

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

**Tuesday, June 19, 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 Ms. Lois Johnson of Crossroads Foursquare Church.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- CALL TO ORDER

- ROLL CALL:

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

- **HELLSGATE FIRE DISTRICT REPORT FOR MAY 2018**

Chief John Wisner of Hellsgate Fire District gave the report for May 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 June 5, 2018.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from June 1, 2018 through June 15, 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 Coon and was seconded by Council Member Davis.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mayor McDaniel X , Vice Mayor O'Connor X , Council Member Coon X , Council Member McKinney excused, 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 Co-Executive Directors DJ Palmer and Annie Bamber of the Payson Humane Society.**

Town Manager Grier explained that Mr. Palmer and Ms. Bamber were invited to be present and address Council as there has been some concern about animal control in Star Valley. Specifically, Vice Mayor O'Connor had raised some very valid questions that the Town has been attempting to resolve. One of the steps was to meet with the Humane Society expressing the Town's concerns. We had a very honest and frank conversation, stated Mr. Grier, and made some headway in resolving the issues. Mr. Grier disclosed that he was very impressed with Mr. Palmer and Ms. Bamber – as administrators they are professional, very bright and provide an exceptional service for the Town. One of the issues the Town has is dogs that are a problem, nuisance and safety hazard to the community are getting picked up over and over again and the Town continues to pay for them. A good idea we came up with, reported Mr. Grier, was for the Humane Society to provide the Town with contact information of those irresponsible pet owners who are repeat offenders. Town staff has started and will continue to send out certified letters demanding reimbursement for the cost it is charged by the Humane Society. The Town is targeting this group of irresponsible dog owners, stated Mr. Grier, and he hopes to see some progress by hitting them in their pocket book. A quicker response from Gila County for a “dog at large” is also necessary, pointed out Mr. Grier. We certainly want to keep the community safe – the citizens of Star Valley should feel comfortable taking a walk without being threatened by dogs.

Annie Bamber Co-Executive Director of the Payson Humane Society reported they serve 900 square miles of central Arizona and have taken in close to 200 animals just last month. Last year they took in about 1200 dogs and cats and are expecting that number to go up this year. DJ Palmer Co-Executive Director of the Payson Humane Society presented the Humane Society scope of work and services they provide (see attached) for the Town of Star Valley. Rest assured that when animals do come to the facility they are well taken care of and are not euthanized reported Mr. Palmer. Ms. Bamber mentioned they have a program for low income families called “Feeding Fido” – the families come to the Humane Society once a month, explained Ms. Bamber, and are given the needed supplies to care for their animals. They also provide low cost vet services to the public and the “Feeding Fido” participants on scheduled days.

Vice Mayor O'Connor asked if the Town has a contract with the Humane Society. Ms. Bamber responded, “Not since 2006.” Vice Mayor O'Connor asked for clarification if the Town has an IGA with Gila County. “Correct, a bit dated, but yes”, answered Town Manager Grier. Vice Mayor O'Connor asked if the Humane Society bills Gila County also. “No, we do not”, answered Ms. Bamber. Mr. Palmer added that the Town is billed \$50.00 for any animal that is brought in by an authorized representative of the Town of Star Valley, which in the Town's case is Gila County Animal Control. Vice Mayor O'Connor stated his confusion on how to keep it clear and discern what the Town is paying for, and that he has never seen a break-down from the Humane Society. The Town seems to be paying twice for the same dog, pointed out Vice Mayor O'Connor. Ms. Bamber responded the Town is being billed by two different services – Gila County and the Humane Society. Mr. Palmer added a common frustration amongst the Humane Society and the Town of Star Valley is the way that Gila County decides to do something – or not do something. The Humane Society relies on Gila County Animal Control to cite the offenders, which in the case of Star Valley is not being done. The problem too is that a lot of the repeat offenders are pet owners that don't care – they take the dog out of impound and bring it back to the neighborhood, the dog gets loose again, with no consequence to the pet owner. Reported Mr. Palmer, this issue was addressed with Town Manager Grier who came up with the idea for the Town to bill the pet

owner to try and get some of that money back. Vice Mayor O'Connor stated hopefully it will make some of the pet owners responsible.

The other problem that we have, pointed out Vice Mayor O'Connor is that the Sheriff is contacted and comes out, but isn't contacting Animal Control – they need to contact Animal Control immediately. Vice Mayor O'Connor asked how the Town can differentiate the services it is paying for between Gila County and the Humane Society. Ms. Bamber reported they send the Town a very clear impound sheet every month listing the reclaimed pet owner's name and address. Council Member Stephenson thanked Mr. Palmer and Ms. Bamber for explaining the system. Mr. Palmer recommended the Town re-draft the contract between the two parties because it is so outdated. "A nice formal discussion at some point would be beneficial for both of us" stated Mr. Palmer. Town Manager Grier pointed out a couple issues the Town needs to look at – the first being Gila County citing "dog at large", which hasn't been done; the second being too much time lapse between the initial phone call and contacting Animal Control; and the third, we hope will curb some of these repeat offenders, is the Town sending out letters demanding payment. Mr. Grier stated he thinks these three steps will be helpful and does believe that after his conversation with the Humane Society they are not the culprit in this. We still have things to fix, but they are doing a very good job for the community and the Town stated Mr. Grier.

