

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

**Tuesday, November 20, 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 Pastor Rich Richey of Payson First Church of the Nazarene.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- CALL TO ORDER

- ROLL CALL:

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

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

Chief John Wisner of Hellsgate Fire District gave the report for October 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 October 16, 2018.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from October 16, 2018 through November 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 Stephenson and was seconded by Council Member Armington.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mayor McDaniel X , Vice Mayor O'Connor X , 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 7 - 0.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding a \$5,000.00 contribution to the Rim Country Chamber of Commerce for funding of an electric sign. Discussion and action item requested by Council Member Davis.**

Council Member Davis explained he received an email from Lance Porter requesting this as an agenda item. Lance Porter, President, Board of Directors of the Rim Country Chamber of Commerce (the “Chamber”) stated also in attendance with him is Maia Crespin, Executive Director of the Chamber and Heather Oberg who is also a board member. Mr. Porter stated they are here to talk about a project they would like to undertake for the Rim Country that would benefit Payson, Star Valley and surrounding communities. Explained Mr. Porter, one of the main objectives for the Chamber is to promote business and to help build the economy. They do that through the Visitor’s Center trying to bring tourists up and directing them to the businesses and events in the communities. The challenge they have is getting that word out. They have a website, a facebook page, and two signs they manage – the static sign in front of the Visitor’s Center and the Department of Transportation (“DOT”) sign up by the casino. They would like to replace the old marquee sign and install an electronic, programmable sign in front of the Visitor’s Center that will rotate a series of messages for events. Mr. Porter reported the Payson Town Council approved \$25,000.00 towards the project and the Town of Payson would like to see other entities and communities participating in this as well. The Chamber is reaching out to the Town of Star Valley and Gila County about contributing \$5,000.00 towards the cost of this project., stated Mr. Porter. In exchange the Town will be allowed to put events on the board. Mr. Porter gave examples such as accepting applications for community garden plots and opening of the park. There would be no limit and the Town could run a message as long as it would like, stated Mr. Porter.

Vice Mayor O’Connor questioned how they can showcase local businesses without having advertising on the sign. Mr. Porter clarified they can’t have paid advertising or generate revenue from this. They can recognize businesses, announce a grand opening or ribbon cutting. Vice Mayor O’Connor questioned the conflict with Iron Horse Signs and Ms. Oberg as a board member of the Chamber. Ms. Oberg stated she put in a bid and welcomes other bids. Mr. Porter explained they have looked into other companies and a sign like this would typically be around \$45,000.00 and Iron Horse is willing to do it for \$35,000.00. Council Member Armington questioned the visibility and location of the sign. Ms. Oberg disclosed the current sign doesn’t catch the eye. Mr. Porter stated they are hoping the new multi-media sign will be able to attract attention. Council Member Coon asked how events will be prioritized. Ms. Oberg answered the events will rotate about every 9 seconds. Council Member Coon questioned how Star Valley could use the sign and does not see how the Town could get \$5,000.00 worth of usage. Mr. Porter agreed that is a legitimate concern and clarified the \$5,000.00 contribution would be for the life of the sign.

Vice Mayor O’Connor pointed out the garden and park are open year-round and asked what the Chamber does specifically for Star Valley. Ms. Crespin responded they do a number of events; the monthly luncheon; they post all of the events for businesses in Rim Country on their website for free; they send out multiple emails per week on anything that’s going on in Rim County; they also have an online director; and workshops. Vice Mayor O’Connor asked how much input they are receiving from Star Valley specifically for workshops and things like that and how much usage is Star Valley specifically getting from these. Mr. Porter responded there are 6 businesses in Star Valley that are members of the Chamber and that the benefit from the Chamber comes from active participation. Vice Mayor O’Connor stated he is conflicted with spending the public’s money on this. Mr. Porter stated by attracting more

people to the Rim Country we all benefit economically. Ms. Crespin stated Star Valley is a part of the Rim Country and thinks this would be a good investment for the community.

