

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

**Tuesday, March 3, 2020 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 Pastor Dave Barber of Rim View Community Church
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- CALL TO ORDER

- ROLL CALL:

Vice Mayor McKinney Absent, Council Member Davis Absent, Council Member Armington X, Council Member Binney X, Council Member Rappaport X, Council Member McDaniel X, Mayor Coon X.

- **GILA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2020**

Lt. Scott with the Gila County Sheriff's Office was unable to attend.

- **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 18, 2020.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from February 16, 2020 through February 29, 2020 for the General Fund and for the Water Department.

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

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Absent, Council Member Davis Absent, Council Member Armington X, Council Member Binney X, Council Member Rappaport X, Council Member McDaniel X, Mayor Coon X.

The motion was voted on and passed 5 - 0.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 1. Plaque presentation by Program Administrator Ed Bantel with Southwest Risk in recognition of avoiding litigation and litigation costs.**

Town Manager Grier reported the Town is insured by Southwest Risk, a municipal pool, and has worked with Mr. Bantel for over a decade. The Town's relationship with Mr. Bantel has been a very good one. He has counseled staff when questions arose, has always been helpful, is very knowledgeable and, added Mr. Grier, is a very important partner for Star Valley. Mr. Bantel stated he has had the honor and the privilege to be the Town's underwriter and agent since incorporation. The very first policy issued for the Town of Star Valley, reported Mr. Bantel, was under the name Diamond Star. Since he has been working with cities and towns since the 1990's he's in a pretty good position to know a well-run city or town when he sees one. This town is more than that, acknowledged Mr. Bantel. The Town of Star Valley has been with Southwest Risk for over ten years and so far, there have been no claims. That is remarkable and astounding. The Arizona Municipal Risk Retention Pool wanted to acknowledge this and present the Town with an award. Mr. Bantel reported they have never had any town achieve this. The Town of Star Valley is the recipient of the very first, and probably only, platinum excellence award, concluded Mr. Bantel. Mayor Coon thanked Mr. Bantel on behalf of the council and staff and accepted the award.

- 2. Discussion and possible action to appoint a director to the Rim Country Educational Alliance ("RCEA") Separate Legal Entity ("SLE") to replace Ronnie McDaniel.**

Mayor Coon stated that Star Valley is committed to having three directors on the SLE board. For over a year the Town has only had two – Jon Cline and Ted Pettet. For the third position, reported Mayor Coon, two names have been submitted to the Town – Bobby Davis and Vern Leis. The appointee would serve the remainder of Ronnie McDaniel's term which would expire at the end of 2020. Town Manager Grier stated everyone is aware of the position the Town is in and that there has been reluctance to appoint to replace Ronnie. It has been a year, reported Mr. Grier, and there were two names submitted to the Town by the RCEA. The Intergovernmental Agreement with the SLE requires the Town appoint a director. Mr. Grier pointed out that Mr. Leis is in attendance and may want to address council.

Vern Leis reported he spent two and one half hours at the MHA office last week going through how all the blocks fit; looking at financials; how it's put together; how it's registered; and what the plans are. Mr. Leis stated he thinks it is something that Star Valley needs to do. If we work together it could be very beneficial to everybody. He would very much like to be involved in this because he thinks it has a lot of future for the Town. Mr. Leis reported they have a medical program starting in June. They don't have the building, but they are busy doing what needs to be done to get a facility put together. The facility they are putting together is very unique in that it has classrooms, tech rooms, and a dormitory – totally self-contained. Part of the program is that once a student gets through the education program, the student is committed to three years. We have difficulty getting medical people up here, reported Mr. Leis, so a lot of those medical people would stay and become part of the community. This brings academics back into the environment, which we really don't have at this point in time.

