire from burning and damaging the pole. APS has over 17,000 miles of line they patrol and keep clean each year. They also work with close community partners to ensure they are educating the public on how to protect their property from wildfires. The last point, explained Mr. Jones, is that fire season is becoming longer and fire wise is a year-round activity for APS. They have crews that work clearing properties and right of ways continuously. Since 2000 their right of ways helped to stop 37 fires as forest service personnel use the right of ways as fire breaks. APS also does a pole by pole inspection every four years and they have a full-time fire mitigation specialist on staff who works closely with the local fire authorities. Mr. Jones concluded his presentation by stating that APS is being pro-active and doing the best they can to help mitigate wildfires.

- 3. Presentation by ADOT TSMO Traffic Safety Kerry Wilcoxon regarding findings on SR260 Road Safety Assessment.**

Kerry Wilcoxon State Traffic Safety Engineer for ADOT explained they conducted a Roadway Operation Assessment for SR260 mileposts 250-256.5 on the 14th and 15th of November 2018 at the request of Star Valley (refer to ADOT handout). They first started the evaluation with looking at the crash data from 2013 through 2018 as the last five years is usually the most relevant. In the mile and one-half section there were records of fifty-nine crashes on the roadway - none of them fatal. There were nineteen injury crashes including three serious injury crashes. Mr. Wilcoxon reported this is fairly similar statewide. Most of the crashes occurred in the highest friction areas where there is the most amount of cross traffic such as people turning into and out of businesses. One third of the fifty-nine crashes involved single vehicles into animals due to the urban nature of the area. Most of the crashes, about forty percent, occurred at night and crashes peak in May due to high traffic volumes.

Mr. Wilcoxon reported that while conducting the study they noticed the road is working pretty well and there are a lot of things they think are going well for the town. Sidewalk is present throughout all of the area they looked at, speed compliance on the feedback signs was remarkably good, and day and night road conditions are good. They looked for where pedestrians are crossing the road but did not actually see many pedestrians crossing the road at all – the only activity they witnessed was around Circle K. Mr. Wilcoxon reported the feedback signs are very visible and low enough that you see them as you are coming in but recommends replacing the present feedback signs with larger feedback signs. They did notice limited visibility safety issues on Moonlight Dr., Orion and Milky Way. Mr. Wilcoxon suggested the Town may want to consider roadway lighting and getting rid of the no longer useful cattle guards located at Orion, Milky Way and Moonlight. From a traffic engineering stand point, stated Mr. Wilcoxon, the roadway seems to be under capacity meaning it provides an opportunity for speeding. Pointed out Mr. Wilcoxon, ADOT recognizes there is a concern for speeding and roadway safety and the Town should consider striping changes to the roadway such as the “lane diet” or the “road diet”.

Mr. Wilcoxon explained the “lane diet” narrows the existing lane width by adding edge line striping while maintaining the current number of lanes. This would force drivers away from the sidewalk and provide a little bit of a buffer for people who are slowing to turn right. The draw backs are that it doesn’t remove the complexity for turns and provides the same opportunities for speeding. The other idea for traffic calming is the “road diet”, explained Mr. Wilcoxon, which is more drastic as it physically removes a lane of traffic. The “road diet” would open up the possibilities for a right turn lane and would provide a shoulder for breakdowns and/or overflow parking for business. Mr. Wilcoxon reported the “road diet” would benefit the Town by providing dedicated right turn lanes; it would address the visibility problem on Orion and Milky Way; it would reduce the number of lanes to cross for left turns; it would shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians; it may lower the average speeds; and it removes the opportunity for speeding. If it doesn’t work out, disclosed Mr. Wilcoxon, the road can be converted back to the existing lane configuration. Mr. Wilcoxon explained the drawbacks of the “road diet” are that it reduces through lanes by 50%; it may require new regulatory signs; it doesn’t prevent speeding; and public acceptance may be difficult. This section of SR260 is scheduled for a road surface treatment so if the Town is interested in moving forward with a “road diet” this would be the time, informed Mr. Wilcoxon. At the Town’s request, ADOT can evaluate for a cross walk which would require a minimum of twenty pedestrians crossing per hour. Mr. Wilcoxon concluded his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Council Member Binney stated he is surprised by how few accidents have been reported and that he objects to Mr. Wilcoxon’s numbers as according to information he received from the Sheriff’s Department there has been one death since then, eighty-one personal injury accidents, ten animal damage accidents and seventy-six property damage accidents. Council Member Binney stated he doesn’t think ADOT’s information is a fair representation of the Town’s situation. Mr. Wilcoxon explained ADOT gets crash data from across the state which includes the Sheriff and DPS and that they have a problem with under reporting as they don’t get all the crash reports. They also have a problem with mile markers being off. Some discussion ensued between Council Member Binney and Mr. Wilcoxon. Council Member Armington commented he would like to see 35mph through town and asked who pays for the “road diet”. Mr. Wilcoxon answered that it would be ADOT. Council Member Armington stated his opinion that the cattle guards need to remain because if a cow gets out the cattle guard stops the cow before it gets on the highway. Council Member Armington stated his concern that someone has to die before ADOT will do anything and that he would like to see a signalized crosswalk from Lamplighter to across the road. Something to make the people feel safe to walk across the road, stated Council Member Armington. Mr. Wilcoxon responded that if the speed limit is lowered, people will still drive at the speed