Council Member Stephenson stated a lot of Star Valley residents work in Payson because there are so few businesses in Star Valley. They are reliant on Payson and the general economy of Payson and we are part of that whole economy. Payson is picking up the bulk of the cost and we recognize they will get the bulk of the benefits. Star Valley residents, those that are employed in Payson, will benefit from increased economic activity. Council Member Stephenson stated he is comfortable with this request assuming the county will participate too. Council Member Davis commented he agrees as he lives in Star Valley and works in Payson and stated he would support the request. Mayor McDaniel stated it is good that it is not an annual fee. Town Manager Grier asked if a business would be allowed to put an event on the board if they are not a Chamber member. Ms. Crespin answered they would have to be a Chamber member. Mr. Porter pointed out dues for the Chamber are not expensive and are worth the money. Vice Mayor O'Connor stated he probably wouldn't go along with this because it is going to be limited to six businesses from Star Valley.

Reported Vice Mayor O'Connor, the last time the Town contributed to the "Business Showcase" he went down to specifically see what it was and there was no mention of Star Valley. Mr. Porter apologized and stated they could have done a better job of communicating what the Town should have gotten for sponsorship, as typically there is a booth and signage. They are constantly trying to improve what they provide for their members and for the community. Council Member Stephenson stated the big purpose of the sign is announcing events – events benefit all businesses, chamber members or not, the entire economy benefits, and he thinks there are wider benefits than just to the Chamber members. Council Member McKinney stated he is appreciative of the Chamber and reported he spoke with four businesses in Star Valley. None of the four indicated to him that they would rather have \$5,000.00 of tax money diverted from filling pot holes to building a sign in Payson. This is not something he would be able to support, stated Council Member McKinney. Mayor McDaniel stated he thinks HURF is a different fund than this particular project. Town Manager Grier confirmed the contribution would come out of the general fund and not the HURF fund for road projects.

A motion to approve a contribution to the Rim Country Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$5,000.00 to assist in the funding of an electric sign that will benefit the whole region was made by Council Member Stephenson and was seconded by Council Member Davis.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mayor McDaniel Yes, Vice Mayor O'Connor No, Council Member Coon No, Council Member McKinney No, Council Member Davis Yes, Council Member Stephenson Yes, Council Member Armington No.

The motion was voted on and was denied 4 – 3.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding installing street lights along Highway 260. Discussion and action item requested by Council Member McKinney.

Council Member McKinney reported residents of the Lamplighter go on foot or occasionally in little electric cars across the street to visit the entertainment and shopping emporiums on the North side of the street and recommended installing street lights on the power pole by the Lamplighter and on the other side of the street to help deter accidents. He entered into discussions with the people that own the power poles and they will allow this as long as their own crews do the work, informed Council Member McKinney. Vice Mayor O'Connor stated it is a good idea to look into possible lighting along the streets because it is necessary. Mayor McDaniel stated anything to help illuminate is a good cause. Council Member McKinney stated there is no single remedy that is going to render that stretch of highway as safe

as we would like it and that this will be an incremental step in the direction we want to go. Chief Wisner of the Hellsgate Fire Department stated he applauds the concept. He's been on the highway at all times of the night and on a number of occasions dealing with individuals who have been struck by traffic in the very area mentioned. Lighting could help avoid accidents and he hopes council will support it. Council Member Armington stated the north side is very dim, especially around Cornerstone and that he would like to see street lights start back by the Town sign near Valley Road and continue down the north side of the Highway. Council Member Coon stated he agrees and envisions a series of street lights to light up the Town and not just one area. Sharon Rappaport of 699 E. Highline Dr., Star Valley stated it could kill two birds with one stone to have street lights on both sides. People coming in could see they are entering a Town and it would help slow down traffic. It should have some symmetry and non-polluting lights that focus down to create a rosy glow on the 260, suggested Mrs. Rappaport.

