

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

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016 @ 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 Randy White of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- CALL TO ORDER
- ROLL CALL:

Mayor McDaniel X , Vice-Mayor Binney X , Council Member Hartwell X , Council Member Henderson X , Council Member Coon X , Council Member McKinney X , Council Member O'Connor X .

- **GILA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 2016.**

Lt. Tim Scott of the Gila County Sheriff's Office gave the report for February, 2016.

- **HELLSGATE FIRE DISTRICT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 2016.**

Fire Chief Dave Bathke of Hellsgate Fire District gave the report for February, 2016.

- **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 March 1, 2016.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from March 1, 2016 through March 15, 2016 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 Hartwell.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mayor McDaniel X , Vice-Mayor Binney X , Council Member Hartwell X , Council Member Henderson X , Council Member Coon X , Council Member McKinney X , Council Member O'Connor X .

The motion was voted on and passed 7-0.

- **PROCLAMATION**

1. **Proclaiming April, 2016 as Fair Housing Month**

The Town Clerk read the Proclamation for the Council and public (see agenda packet information).

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding amending the Town's policy for requiring and issuing a business license.**

Vice-Mayor Binney expressed his frustration with the Town's requirement and fee for business licenses for businesses operating in Star Valley. Discussion followed including the cost of a business license being only \$50.00, that this issue has been discussed three times in the past and the Council has previously made a decision to continue its current practice, and that this licensing does not result in a profit for the Town.

No motion was made.

2. **Update report on street maintenance by Town Manager.**

Town Manager Grier reported that Dallas Haught is now working for the Town of Star Valley as its "road crew." Mr. Haught will be focusing on weed control and minor street maintenance.

Mayor McDaniel requested a status report on Sprague Crossing. Town Manager Grier stated this not has been "an easy project," and is taking longer to complete than the contract provided for. Mr. Grier stated the footers have been poured and there is a paved portion in place which is an improvement over the previously existing crossing.

Town Manager Grier stated the park bathrooms are "looking great," but this project is also not progressing quickly. The completion date is uncertain at this time.

3. **Town Manager/Attorney's update report on bills before the House and Senate relating to the photo enforcement safety program, and potential impact on the Town's budget.**

Town Manager Grier stated there were four bills pertaining to photo enforcement presented to the Legislature this year. One bill is still alive and this is the one that relates to banning photo enforcement on state highways. The vote is expected any day. Mr. Grier gave details of his numerous appearances before the Legislature on behalf of the Town, as well as the other efforts that have been made to convince the legislators of what photo enforcement does for the Town.

Town Manager Grier then addressed the impact upon the Town's budget if photo enforcement were shut down by the Legislature. Mr. Grier stated approximately \$418,000 of net revenue (or 28%) from photo enforcement would be lost by the Town. Mr. Grier reviewed and explained the Fund Balance & Changes in Revenue report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. This report set forth the anticipated change in budget without photo enforcement budget. Mr. Grier emphasized that this is the projected change, but is not final. Mr. Grier explained the purpose of the report is to encourage the Council to begin considering potential changes if photo enforcement is eliminated.

Town Manager Grier pointed out that the amount in the reserve fund represents an accumulation over a ten year period. Mr. Grier stated he had authorized more streets and roads projects as the reserve fund was getting somewhat "heavy." Assuming the loss of photo enforcement revenue, there will not be a large amount to put into the reserve fund in the future, which in turn will have a major impact on what projects can be undertaken. Mr. Grier stated his suggestion is to focus more on day to day maintenance.

Referencing the report, Mr. Grier stated without photo enforcement revenue, the all fund revenue balance is projected to be \$1,060,900, but cautioned the Council to remember this number contains some

restricted funds. Mr. Grier pointed out that current law enforcement is \$385,000, or 45% of Town expenditures. However, this number may change if the Town has to request additional services from the Gila County Sheriff's Office.

Town Manager Grier stated based on the report, the amount of \$204,550 is the surplus left after subtracting expenditures from revenue. Mr. Grier stated staff will be looking at grants as a way to mitigate the loss of photo enforcement revenue. Mr. Grier stated staff is also looking at other ways in which to make adjustments for loss of photo enforcement.

Town Manager Grier concluded that the Council is here to serve the people and to provide services, and with the potential loss of 28% of its revenue, the Council needs to determine how best to move forward and also keep the Town fiscally sound.

- **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.

Vern Leis, resident of Star Valley, stated he agrees with what the Council said, but that Mr. Grier made a very clear point regarding law enforcement and that one officer cannot do the job. But, if the Town utilizes two officers, then the Town is "already out of budget." Mr. Leis also stated that under the current agreement, the Town will not get 365 day coverage as the photo enforcement system has provided. Mr. Leis suggested the Council look at how it can continue to provide the level of service which the residences around the cameras have become accustomed to.

Teresa McQuerrey, of Payson, Arizona, asked if the Town could keep the cameras up even if they are not working. An additional point Ms. McQuerrey made was since there is money in reserve, could the Town discuss with the financial adviser if it is possible to make that money work a little more and generate more interest for the Town. Town Manager Grier pointed out within the last year the Town has done this by converting from the LPIG to laddered cds. Mr. Grier further explained that the Council is somewhat restricted as to what it can do since by statute it has a fiduciary responsibility that does not allow investing in high risk/high interest bearing investments.

There were no further comments, and the Mayor closed the public comments section of the meeting.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Hartwell, and was seconded by Council Member Henderson.

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 regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Star Valley held on the 15th day of March, 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 28th day of March, 2016.

Lois V. Johnson, Town Clerk