2. Presentation by APS T&D Division Manager Neil Traver regarding the ballot initiative and fire mitigation policies.

APS T&D Division Manager Neil Traver stated he would like to start off by explaining the recently implemented APS fire mitigation policies for reducing the likelihood of causing a fire. They have what he calls "smart devices" on a lot of the lines – as an example suppose a tree branch or mylar balloon strikes the line – the "smart device" will feel the resistance and turn off the line automatically. A few moments later the "smart device" turns the line back on. The "smart device" performs this function three times and will lock out if the line isn't clear. When that occurs, explained Mr. Traver, a trouble-man is sent out to make the repair. What APS has done is taken an extra step and pro-actively turned the "smart devices" off to reduce the likelihood of causing a fire. They are also now sending two trouble-men to make the repair and reduce the time the power is off.

Mr. Traver reported there is a ballot initiative "Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona" that has been filed with the Arizona Secretary of State's Office by California billionaire Tom Steyer. If passed, this initiative would change Arizona's energy policy by requiring the regulated utilities of the state to have 50% renewable energy by 2030. That is twelve years from now and a pretty astronomical request, stated Mr. Traver. The initiative will be on the November election ballot if the required signatures are gathered by July 5. APS would like the public to know what this really means to Arizona and that if this initiative gets passed it will do some harmful things. Reported Mr. Traver, it will circumvent Arizona's current structure for regulating utilities – essentially handcuffing the Arizona Corporation Commission ("ACC") which has existed for one hundred years regulating utilities – forcing the ACC to comply with this legislation and have these costs passed on to the customers. It has the potential to dramatically increase electricity bills. APS has done research to understand the economic outcome to the State of Arizona and concluded it will effectively double residential customer's bills and that the average residential customer's rates will go up by over \$1,200.00 a year. Stated Mr. Traver, APS does not feel this is the right answer and does not think that cost should be passed on to the rate payers. It would actually require APS to shut-down several power plants. The biggest and most impactful being the Palo Verde nuclear generating station – the largest clean energy producer in the United States and also the largest clean air energy producer in Arizona. The economic impact of that closure would essentially put 3000 people out of work in the State of Arizona reported Mr. Traver. In reality, this initiative will raise rates, increase the carbon

footprint and weaken Arizona's economic competitiveness. While the initiatives paid spokespeople claim that it will reduce Arizona resident's electric bills and improve the public health, the problem is the initiative will do neither. Renewable energy is intermittent and requires support from flexible sources like natural gas or battery storage explained Mr. Traver. These additional resources will require Arizona residents to pay billions of dollars to keep the lights on. In addition, the public health issues, asthma and respiratory illness, would not be measurably improved by shutting down the plants like Palo Verde concluded Mr. Traver.

Council Member Davis asked if this is done in California. Mr. Traver responded California has their own similar system and they have definitely gone down the renewables path and that the rates in California are atrocious and very cost prohibitive. Council Member Stephenson asked for an explanation of the Palo Verde situation and stated he understood it was defined as a clean energy source. Mr. Traver answered the language of the petition does not say Palo Verde has to be shut down – it is economics that says APS will have to shut it down. The reason being, explained Mr. Traver, Palo Verde is a base load power plant and is built and designed to start up and run for 18 months straight at max capacity. If we go to this renewable portfolio what happens is that in the middle of the day you have all this solar that comes into the system – and that basically says Palo Verde we've got to take you down. Effectively what it does is makes Palo Verde an uneconomical resource for APS. As an example, explained Mr. Traver, California has an excess of power in the middle of the day and they have to pay other utilities to take the load they can't use. This is another reason it will drive costs up stated Mr. Traver.

Council Member Stephenson asked what APS has done to pro-actively get more renewable sources. Mr. Traver answered that APS has a very significant solar energy portfolio including Solana, one of the largest solar fields in the United States. They have a pretty significant portion of their portfolio already renewable and it is growing constantly. APS wants people to understand they are not against renewables, they just want to make it economical and do it in a manner that is cost effective for the rate payers, pointed out Mr. Traver. Council Member Stephenson asked what the reasonable and optimal percentages for 12 years would be. Mr. Traver stated he does not have that answer. The optimal would be when renewables become economically efficient and to take a phased in approach. This initiative is economically a really bad answer for the State of Arizona concluded Mr. Traver.

3. Public hearing, discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. R 18-09, adopting the Final Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$6,793,144.00. Presentation by Finance Administrator Chancy Nutt.