Council Member Coon asked if ADOT would be involved. "Yes", answered Mayor McDaniel. Council Member Stephenson commented it's an ambitious plan – the placement of a series of street lights, installation costs, on-going operational costs, and keeping with the dark sky concept. Mayor McDaniel stated it's a worthy project to direct staff to check into the cost. Council Member Davis questioned if the Town could use Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds for this project. Town Manager Grier answered he doesn't think so because those funds are earmarked for low to moderate. Mr. Grier agreed that it is an ambitious project and reported he met with Arizona Department of Transportation ("ADOT") this week regarding the Road Safety Assessment and street lights were discussed. ADOT likes the idea as it makes the Town more visible and will likely slow traffic. Street lights may be a good alternative as a traffic light or round-about may not be in the Town's future, disclosed Mr. Grier. Mayor McDaniel suggested that ADOT be contacted to possibly help to keep costs down. Mr. Grier added that APS could be contacted as well regarding available funds. Stated Mr. Grier, he would like to see something that is systematic and on point with the dark sky concept. Mayor McDaniel mentioned that this could be done in phases.

A motion to direct staff to research installing street lights was made by Council Member McKinney and was seconded by Council Member Armington.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion was voted on and passed 7 – 0.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the Town's continued participation with the Rim Country Trails working group.

Council Member McKinney suggested this item be put in abeyance and picked up with the new council. Council Member Stephenson reminded council that they voted to continue the effort with the Rim Country Trails group at a recent council meeting. Mayor McDaniel stated that council supports off-road vehicle use and that vote occurred prior to receiving information that off-road vehicles would not be allowed on the trails. Vice Mayor O'Connor stated he gets most of his information out of the newspaper that reported all five trails are going to be non-motorized and that there is absolutely nothing in the works for any type of motorized in our area. He does not see any economic development for our area because people don't want the trail heads here. We have a committee, stated Vice Mayor O'Connor, that doesn't get involved enough to bring back information – he does not see a reason to have a committee from Star Valley and recommends the committee disband as there is no advantage for the Town. Council Member Coon stated he has always supported the basic concept of organized trail use. What he doesn't support is

unfair restrictions placed on off-road motorized vehicles that has been suggested by the forest service. Personally, disclosed Council Member Coon, he is done with that committee. Mayor McDaniel stated he hates to support anything that leaves off-road vehicle use out in the cold. Council Member Davis stated that he participates on this committee for the Town of Payson and reported he spoke with District Ranger Cress who said they are not trying to outlaw off-road vehicles. The Town of Star Valley should have representation in those meetings, advocated Council Member Davis. Vice Mayor O'Connor responded the forest service can restrict and deny access.

Council Member Armington stated he is interested in accessibility. There are trails where access points are being surrounded by fenced private property with no trespassing signs. Council Member Armington stated he would like to see more accessibility to the trails and would be interested in participating if the Town could develop these areas for accessibility. Council Member Stephenson stated the process is not getting us anywhere and the forest service will do what they want to do. Mayor McDaniel stated the Town probably should participate in the trail system to let them know where we stand. Council Member Stephenson pointed out that one of the five projects, fairly close to Star Valley, is located behind the Knolls at Monument Peak. Council Member Stephenson stated it would behoove the council to have representation and suggested sending the Town Manager or staff to these meetings. Council Member Coon stated he has been hiking Monument Peak for 20 years and is concerned that too much involvement will screw it up. Right now, you can hike, bike, horseback ride and use off-road vehicles and he does not want to lose that. Council Member Armington asked about forming a committee of actual residents. Mayor McDaniel answered that would not be a good situation. Council Member Stephenson reported he has an expectation the trails committee will be asking the Town for funds again and a decision in or out at this point may solve some problems later.

A motion to discontinue participating with the Rim Country Trails working group was made by Vice Mayor O'Connor 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 Yes, Council Member Davis No, Council Member Stephenson No, Council Member Armington Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 5 – 2.

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.

Council Member Stephenson of 840 Moonlight Drive, Star Valley reported two years ago in January council appointed him a member of the council – he was accepted into this group and honored with the acceptance. Council Member Stephenson stated he had a good time and hopes he has been able to contribute something the last couple of years filling in for Council Member Henderson. He thanked everyone for the comradeship and stated, "It's been a fun ride."

Mayor McDaniel responded it's been great for council to accept you and work with you. You are an honorable person and it's been great to have you for the time that we've had you.

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 Armington and was seconded by Council Member Davis.

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 20th day of November 2018. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 21st day of November 2018.

Edie Chapin, Town Clerk