

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

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018 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 Rev. David Burge of Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- CALL TO ORDER

- ROLL CALL:

Mayor McDaniel X, Vice Mayor O'Connor excused, Council Member Coon X, Council Member McKinney X, Council Member Davis X, Council Member Stephenson X, Council Member Armington X.

- **GILA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORTS FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL 2018**

Lt. Scott with the Gila County Sheriff's Office gave the reports for January through April 2018.

- **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 17, 2018 and the Special Meeting held on April 24, 2018.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from April 16, 2018 through April 30, 2018 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:

Mayor McDaniel X, Vice Mayor O'Connor excused, Council Member Coon X, Council Member McKinney X, Council Member Davis X, Council Member Stephenson X, Council Member Armington X.

The motion was voted on and passed 6 - 0.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 1. Presentation by Carl Melford with ReadyGila regarding the alert program.**

Finance Administrator Nutt reported that Mr. Melford is unable to present tonight as he is assisting with the Coconino County Emergency Management Operation Center. His presentation will be rescheduled.

- 2. Presentation by Travis Ashbaugh, Transportation Planning Manager for Central Arizona Governments regarding the Greater Gila County Transit Feasibility & Implementation Study.**

Travis Ashbaugh, Transportation Planning Manager for Central Arizona Government (“CAG”) thanked Council for the opportunity to present the findings of the study. At the end of 2015, reported Mr. Ashbaugh, CAG had applied for transit planning funds for a study for the greater Gila County area because a transit feasibility study had never been done for Gila County as a region. The study was started in January of 2017 and is being wrapped up now. A good portion of the study had a high focus on the Payson/Star Valley area. As you may or may not be aware, stated Mr. Ashbaugh, the Payson Senior Center applied for 5311 funds, which allows them to do some fixed routes. Basically, the quest is for financial support, explained Mr. Ashbaugh, asking Council to consider supporting this cause because this area has a real need for transit. He introduced Vamshi Yellisetty, Project Manager for Jacobs Engineering who will be presenting the detailed findings of the eighteen-month study.

Mr. Yellisetty stated he truly appreciates Councils time and that he will focus on the results related to the Payson/Star Valley area (see “Greater Gila County Transit Feasibility and Implementation Study”). The purpose of the study, explained Mr. Yellisetty, was to assess the current transit environment and identify the transit needs and the real transit demand – that is unmet at this point – and also to identify service overlaps to find deficiencies in the system and develop strategies to improve coordination among the existing service providers. Based on that information he was tasked to come up with a feasibility study to determine a set of recommendations. The recommendations for this study are focused on Gila County alone, pointed out Mr. Yellisetty. When a transit study is done, explained Mr. Yellisetty, they look at the transit that is provided, and the typical population that would benefit from this service. In this case, the first step was to look at disadvantaged population groups which are people ages 65 and older, minorities, female head of households, mobility limited and below poverty population groups. In the Payson/Star Valley area, reported Mr. Yellisetty, thirty-five percent of the population – which is the highest in the county – are 65 and older; 23% are mobility challenged; 13% are below poverty; and 9% are female head of household. These are the traditional type of population groups who would need transit.

In the study area, explained Mr. Yellisetty, they look for the location of major employers (see “Major Trip Generators”). Within the region, the high density of employers is located in the Payson/Star Valley and Globe/Miami areas and overall the region accounts for approximately 25,000 employees. They also look at commute patterns that are currently in existence in the region. Pointed out Mr. Yellisetty, Payson/Star Valley accounts for 0% in public transportation providers. There are only four demand type service providers in the local area – Payson Senior Center, the Payson Care Center, the Community Presbyterian Church, Lifestar Ambulance – who cater to specific population groups. One of the concerns, stated Mr. Yellisetty, if transit service is provided to the region, is there going to be ridership. Based on demographics, the number of people likely to need transportation service in the Payson/Star Valley region is 3,200 – which could result in about 121,000 trips per year. They also look to see if transit were available, would other people use transit for their commute, shopping and healthcare

needs. Explained Mr. Yellisetty, once it was established where people live, work, play, shop and go to school, they developed a “Transit Demand Model” to identify where people would potentially start and end their trips in the region.

