

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

**Tuesday, December 17, 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 Wayne Van Horn, of the Christopher Creek Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL:

Mayor McDaniel 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 OFFICE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2013.**

Sgt. Rodney Cronk of the Gila County Sheriff's Department gave the Sheriff's report for November, 2013.

- **HELLSGATE FIRE DISTRICT REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2013.**

Battalion Chief Bathke gave the Hellsgate Fire District report for November, 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 November 19, 2013.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from November 16, 2003 through December 15, 2013 for the General Fund and for the Water Department.

A motion to approve consent agenda item A was made by Council Member Hartwell, and was seconded by Council Member Henderson.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mayor McDaniel 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.

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

A roll call vote was taken:

**Mayor McDaniel 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:**

Town Manager Grier requested that the Council change the order of the agenda and take discussion item number 3 first, as he believed some of the information in his Town Manager Report would be beneficial for the Council Members to have in discussing discussion item 1.

- 1. The “Five minute” Town Manager’s report.**

Town Manager Grier stated it was his intent to present a “five minute” at Council meetings, followed by a time for questions to him from the Council.

Town Manager Grier gave an update on the Milky Way Project, including that the cement pads have been poured and the tanks are expected to be delivered in the next week; the CDBG # 2 projects (Meals on Wheels and Quail Hollow) are expected to be funded in February, 2014; the current fund reserve of the Town is \$2,914,972, with upcoming expenses of approximately \$137,000 for leverage money for the Milky Way Project, and \$4,400 is the proposed engineering cost for Sprague Crossing and Moonlight Crossing; and approximately \$50,000 to bring the water line to Town Hall.

- 2. Discussion and possible action to review progress made during 2013, and the awarding of bonuses to Town staff.**

Council Member Leis opened the discussion by commending the staff for the job they have performed during this year, especially during the time period when Finance Administrator Nutt has been working offsite. Council Members Coon, Binney, Henderson, Hartwell, as well as Mayor McDaniel and Vice Mayor Newland expressed their appreciation for the hard and dedicated work of each member of Town staff.

A motion that the Council award each of the five members of Town staff a bonus in the amount of \$500.00 for 2013 was made by Council Member Leis, and was seconded by Council Member Coon.

Discussion followed concerning payment of taxes on the suggested bonuses.

An amended motion that the Council award each of the five members of Town staff a bonus in the net amount of \$500.00 for 2013 was made by Council Member Binney, and was seconded by Council Member Hartwell.

The motion was voted on and passed 7-0.

Town Manager Grier expressed the appreciation of staff for the bonus.

- 3. Discussion and possible action regarding the possibility of forming committees (water, streets and roads, and flood water) to assist the Town with research and planning, and also forming committees for Town social event planning, Town Hall decorating for holidays, etc., as proposed by Council Member Hartwell.**

Council Member Hartwell stated the idea behind this discussion item was to ultimately reduce staff workload. Ms. Hartwell stated she would like to see more “volunteer” involvement. Ms. Hartwell also stated she personally would like to be involved with planning Town social events, and believes there are volunteers who would like to assist with holiday decorating.

Mayor McDaniel expressed his desire to see the entire Council take an active role in any Town social events.

Discussion was held concerning the role of a commission and a committee. Town Manager Grier explained that if a committee or a commission is appointed by the Council and is a recommending body to the Council, then it is subject to the open meeting law. Mr. Grier pointed out that a committee can be created that reports to the town manager, and the town manager then passes the information on to the Council. Mr. Grier stated he would very much like to see members of the public become involved in the town.

Discussion was held concerning the past utilization of commissions and the lack of public interest and participation. The cost to the town for conducting commission and/or committee meetings and the cost of transcription of minutes was also discussed.

Council Member Hartwell explained that her idea was to have a committee for a “one time” project or social event, not to create commissions. Ms. Hartwell suggested telephoning people and radio announcements as methods to solicit volunteers.

Council Member Henderson suggested the Town give consideration to expressing appreciation and support for the Pony Express.

Town Manager Grier stated his position is that social activities can quite easily be handled by the interested council members presenting their ideas to him for approval and hopefully getting citizens involved. However, his current policy for assisting in easing the burden on town staff is to solicit the assistance of council members to assist with projects. This would also hopefully include interested member of the public and a staff member. This arrangement avoid conflict with the open meeting law as there is no recommending being done, but rather a project being addressed and the Town Manager presents the findings to the Council.

Council Member Coon commended Council Member Hartwell for bringing this topic up for discussion and agreed that the Council should be more involved.

- **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.

Ray Lyons, resident of Star Valley, stated the Moose Lodge has participated with the Town on previous projects, and the Moose Lodge is willing to continue to work with the Town. Mr. Lyons stated the Town needs to demonstrate to the public that it wants citizen involvement, at least in social events. He also stated the Moose Lodge and other organizations in the Town have volunteers willing to work, but the Town needs to “decide if it is going to use them or not.”

The public comments were then closed by the Mayor.

- **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:

Ronnie O. McDaniel, 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 special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Star Valley held on the 17th day of December, 2013. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 26th day of December, 2013.

Lois V. Johnson, Town Clerk