

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

**Tuesday, May 15, 2018 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 not offered.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- CALL TO ORDER

- ROLL CALL:

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

- **HELLSGATE FIRE DISTRICT REPORT FOR APRIL 2018**

Chief John Wisner of Hellsgate Fire District gave the report for April 2018.

- **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 May 1, 2018.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from May 1, 2018 through May 15, 2018 for the General Fund and for the Water Department.

A motion to approve consent agenda items A and B was made by Council Member Stephenson and was seconded by Council Member Armington.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion was voted on and passed 6 - 0.

- **PROCLAMATION**

1. Proclaiming support of the use of the Arizona Education Progress Meter.

Town Clerk Chapin read the Proclamation for Council and the public.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Presentation by Lance Porter, CEO of Banner Payson Medical Center regarding new programs and services being offered.**

Mr. Lance Porter, CEO of Banner Payson Medical Center thanked Council for the opportunity to present. Reported Mr. Porter, Banner Payson Medical Center has been trying to add more services and bring more providers to the area. The hospital is applying for a license to become a critical access hospital – which will give them the ability to provide more services than a normal acute care hospital. The biggest part of that, explained Mr. Porter, is what’s called Swing beds – patients can come back here for in-patient rehabilitation, bringing residents closer to home for their convalescence and providing better and more convenient care. Reported Mr. Porter, the hospital has done a lot to improve pediatric care – they now have licensed beds for pediatrics and recently hired a nurse who is a pediatric specialist. The Emergency Department now has pediatric ready status, which is a stamped approval by an outside organization that they have the nurse training, equipment and clinical pathways to provide the best care possible for children. The hospital is opening up a women and children’s garden, reported Mr. Porter, funded by a \$150,000.00 grant to create a better experience for mothers-to-be. Mr. Porter extended an invitation to Council to attend the garden Open House on June 8th to come and see the good experience they are creating.

Mr. Porter reported that one improvement that has been made is called surgical pre-admission testing – a patient’s imaging and lab work are done in one location, at the same visit, making it more convenient for patients. In addition to that the hospital has also started a total joint information class providing surgery preparation care prior to surgery for quicker recovery. The hospital has brought in new services, the first one is an infusion center for chemo-therapy and blood transfusions. They are working on a comprehensive wound center and will be bringing in trained doctors, nurses and specialists. The hospital, reported Mr. Porter, just opened up a pulmonary function testing lab – patients with asthma or COPD no longer have to go to the valley for that testing. The EEG lab will be opening this month. They are active in recruitment for a second orthopedic surgeon, an Obstetrician Gynecologist, and primary care physicians and have been approached by a pulmonologist group that is interested in a part-time clinic, stated Mr. Porter. The hospital has replaced most of the imaging equipment with top of the line digital equipment. They are continuing to look for new opportunities to bring new services and a better patient experience to the Rim Country.

Mayor McDaniel thanked Mr. Porter for the awesome presentation. Mr. Porter responded that he is passionate about the hospital and the community. Pointed out Mr. Porter – the average wait time in the Emergency Department is now 14 minutes, compared to the former average of one hour; patient satisfaction scores are higher; and nurse retention is much higher. Council Member Stephenson stated Gila Community College (“GCC”) has a fairly successful nursing division and questioned how the hospital interacts with them. Mr. Porter responded that the hospital hires most of their new nurses from GCC and that it’s a fantastic program. Patients are happy with nurse performance as the hospital is in the 90th percentile nationally. Council Member Stephenson asked what the biggest challenge is. Mr. Porter answered physician recruitment is challenging. They are competing with all the other communities in the country for doctors. Amenities, like the proposed Recreation Center in Payson, help him recruit doctors. Doctors want amenities and those kind of improvements in the community will help him bring more doctors to town.

2. Presentation and discussion by Joanne Conlin of the Payson Senior Center regarding partnership with the Arizona Department of Transportation Transit Grant (5311 funds).

Joanne Conlin with the Payson Senior Center reported that the transit study concluded that public transit is overwhelmingly needed in this area. Seventy six percent of those polled said they would use public transit if available. Public transit will impact everyone including children, adults, seniors, disabled and the labor force. This is a true transit program with a fixed route, stated Ms. Conlin, with some deviations. The Payson Senior Center has over 20 years-experience in transit and is well known to the Arizona Department of Transportation (“ADOT”). They will allocate 2 nine-passenger buses to the transit program that will be retro-fitted for public transit.