Next, reported Mr. Yellisetty, an online “Public Needs Assessment Survey” was conducted. There were about 408 responses received, with the majority of those responses, 217, coming from the Payson/Star Valley area. The survey collected information on where residents are traveling, transit needs, common usages of transportation, access to vehicles and thoughts on public transportation, explained Mr. Yellisetty. One question asked was “What keeps you from where you are going?” The first two responses are very telling – 23% do not have a car and 20% have no one available to drive them. These are the potential transit users right there, pointed out Mr. Yellisetty. The best metric is that 76%, or three fourths of the population would use public transportation if it were available. Another question asked was “What would you most likely use public transportation for?” The responses were wide ranging from shopping and errands at the highest of 56% to commuting to work or school at 42%. These responses were factored in when developing the route system for the Payson/Star Valley area.

Reported Mr. Yellisetty, the feasibility study recommendations for the Payson/Star Valley area would be two fixed service routes. One route is for the Payson area to service their internal situation, and the other route would essentially connect Star Valley and Payson. In addition to that, there will always be a need for demand-response service. In the short-term the current non-profit entities would continue to provide transportation services, and in the long-term a dial-a-ride service would be established. The Gila County region, stated Mr. Yellisetty, would benefit from a centralized regional public transit agency and two options were proposed. Under “Option 1” a region-wide public transit agency would be established and every single provider in the county would be managed and operated by this agency. Under “Option 2” a central contact would be established to coordinate services with the individual providers. The recommendation is to start at “Option 2” and transition to “Option 1” for the long-term, explained Mr. Yellisetty.

The “Transit Implementation Plan” would consist of four routes, reported Mr. Yellisetty. The Blue Loop Route would connect key activity centers in Payson; have 8 fixed stops; and run from 8:30am to 3:15pm. The Red Loop Route would connect Star Valley and Payson and key activity centers; have 10 fixed stops; and run from 8:30am to 3:15pm. The Blue Commuter Route would connect residential and employment areas in Payson; have 6 fixed stops; and run from 6:30am to 8:00am and 3:30pm to 5:00pm. The Red Commuter Route would connect Star Valley to Payson; have 8 fixed stops; and run from 6:30am to 8:10am and 3:30pm to 5:15pm. All routes will be equipped with ADA access, stated Mr. Yellisetty and the recommendation is to start with a lower fare structure. Mr. Yellisetty briefly explained the marketing, budget and funding plans. Assuming in “Year 1” of the “Funding Plan” fares in the amount of \$9,000.00 are collected and funding is received from ADOT in the amount of \$173,416.000 – local sources would need to come up with funds of \$77,829.00 for a total “Year 1 Budget” of \$251,245.00. Council Member Davis asked who the local sources would be. Answered Mr. Yellisetty, Payson, Star Valley, Gila County and the Payson Senior Center. Mr. Yellisetty briefly explained the proposed 2 Phase approach in establishing a Regional Transit Coordination Council under Gila County in partnership with Central Arizona Governments (CAG).

Council Member McKinney stated he noticed advertising revenues were not included in the funding plan. They have considered advertising but did not want to include those costs at this point, responded Mr. Yellisetty. Council Member Coon asked if more stops would be added. Answered Mr. Yellisetty, it’s a balancing act – the more stops you have the longer it takes – people then lose interest in transit. Mr. Yellisetty recommends keeping the demand response service intact – if someone cannot walk to the stop, they still have the demand service option. Council Member Stephenson stated this type of

plan would integrate with other services such as Uber. Council Member Davis stated it is a well thought out plan and needed in this area. Council Member Stephenson stated it is a realistic plan that is do-able. Mayor McDaniel thanked Mr. Yellisetty for the report and stated it is very enlightening.

- **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 comments and the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Coon and was seconded by Council Member Davis.

The motion was voted on and passed 6 – 0.

APPROVED:

Ronnie O. McDaniel, Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Eddie 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 1st day of May 2018. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 3rd day of May 2018.

Eddie Chapin, Town Clerk