they are comfortable with and that people are probably slowing down now because they see the strobe light on the feedback signs and think they are getting a photo radar ticket. Mr. Wilcoxon stated ADOT can't enforce an artificially low speed limit and recommended the best thing the Town can do to get a lower speed limit and a speed that people will follow is to go with the "road diet" – the reason being that the speed is set by the slowest vehicle. To the point about a pedestrian crossing, explained Mr. Wilcoxon, the worst thing they can do is make people who are crossing on foot – already vulnerable – feel safer when the cars that are driving down the road don't pay attention.

Vice Mayor McKinney asked when the road surface treatment is scheduled and wondered about the use of noise strips. ADOT Northcentral District Engineer Audra Merrick reported the road surface treatment is out for bid and has not been awarded or scheduled yet. Ms. Merrick suggested testing portable rumble strips for sound to see if that works for the citizens. Mr. Wilcoxon added that the biggest problem with rumble strips in urban areas is the noise and cautioned the Town to be careful about that. A short discussion ensued regarding Lion Springs Rd. and the roundabouts located on Hwy. 87 in Payson. Mayor Coon asked if it would be possible to reduce the speed limit to 40mph. Mr. Wilcoxon responded he backs up his decisions with data and can't artificially lower the speed limit because he knows that is going to make things less safe. ADOT could come out and do a speed study whenever the Town requests, offered Mr. Wilcoxon. Mayor Coon stated the issue is with the out of town traffic not knowing there is a town is here. We need to get more serious and not wait until there is a fatality, commented Mayor Coon. Mr. Wilcoxon explained they look at the cause behind crashes and when warranted by data can deploy an engineering treatment to solve the issue. The closest they have for the Town is the "road diet" as it would partially address the concerns. Mr. Wilcoxon informed council that if they decide to go with the "road diet" ADOT will require a formal request for design plans. Town Manager Grier thanked Mr. Wilcoxon and Ms. Merrick for their investment in and contribution to the assessment.

A motion requesting ADOT to design a preliminary road diet plan for the Town of Star Valley was made by Council Member Binney and was seconded by Council Member Davis.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Davis Yes, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Rappaport Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Coon Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 7– 0.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding code compliance issues and the Star Valley Town Code.

Town Manager Grier suggested council take no action on this agenda item due to time constraints tonight.

A motion to postpone was made by Council Member Davis and was seconded by Council Member Binney.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Davis Yes, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Rappaport Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Coon Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 7– 0.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding installing a flagpole and spotlight at Town Hall per the request of Vice Mayor McKinney.

Vice Mayor McKinney explained a constituent brought the idea to him that it would be more impressive and dignified to have an illuminated flag pole at Town Hall. He would like to have staff examine the possible costs and reported that he has patriotic donors to handle the cost.

A motion to direct staff to begin research on the cost to install a flagpole and spotlight at Town Hall and then move forward with the project was made by Council Member Davis and was seconded by Council Member Armington.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Davis Yes, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Rappaport Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Coon Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 7– 0.

6. Discussion and possible action to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to:

A.R.S. § 38-431.03.A.4 - Discussion or consultation with the attorneys of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding the public body's position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation.

Discussion to include information and legal analysis from Town Attorney Timothy W. Grier regarding an easement issue with the PW-1/PW-2 well project and the Nelson property.

Mayor Coon stated he needs a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Council Member Binney questioned if it is necessary to adjourn. Town Manager Grier responded it is on the agenda as an Executive Session and if council wishes to discuss it tonight it has to be in Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn to Executive Session was made by Council Member Binney and was seconded by Council Member Davis.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Davis Yes, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Rappaport Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Coon Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 7– 0.

- **ADJOURNED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:05PM.**
- **REGULAR MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER.**

7. Discussion and possible action to instruct the Town Manager/Attorney how to proceed to attempt to resolve a possible easement dispute regarding the PW-1/PW-2 project and the Nelson property and to discuss the fencing of the PW-1/PW-2 well sites.

Mayor Coon stated if there is no discussion, he will accept a motion.

A motion to instruct the Town Manager/Attorney to continue attempts to resolve the easement issue regarding PW-1/PW-2 project and Mark Nelson property and proceed with the security fencing of

PW-1/PW-2 plots of land owned by the Town was made by Council Member Binney and was seconded by Council Member Davis.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Davis Yes, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Rappaport Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Coon Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 7– 0.

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.

The Mayor opened this portion of the meeting up for public comments. There were no public comments and the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting.

• **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Armington and was seconded by Council Member Binney.

The motion was voted on and passed 7– 0.

APPROVED:

Gary Coon, 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 16th day of April 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 17th day of April 2019.

Edie Chapin, Town Clerk