

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

**Tuesday, April 4, 2017 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 Rev. Carl Peterson of Payson United Methodist Church
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- CALL TO ORDER

- ROLL CALL:

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

- **GILA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT FOR MARCH 2017**

Lt. Tim Scott of the Gila County Sheriff's Office gave the report for March 2017.

- **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 21, 2017.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from March 16, 2017 through March 31, 2017 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 Davis.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion was voted on and passed 7 - 0.

- **PROCLAMATION:**

1. Proclaiming May 4, 2017 as the National Day of Prayer.

The Town Clerk, Edie Chapin, read the proclamation for the Council and Public.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Presentation by District Ranger Debbie Cress and Chris Welker with the Forest Service regarding recreational opportunities of the hiking trail head in Star Valley.**

Town Manager Grier stated this is one of the projects included in the strategic four year plan, and will provide hiking opportunities to the Star Valley area in three locations. The possible locations would be the Knolls well site, Moonlight Drive, and Mayfield Canyon Road - the opportunity being all three of these trail heads are not far from the Payson Area Trail System (“PATs”). Stated Mr. Grier, the Forest Service is here to explain what the Town can do to get this project moving forward.

District Ranger Cress stated the Forest Service appreciates the opportunity to speak before Council, and reported they have recently been working with communities in the Rim Country to develop a coalition of partners to discuss sustainable recreation opportunities. She explained that the Forest Service is in the process of implementing initiatives, one of which is bringing partners to the table earlier, and more often, in order to build relationships and get people invested in their processes. The Forest Service wants to approach things differently by involving people in the process at the beginning stages, and gathering input from communities, businesses and tourists - they want to understand what opportunities are most valuable to people. District Ranger Cress reported that historically, as an agency, they have created trails, campgrounds and recreational opportunities; maybe with not as much input as they needed; and maybe not by meeting the needs of people the way they should be. Gathering input from communities will help them create opportunities that are more sustainable.

The second initiative, explained District Ranger Crest, is to create sustainable recreation opportunities in order to avoid an abandoned network of trails that are not maintained. The Forest Service is interested in building infrastructure and opportunities that everyone can be invested in and maintain – there is more longevity when investing together. District Ranger Cress stated the Rim Country coalition is in the fledgling stage, they recently had their first meeting and picked non-motorized trails as their priority. Moving forward, the focus of the Rim Country coalition is to work together to connect the trails to provide a variety of recreation opportunities, and give guidance to the Forest Service. Explained District Ranger Cress, since the Forest Service is a Federal agency, paperwork and processes are involved, and the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) process guides the work they do. The NEPA process can be time consuming and expensive – if on the Federal government’s dime it can be a long, drawn out process. The other alternative is that through the Rim Country coalition there can be tremendous support for different grant opportunities from outside funding sources - allowing the Forest Service to contract out the NEPA process and get the work done very quickly. District Ranger Cress recommends and encourages the Town of Star Valley to consider joining the Rim Country coalition to pursue the opportunities together, resulting in quicker connectivity from Star Valley into the PATs. Whether the Town decides to pursue this independently or join the Rim Country coalition, the Forest Service is glad to go in either direction with the process, as they support it full heartedly, pointed out District Ranger Crest.

Chris Welker stated this is a prime opportunity for the Towns of Star Valley and Payson, as a collaborative, collective voice gets the Federal governments attention very quickly. The use at the three potential trail heads is already occurring, the time is right to provide the users recreational connectivity to public lands. Mr. Welker recommends going after grants handled by Arizona State Parks - trickled down through the Department of Transportation (“DOT”) –and that he can help navigate the maze and get the grant applications in place with a solid, succinct proposal for the next grant cycle in July. Council Member Davis questioned if the Town would need to use any of its funds for a percentage of the grant. Responded Mr. Welker, no seed money or application fees are required to apply for grants. Vice Mayor