The first question they asked themselves, disclosed Ms. Conlin, does this fit our mission? The Mission of the Payson Senior Center explained Ms. Conlin is to assist individuals have quality of life and live independently through transportation, nutrition, education, and socialization. Stated Ms. Conlin, it absolutely does fit their mission and is an expansion of transportation, allowing people to be independent, have socialization and quality of life. Reported Ms. Conlin, the transit system will have its own website with links to the Town of Star Valley, the Town of Payson, Gila County, Chamber of Commerce, and the Payson Senior Center. The key to success is flexibility – they will be listening to the ridership and the community. Ms. Conlin reported the plan is to sell advertising on the buses and in the rider guides, which will help pay for the buses. In two years’ time the pilot program will be assessed and eventually turned over to a county-wide entity. Ms. Conlin is asking the four partners who are involved – the Town of Star Valley, Gila County, Town of Payson, and the Payson Senior Center – to split the difference if the revenues do not equal expense, which would be a max of \$25,000.00 per partner.

They need many champions, stated Ms. Conlin, and are asking the Town of Star Valley to be one of those champions. The goal is to have the buses on the road by November 1st. They have been advised to start fares low and can always bump them up a little if needed. Starting fares will be one dollar (\$1.00) per trip – not roundtrip. The fare for seniors and children will be fifty cents (.50¢) per trip. Reported Ms. Conlin, Gila County and the Town of Payson are excited about this public transit program. Mayor McDaniel advocated it is a great program and stated the Town should be a champion and do it. Town Manager Grier questioned if the Town of Star Valley would be contributing the same amount as the other entities. Ms. Conlin responded her calculations are based on 25% per partner, pointing out that the transit system will have one bus dedicated to the Star Valley route twelve hours a day. Mr. Grier pointed out that the Town of Payson has seven times the population of Star Valley and will reap the benefit from sales tax revenues. An equal contribution is not at all equal, stated Mr. Grier. Ms. Conlin commented that the Payson Senior Center has no budget and is taking a big risk because they believe in the community.

Town Manager Grier suggested making the contributions fair between the entities. Ms. Conlin responded that a meeting with the other entities may be needed. Mr. Grier recommended the share be based on population instead of four equal parts, the larger portions coming from Gila County and the Town of Payson, with the Town of Star Valley contributing a larger share than the Senior Center. Ms. Conlin suggested the four entities meet and hash it out. The Town of Payson, reported Ms. Conlin, is interested in going forward and she has yet to receive confirmation from Gila County. Council Member Stephenson questioned if the funds ear-marked for transportation can be used for public transit. Mr. Grier answered he does not think that the “restricted funds” can be used for this and thinks the money would come out of the “general fund”. Mr. Grier stated he would look into it further, then warned Council to be careful in committing to an uncertain amount. Mayor McDaniel advocated for negotiation of a figure. Ms. Conlin stated she is looking for other grant funding opportunities. The goal is to keep the cost to partners as low as possible with the exception of the first year. Mr. Grier clarified the program is great,

insisting on a fair allocation. Ms. Conlin stated the worse-case scenario is \$25,000.00 per entity and suggested all four entities meet to negotiate. Council Member Stephenson recommended a plan of approach to meet with the Mayor from the Town of Payson and the Supervisors from Gila County. Council Member Coon cautioned against making a full commitment and advocated the Town's share should be based on population. Mayor McDaniel stated he is all for a sit-down meeting with the Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding attendance at the 2018 League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference (August 21-24, 2018 in Scottsdale, AZ), including which Council Members are attending and expenses to be paid by the Town.

Town Manager Grier explained the Leagues' Annual Conference is valuable to Mayors and Council Members and that town Staff needs to know who is interested in attending. Let the record show that Mayor McDaniel, Council Member Coon, Council Member McKinney, Council Member Davis, Council Member Stephenson, Council Member Armington and Town Manager Grier will be attending the 2018 League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference. Town Manger Grier explained the conference registration, hotel room and per diem are paid for by the Town and pointed out that spouses can attend but are not paid for by the Town.

- **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 Vice Mayor O'Connor and was seconded by Council Member Stephenson.

The motion was voted on and passed 6 – 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 15th day of May 2018. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 17th day of May 2018.

Edie Chapin, Town Clerk