Finance Administrator Chancy Nutt explained this is a public hearing and request to adopt the final budget as presented in the packet. If Council passes Resolution No. R 18-09 adopting the final budget as presented, informed Ms. Nutt, "Schedule A" will be published in the local newspaper and the entire budget packet will be available on the Town website and at Town Hall. Ms. Nutt explained that by adopting the final budget the Town will begin utilizing that budget starting July 1, 2018 and going through June 30, 2019. Any adjustments to line items within a specific fund can be accepted through the Resolution if so said in the motion, otherwise the fund balances were set during the tentative budget process. After the tentative budget was presented, informed Ms. Nutt, the state provided a few adjustments to some of their estimated revenues for fiscal year 2018/2019 (see included spreadsheet). Subsequently the General Fund will be adjusted down by \$2,000.00 and HURF Funds will be adjusted up by \$18,000.00 for a net gain of roughly \$19,000.00.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. R 18-09 adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2018/2019 for the Town of Star Valley in the amount of \$6,793,144.00 was made by Council Member Stephenson and was seconded by Council Member Coon.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion was voted on and passed 6 - 0.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the possibility of constructing a round-about at Cornerstone and Moonlight.

Council Member Coon stated that after the Town lost photo enforcement through state legislation it has been a challenge to come up with solutions to preserve safety for our streets. With the traffic speed limit at 45mph and no designated cross walk it is unsafe for pedestrians to cross the five lanes of traffic on Highway 260 – motorists are often exceeding that speed limit, reported Council Member Coon. Also, with the increased traffic congestion it is unsafe for vehicles to enter the 260 at some of our intersections such as Moonlight Drive and Cornerstone Way – two of the Town’s busiest intersections due to the high residential population. As a solution to these safety issues the Town should consider a round-about at the intersection of Moonlight and Cornerstone, recommended Council Member Coon.

Vice Mayor O’Connor stated he agrees it’s a bad intersection and believes there are more accidents at that intersection than any other in Town. He would like to throw out the possibility of a traffic light because the road on the Highway is a bridge and he’s not sure if a round-about would work on a bridge. Council Member Coon responded the Town is a little restricted and that he has an issue with a traffic light causing repercussions for motorists heading north. Vice Mayor O’Connor clarified the traffic light would be used as a traffic device to slow things down. Council Member Davis stated he agrees the Town needs traffic calming and asked if this is on ADOT’s radar. Council Member Coon answered Council would need to direct staff to look into it to determine the procedures and cost. Council Member Davis suggested a possible tie-in with the Lion Springs widening project which is back on ADOT’s five-year plan. Mayor McDaniel stated he is all for a solution – either a round-about or traffic light.

Council Member Armington stated his concern about a round-about at the bridge and the need for engineering. A traffic light would tie things up, pointed out Council Member Armington, a round-about would be perfect and slow things down. Council Member Coon suggested the Town start working with ADOT for their input as to what would work best. Council Member Armington stated the 45mph speed limit is too fast and suggested first slowing down the Town speed limit to 35mph, adding that 45mph would be too fast for a round-about. Council Member Stephenson stated he likewise agrees the problem needs to be addressed – pointing out that the traffic volume on Tyler Parkway is less than on Moonlight and Cornerstone. Part of the Town’s efforts, suggested Council Member Stephenson, should be to gather traffic counts on Moonlight and Cornerstone to demonstrate the need. Mayor McDaniel replied he is sure ADOT would handle that.

Town Manager Grier disclosed he has started research by first contacting Payson Town Manager LaRon Garrett regarding the Town of Payson roundabouts and how they were funded. Explained Mr. Grier, the Town of Payson roundabouts were funded through TTAC with the Town of Payson contributing a 4.7% match on the cost – they paid over \$47,000.00 some seven to eight years ago. A likely number for the cost of a round-about for the Town is 1.5 million dollars, stated Mr. Grier, adding that TTAC funds are no longer available until 2028. Mr. Grier reported he has made two attempts to contact ADOT Engineer Nate Reisner without any response thus far and that he does understand there are criteria to meet to qualify for a round-about or a traffic light. Mr. Grier suggested the Town send a letter to Mr. Reisner inviting him to address Council, as he believes it will take Council involvement to move

ADOT. Mayor McDaniel agreed the Town should contact ADOT for the safety of the residents. Discussion followed concerning pedestrian crossing. Council Member Armington suggested approaching this in phases and reduce the Town speed limit first as he feels it will be easier to get a reduction in speed. Town Manger Grier responded he does not know that answer and mentioned the Town has interesting data on the amount of traffic that goes through from the data collection on the flashing speed signs at each end of Town. Reported Mr. Grier, it is quite stunning information and he is shocked that some 250,000 cars passed through in a relatively short time period. Vice Mayor O'Connor advocated he would like to go with some sort of a traffic correction first and not just lowering of the speed limit. "It's a worthwhile battle", stated Council Member Coon.

A motion to direct Town staff to investigate the cost and procedure for construction of either a round-about or traffic signal at the intersection of Cornerstone Way and Moonlight Drive on Highway 260 was made by Council Member Coon and was seconded by Council Member Armington.

The motion was voted on and passed 6 - 0.

A motion for Star Valley Town Council to take the issue of speed and traffic on State Highway 260 very seriously and authorize the Town Manager to contact the director of ADOT and seek assistance in this project was made by Council Member Stephenson and was seconded by Council Member Davis.

The motion was voted on and passed 6 - 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 Davis.

The motion was voted on and passed 6 – 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 June 2018. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 22nd day of June 2018.

Edie Chapin, Town Clerk