O'Connor questioned what would happen to the motorized vehicle group, as the focus is leaning towards non-motorized. District Ranger Cress responded that the Rim Country coalition collectively agreed that non-motorized would be a great place to start. Vice Mayor O'Connor stated his concern about trails in the area being traditionally multi-use. District Ranger Cress reported the Travel Management Analysis process in determining motorized vehicle trails is still underway - a draft decision has been made, and a map is available on the Forest Service website. The intent of the map, when it is published is that it can be updated yearly, as the Forest Service is cognizant of not cutting off areas. Council Member Davis asked if the Forest Service would provide knowledge to the Town on how to refurbish the trail heads. Mr. Welker answered they would aid in the correct design, upkeep, maintenance and ultimate long term care under the auspice of sustainability.

Town Manager Grier stated he has a few questions: what are the steps the Town needs to take to become involved; would the NEPA process have to be followed on all trail heads; could the Town proceed with work on trail heads owned by the Town; and would the NEPA analysis be done on only the portion of the connecting trail. District Ranger Cress disclosed that large sections of the PATS still need a NEPA analysis - it is currently an unofficial trail system on Forest Service land. Their goal, along with the Rim Country coalition, is to make it official. Explained District Ranger Cress, the NEPA process would not be required for the trail head that is entirely on Town property; the forest service would need to take a look at the easement language for the trail head located in the easement; and the trail head on Forest Service land would have to go through the NEPA process. District Ranger Cress pointed out they wouldn't do an analysis on a connector if it wasn't connected to something they had already legitimized. Council Member Davis stated it would be a definite plus to connect to the trails, and emphasized that it would be a huge economic draw for this area.

Town Manager Grier asked what steps need to be taken for the Town to get involved. District Ranger Cress responded that there are two paths – participate in the Rim Country coalition – or work independently. Mr. Grier asked Council who would be interested in participating and which path they would like to take. Council Member Davis suggested to join forces. Council Member Stephenson stated his concern about connecting to a trail system that is not approved. District Ranger Cress answered that the Town can start working on the trail heads, but they will not be finalized as a connection until approval. Council Member Stephenson asked what the time frame would be. District Ranger Cress answered it would be a 1 ½ to 2 year process. Vice Mayor O'Connor asked if the Town were to join the Rim Country coalition, would it have an effect on the ability to complete our project. District Ranger Cress responded the NEPA analysis on the PATS can be done in sections, and does not think it will effect the Town's project. Discussion followed concerning participation in the Rim Country coalition.

Town Manager Grier asked if there are any Council Members interested in participating in the Rim Country coalition. Council Member Hartwell, Council Member Davis, Council Member Coon and Council Member Stephenson volunteered to participate. Mr. Grier stated there will be staff participation as well. Council Member Hartwell recommended a special meeting be held for the coalition participants to meet before the next Rim Country coalition meeting. Mr. Grier stated he will set a date for the coalition participants to meet.

2. Discussion and possible action to appoint a Council Member, for a period of 6 months to one year, to represent the Town of Star Valley at all Rim Country Chamber meetings, as requested by Council Member Hartwell.

Council Member Hartwell stated the Town needs to have official representation at the Chamber meetings. Council Member Davis agreed that the Town needs to be represented at the Chamber meetings. Council Member Stephenson stated he agrees. Council Member McKinney stated he is in support of

Council Member Hartwell's notion to formalize an informal situation. Council Member Davis suggested the appointment be for one year. Mayor McDaniel stated he agrees with a one year appointment and asked who would be interested in the appointment. Council Member Hartwell stated she would be more than happy to attend and be the representative.

A motion that Council appoint Council Member Hartwell, for a period of one year, to represent the Town of Star Valley at all Rim Country Chamber meetings, was made by Council Member Stephenson, and was seconded by Council Member McKinney.

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 Davis, and was seconded by Council Member Hartwell.

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 4th day of April, 2017. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2017.

Eddie Chapin, Town Clerk