Mr. Leis reported he looked at the books, they went through the flow chart and they spent a lot of time with him explaining how all this came about. Mr. Cline is really the one that got all of this started a long time ago. He was always in some type of injury situation and there was no medical assistance or even a doctor up here. Little by little, all this has turned into Banner Mogollon Health Association with all of the tandems coming down and each of them working on a separate part of the function of

developing the ground, buying the ground and architecturally designing it. The SLE gets involved in everything basically, except for the money. The SLE does not have money capabilities or direction, they make recommendations for all the building, the changes to the building, and can challenge the architects and the engineers. It becomes pretty important if you have a collective of people that want to get involved. Mr. Leis reported they meet basically six times a year, more often as needed. A building off of Aero is being rehabbed because the master building won't be done in time. They have got some things that are in progress and it's going to be very good for the community. Mr. Leis stated he would love to do it. He wants Star Valley and its populous to get a good portion of the good stuff that comes out of this program. Mr. Leis concluded it would be his pleasure to represent Star Valley.

Council Member Rappaport asked how much Banner is involved. Mr. Leis responded Banner is involved going back to when they became part of the hospital. It was explained to him that when Banner bought the hospital (all of the sundries that were in the hospital and the dangling properties around the hospital itself) it stayed underneath the MHA. Banner is there with an agreement that they will take all the profits from the hospital up until 2025 or something like that and then they do another one and it starts coming down. As far as Banner being involved in it, the way it is set up, they are totally outside of MHA other than the fact that they have this agreement on what is being paid. Council Member McDaniel asked which university is bringing in the medical program. Mr. Leis answered ASU wants to start the program in June or July.

Council Member Armington questioned if the Town wants to cross this bridge right now, with all the controversy going on. Town Manager Grier responded the Town has always weighed cautiously the relationship with the Town of Payson. We all know that the majority of Payson's Town Council has been at odds with the MHA. This has been a concern of his with that relationship being important to the Town. Mr. Grier stated he believes that the Town of Star Valley would be quickly named in a lawsuit if this action is not taken and he would not advise to wait. It is important for council to make an appointment. With an appointment, the Town of Star Valley will be kept out of any possible litigation, concluded Mr. Grier. Council Member Rappaport asked if the MHA has non-interest money. Mr. Leis answered that MHA is the top rung of all of the pieces. They hold the money and they put it to use. They have non-interest bearing money that was given to them and they draw from that. They were given X amount of money interest free for a period of twenty years. The money is there for them to invest, he believes, for educational basis.

Council Member Rappaport asked if that's written in. Mr. Leis responded it is all documented, signed and notarized. Mr. Leis stated he would update council after each meeting. Council Member Binney stated Mr. Leis looks after the best interest of the Town. When on council he always worked hard and always came prepared. One of the basic rules that Town Manager Grier doesn't like is council members on committees. Council Member Binney acknowledged he fully supports Mr. Leis and knows he will do a great job and will bring the information back. Mayor Coon stated he agrees with Town Manager Grier's strategy of the importance of getting someone nominated. Council Member Rappaport stated it would be a sign of good will and cooperation. If there's one thing that isn't going on in Payson, it's that, concluded Council Member Rappaport.

A motion to appoint Vern Leis as a director to the Rim Country Educational Alliance Separate Legal Entity to replace Ronnie McDaniel (big shoes to fill) was made by Council Member Binney and was seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Absent, Council Member Davis Absent, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Rappaport Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Coon Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 5 – 0.

Mayor Coon announced Vern Leis has been selected to represent Star Valley as a third member on the SLE. He then thanked Bobby Davis and Vern Leis for their participation and interest and congratulated Mr. Leis.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding purchasing a climbing wall for the Ronnie and Diane McDaniel Community Park.

Town Manager Grier reported that this was Council Member McDaniel's idea. She brought in some photos of climbing walls, which he thought was a really good idea. Town Clerk Chapin researched the climbing wall options in front of council tonight. The million dollar question is can the Town afford it. If council decides to go forward with the climbing wall, the next agenda item is in hope to mitigate that sum. Mr. Grier stated he believes it will be money well spent. The park is getting a lot of use and this will be a good addition. Council Member Binney advocated the Play It Safe looks like the strongest structure to him and he is in favor of it. Council Member McDaniel commented she likes it also. Council Member Armington stated he agrees. Mayor Coon pointed out there is not a big price difference between any of them, so that does not need to be a criteria for making a choice.

