

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

**Tuesday, December 17, 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 Sarah Allen of Payson United Methodist 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 , Council Member McDaniel X , Mayor Coon X .

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

Chief Wisner with Hellsgate Fire District was not in attendance.

- **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 December 3, 2019.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from December 1, 2019 through December 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 McDaniel.

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 , Council Member McDaniel X , Mayor Coon X .

The motion was voted on and passed 7 - 0.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Public hearing, discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. R 19-12 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Star Valley, Arizona, adopting commercial meter rates and water rates.**

Mayor Coon stated commercial meter rates and adjusted water rates were proposed to council at the November 5th meeting and the public hearing was approved and scheduled for the 17th of December. Finance Administrator Nutt reported she advertised the proposed commercial meter rates and the adjusted tier rates in the Roundup for thirty days effective November 8th. She scheduled the public hearing for tonight's meeting and asked the mayor to open it for public comments before the vote takes place. If the council chooses to approve Resolution No. R 19-12, stated Ms. Nutt, the rates will go into effect January 1, 2020. Ms. Nutt added she provided council with an additional copy of the notice that was sent to the Roundup and posted on the Town's website. Mayor Coon opened the meeting up for public comments. There were no public comments and the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting.

Council Member Binney asked if the notice provided is what was advertised. Ms. Nutt answered it is a copy that was provided at the previous meeting, and it is what was provided to the public in the newspaper, on the Town's website, as well as being available at Town Hall. Council Member Binney asked for confirmation as to the effective date of the rates. Ms. Nutt answered if the council approves the resolution the rates would be effective January 1st. Council Member Binney asked what the average increase would be. Ms. Nutt answered the average household bill would go up by about five dollars. It's a hard number to nail down as people may adjust usage. Council Member Binney asked if there is a way to give a notice. Town Manager Grier clarified that this is not new information – it was provided at the last meeting. Everything the Town has done procedurally has been to give the public notice. To then send something out in the mail is duplicative of this process. Mr. Grier stated the price affects the top tiers and those using a lot of water. The bill will not be affected at all by those that are not in the top tiers and not using a lot of water. It's a little bit hard to predict with water users if their rates will go up or not.

Council Member Binney recommended the Town send out a letter stating the tiered rates. Mr. Grier responded there are 365 hook-ups which would be a significant mailer. Mr. Grier added he's not really quite sure how the Town would explain it and that it may cause more problems. Ms. Nutt emphasized the Town chose this time of year because it is the lowest usage months. Anyone concerned about reaching a higher tier can make that decision before planting a garden. Council Member Rappaport recommended to state on the billing that rates will increase for the year 2020. Mr. Grier responded that is not really a true statement. The rates are not going to increase. Only those with a higher water usage in the top two tiers would increase. The Town would put people in panic over something that is not going to happen. Council Member Rappaport suggested to put it in a sentence that makes sense. Council Member McDaniel asked if the water fund will still be in the red next year? "Yes," answered Mr. Grier. This is not going to cure the water department and it's not going to be break even. The Town can't run the water department any more cheaply than it does now, and it can't cut any more corners on operations and maintenance. Ms. Nutt added operations are frugal and capital improvements are being subsidized by the Town.

Mr. Grier stated the Town's water rates are artificially low and they will continue to be artificially low with this very modest raise that only affects a small portion of water users. The Town is not close in charging a break even water bill and the water customers are getting a great benefit from that. Water bills in Payson are much higher than water bills in Star Valley. That may be okay since the Town is not a for profit and does not need to be. Mr. Grier questioned if the water company needs to be a break even. That is something that will be in front council in the future, stated Mr. Grier. Council Member Binney stated

water will be here for all future users in Star Valley. Council Member Binney recommended researching fire grants for fire mains to get water to areas that don't have water. Mr. Grier responded there was a study done on distribution that may become useful. If the Town hadn't purchased the water company, there would be problems. The Town strategy has been good, stated Mr. Grier. Council Member Rappaport stated this will be an ongoing concern for years and years and she would like to revisit this at least once a year. It's great that people get good water at a reasonable price, but the Town also has to consider maintenance and building that into the rates. Council Member Binney responded that council needs to address it once and put an automatic evaluation in place. Mr. Grier stated the Town doesn't have a capital improvement project fund for the water department. Other councils may be saddled with big ticket items in the future. The way those should be handled is to have a water department capital improvement project fund.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. R 19-12 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Star Valley, Arizona, adopting commercial meter rates and water rates 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.

2. Update on the ADOT Adopt a Highway program.

Town Clerk Chapin reported the first clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, January 25th from 9:00am to Noon. It would be best to stick with a smaller group size of fourteen maximum – with Town Council and staff there are ten. Ms. Chapin asked council to provide contact information of any volunteers they know who are interested in participating. Town Hall will provide safety vests, gloves and trash grabbers. Ms. Chapin explained that everyone will park and meet at Town Hall. Council Member Davis will be providing coffee and donuts and as the group representative he will review the safety procedures with all volunteers. Litter will be picked up from milepost 255 (Highline Dr.) to milepost 256 (just before Rim Furniture). ADOT requires volunteers work on one side of the Highway at a time. Once the first clean-up has been performed, ADOT will initiate the process of fabricating and installing the recognition panels in honor of Ronnie, concluded Ms. Chapin.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding Christmas Bonuses for Town Staff. Discussion and action item requested by Council Member Binney.

Mayor Coon stated hard work should be rewarded and Christmas bonuses are Star Valley's way of thanking the Town staff for their diligence and everyday town operations. Vice Mayor McKinney stated he is in favor of giving a bonus to Town staff in line with at least what was given last year. Mayor Coon asked what the bonus was for last year. Vice Mayor McKinney answered \$600.00. Council Member Binney stated \$600.00 was given in the past when there were more employees. Now they are doing more junk so maybe make it \$750.00 this time.

A motion to award Christmas Bonuses to Town Staff in the amount of \$750.00 was made by Council Member Davis and was seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

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 Davis.

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 17th day of December 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 18th day of December 2019.

Edie Chapin, Town Clerk