

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

**Tuesday, February 19, 2013 @ 6:00 pm
3675 East Highway 260, Star Valley, AZ
(Star Valley Town Hall)**

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- CALL TO ORDER
- PRAYER was offered by Pastor Gary Bowser of Star Valley Southern Baptist Church
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL:

Mayor Rappaport X , Vice-Mayor Newland X , Council Member Hartwell X , Council Member Binney X , Council Member Coon X , Council Member Leis X , Council Member Henderson X .

- **GILA COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORTS FOR JANUARY, 2013.**

Lt. Tim Scott, of the Gila County Sheriff's Department, gave the Sheriff's Reports for the month of January, 2013.

- **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 February 5, 2013.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from February 1, 2013 through February 15, 2013, for the General fund and for the Water Department.

A motion to approve consent agenda items A and B was made by Council Member Hartwell, and was seconded by Council Member Leis.

A roll call was taken:

Mayor Rappaport X , Vice-Mayor Newland X , Council Member Hartwell X , Council Member Binney X , Council Member Coon X , Council Member Leis X , Council Member Henderson X .
The motion was voted on and passed 7-0.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. R 13-02 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Star Valley, Arizona, authorizing changing the time of regular council meetings.**

Town Manager Grier stated at the last Council meeting a motion was passed to change the Council meeting times from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and the resolution presented at this meeting is to formalize this change.

A motion that the Council adopt Resolution No. R 13-02 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Star Valley, Arizona, authorizing changing the time of regular council meetings was made by Council Member Hartwell, and was seconded by Council Member Coon. The motion was voted on and passed 7-0.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding maintenance and upkeep of the fire system and fire pump located at the Knolls well site.

Town Manager Grier gave a brief history of the Town's taking over the water company on May 1, 2012; a \$200,000 grant is being finalized for work on the Milky Way well site; an IGA is in place with Payson for provision of back-up water supply; and the Town has hired a full-time water operator. Mr. Grier stated this agenda item relates to cost and maintenance of the fire system and fire pump at Knolls well site. Town Manager Grier stated the Town and Hellsgate Fire Department have been attempting to reach an agreement to share the cost of the fire pump and maintenance of the fire hydrants, not just to ensure a reliable potable water supply, but also reliable fire protection for the citizens of Star Valley. Another discussion was held the afternoon on the date of this meeting, but a final agreement has not been reached yet. Chief Hatch did present a cost share, but there has not been adequate time to fully review this proposal. Mr. Grier stressed that the Council has not had time to review this proposal.

Town Manager Grier addressed several rumors that he is aware of. First, the possibility of a change in the ISO rating and subsequent increase in insurance premiums – they “won't let that happen.” Second, that people who reside within 500 feet of a fire hydrant will be charged \$500 to cover the cost – “won't let that happen.” Third, water rates will be increased to resolve this issue – “won't let that happen.”

Town Manager Grier stated the Town is then faced with the problem of how to pay for this maintenance and upkeep. Mr. Grier explained the sources of income for the Town, and pointed out that there is no property tax levied in Star Valley. Mr. Grier stated Hellsgate and the Town are working diligently on finding a resolution to this issue, and feels confident they will be able to do so.

Members of the public raised issue with not being allowed to speak, and requested answers to their questions. Hellsgate Fire Chief Gary Hatch addressed these questions. Chief Hatch did state the Fire District cannot impose an additional \$500 assessment, as rumored, nor will it increase the taxes for the next year. Chief Hatch also stated that Hellsgate will absorb the cost of maintenance and upkeep. Chief Hatch stated that, according to state law, the Town is not required to provide fire protection or to maintain the hydrants.

Chief Hatch stated it is his belief the Town and Hellsgate will be able to come to an agreement in the near future. Town Manager Grier stated the proposal currently on the table does require the Town to contribute to the “fire side” of this issue, and that Hellsgate will pay its fair share. At this point in time no agreement has been reached as to what amount each side will pay.

Mayor Rappaport interjected that this whole issue “was blown out of proportion by the newspaper.” Mayor Rappaport stated the Town will not allow its citizens to be in jeopardy over this issue, and stressed that no agreement has yet been reached between the Town and Hellsgate.

Chief Hatch expounded on the services provided by Hellsgate Fire Department, and addressed additional questions from the homeowners present.

Mayor Rappaport then opened this issue up for discussion by the Council. All Council members expressed concern that they had not had adequate time to review the proposal or to discuss a possible agreement.

A motion to table this agenda item until the April 16, 2013 Council Meeting, was made by Council Member Leis, and was seconded by Council Member Coon.

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.

Hellsgate Fire Department Hatch apologized for the delay in getting the Fire District's proposal to Town Manager Grier and the Council.

An unidentified resident of Pine Ridge Subdivision, Star Valley, Arizona, stated he was happy when the Town purchased the waster company; and that he believes the Town should be responsible for the cost and it should not be a shared cost.

John Wisner, resident of Diamond Point in Star Valley, Arizona, stated he has been with the Fire District for 19 years and proud to serve the Star Valley community. Mr. Wisner stated he was "shocked" by the issue presently before the Council, and he encouraged better communication between Hellsgate and the Town.

Karen Carlen, resident of Star Valley, Arizona, stated she is the president of the Pine Ridge Homeowners Association, and asked if grant money could be used to expand the fire hydrant into other parts of Star Valley.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was voted on and passed 7-0.

APPROVED:

William S. Rappaport, Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Lois V. Johnson, 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 February, 2013. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 27th day of February, 2013.

Lois V. Johnson, Town Clerk