A motion to approve the purchase and installation of a climbing wall from Play It Safe Playgrounds for the community park was made by Council Member McDaniel and was seconded by Council Member Rappaport.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Absent, Council Member Davis Absent, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Rappaport Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Coon Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 5 – 0.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding requesting monetary support from the Gila County Board of Supervisors for the children's climbing structure project at the Ronnie and Diane McDaniel Community Park.

Mayor Coon stated the Town creates projects such as this, not only for Star Valley, but to be enjoyed by all surrounding communities in Gila County. For that reason, he thinks it's appropriate to include the county in this project by accepting their support, and hopefully their donation. Town Manager Grier reported the Town pledged support for the Gila County broadband project, which was a front page article. He thinks Gila County appreciated the Town's pledge of support. Mr. Grier explained that Supervisor Marcanti would donate approximately \$35,000.00 a year to the Town and that \$17,000.00 of that would go to the Meals on Wheels and Ridership program. This leaves the Town with \$17,000.00 less than when we had Supervisor Marcanti. That money now, with Supervisor Cline, goes to his Summer Work Program for youths to create job positions. It's a good program, unfortunately, not one for our small staff to take advantage of since staff is not able to supervise a kid, pointed out Mr. Grier. It didn't work well at all the year the Town gave it a shot. The kid wasn't able to drive or operate any machinery, including a weed whacker. It is not a program that works for the Town of Star Valley. Mr. Grier stated he thinks the Town is out \$17,000.00 that it used to get. This is the perfect time, with the county coming to the Town and the youth program that doesn't work for the Town, to go to the county and ask for a donation. They have supported the Town in the past with the zip line and the community garden. Mr. Grier reported Town Clerk Chapin has drafted letters for council to sign that will go out to Supervisors Martin, Cline and Humphrey asking for their monetary support.

A motion to approve requesting monetary support from the Gila County Board of Supervisors for the children's climbing structure project was made by Council Member Armington and was seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Absent, Council Member Davis Absent, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Rappaport Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Coon Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 5 – 0.

5. **Second Reading and Public Hearing, discussion and possible action concerning Ordinance No. O 20-01, captioned as follows: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF TOWN OF STAR VALLEY, GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA, PERTAINING TO THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM, ADOPTING BY REFERENCE FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY, FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS, AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES.**

Finance Administrator Nutt explained this will be the second reading of Ordinance No. O 20-01 that she is asking council to adopt. It is what she calls a housekeeping ordinance that replaces some of the language in the previous ordinance regarding the Town's agreement with the floodplain management with the State of Arizona and also as it relates to Gila County. Ms. Nutt read the Ordinance in its entirety and then asked if there were any questions. Council Member Rappaport commented that the maps are so old and asked if there are any more current maps available. Ms. Nutt answered they began compiling them for the area and it's a very lengthy and expensive process to create the floodplain maps. That's why it references amendments because what they end up doing are amendments as things come about. The mapping on their website provides all the most recent surveying data, added Ms. Nutt. Mayor Coon opened the meeting up for public comment. There were no public comments and the Mayor closed the public comment portion.

A motion to approve and adopt Ordinance No. O 20-01, An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Town of Star Valley, Gila County, Arizona, pertaining to the National Flood Insurance Program, adopting by reference flood insurance study, flood insurance rate maps, and floodplain management regulations; providing for repeal of conflicting ordinances; providing for severability; and providing penalties was made by Council Member McDaniel and was seconded by Council Member Rappaport.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Absent, Council Member Davis Absent, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Rappaport Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Coon Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 5 – 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.

Pastor Dave Barber with Rim View Community Church announced the church has started a food pantry on the first Monday of the month. Pastor Barber requested of those present to let folks know about the food pantry, which is located in the outer building of the church. The intent is to administer to those in Star Valley, but they won't turn anyone away.

There were no further comments and the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting.

• **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Armington and was seconded by Council Member Rappaport.

The motion was voted on and passed 5 – 0.

APPROVED:

Gary Coon, Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Eddie 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 3rd day of March 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 5th day of March 2020.

Eddie Chapin, Town Clerk