

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

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 4:00 pm
3675 East Highway 260, Star Valley, AZ
(Star Valley Town Hall)**

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- PRAYER was offered by Council Member Bobby Davis.
- CALL TO ORDER

- ROLL CALL:

Vice Mayor McKinney X, Council Member Davis X, Council Member Armington X, Council Member Binney X, Council Member Rappaport X, Council Member McDaniel X, Mayor Coon X. **Council Members appeared telephonically.**

- **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 October 6, 2020.

B. Approval of Claims Payable from October 1, 2020 through October 15, 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 Davis and was seconded by Council Member Binney.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney X, Council Member Davis X, 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 7 - 0.

- **PROCLAMATION:**

1. Proclaiming October 2020 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Town Clerk Chapin read the Proclamation.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 1. Discussion and possible action concerning the Town's fire ordinance.**

Town Manager Grier informed council the new chief of Hellsgate Fire Department Morey Morris and the outgoing Chief John Wisner are in attendance. Mr. Grier reported he spoke with them this morning regarding the Town's fire ordinance and their perspective and input on a new fire ordinance. Gila County, explained Mr. Grier, amended their ordinance with the ambition to have consistency with the forest service. One of the issues they wanted to address was that Stage 1 allows campfires on federal forest service property in developed camp grounds, and inconsistent with that Gila County's ordinance did not.

Town Manager Grier stated he thinks that Gila County has had some resistance from property owners that have thought it unfair that folks coming up to the national forest could have a campfire in developed camp grounds, but private property owners are not allowed to have a campfire. The argument of the property owners was that they have garden hoses and a better cleared and safer area than when compared with developed camp grounds on the forest service property. Mr. Grier reported he has begun to do a legal analysis of the Town's ordinance to propose to council a new ordinance. The Hellsgate Fire Department, stated Mr. Grier, is best positioned to make the call on what should or shouldn't be allowed.

Town Manager Grier stated he has concerns with Gila County's ordinance and thinks it's a bit sloppy being completely tied to the forest service. There are conditions and reasons that the forest service would implement closures and restrictions and not lift closures and restrictions that are different than the Town's as a community. The Town's ordinance, disclosed Mr. Grier, does not have a penalty section, which makes it a bit toothless, and that needs to be corrected. Chief Wisner, reported Mr. Grier, has drafted an ordinance which will be provided to council before the next meeting.

Is the Town doing everything possible that it can to ensure the safety of Star Valley if there is a catastrophic forest fire, queried Town Manager Grier. One thing that Chief Wisner has done, which Mayor Coon worked on before that, was an emergency alert system. Mr. Grier acknowledged he needs to make contact with Chief Tischer about that being in place. The other thing is to monitor unsafe fires. Mr. Grier briefly explained one code compliance violation of an individual that was burning wood (after being cut from the forest service) at night. Mr. Grier reported he found that the Town really had not a lot in its code to be able to enforce that person to stop that. It's an issue that council needs to look at and discuss, concluded Mr. Grier.

Council Member Rappaport asked for an update from Chief Wisner. Chief Wisner stated he shares the Town Manager's feeling of concern for Gila County's ordinance and thinks it caused a lot of confusion with Star Valley residents as well as fire district residents living outside the town limits of Star Valley. He is fully on board and would like to clear up that confusion and create burning restrictions in the Town Code with the ultimate goal of bringing some consistency and fairness across the board for the residents of Star Valley, forest visitors and surrounding communities. It is also important that the fire district be given some greater measure of authority, pointed out Chief Wisner, so they can locally place restrictions.

Chief Wisner stated he believes the Hellsgate Fire Department and Town Manager Grier can come up with some language that will satisfy everyone while also implementing in any concerns that council may have. The goal is to have a product that we feel gives us the degree of safety and authority needed while being fair to everyone who lives in Star Valley. Chief Wisner concluded he appreciates the support and the relationship he's had with the Town and has always felt welcome. He then introduced Chief Morris and stated they are so lucky to have someone of his caliber to come in and lead this district. Chief Morris gave a brief introduction of himself and his background. Chief Morris stated he has spent the last

eight years with the Gila River Indian Community and now is his opportunity and pleasure to come up to the mountains and serve. Chief Morris concluded he looks forward to the relationship with the council, the fire district board and to be able to work with staff at Town Hall.

Mayor Coon stated he appreciates Chief Wisner's leadership over the years, and he is sure the transition with the new chief will be good. Council Member Davis thanked Chief Wisner for his dedicated service and stated he agrees the fire codes should be worked to the needs of Star Valley. Council Member Davis then welcomed Chief Morris to Hellsgate and stated he looks forward to meeting him in person. Council Member Rappaport welcomed Chief Morris aboard and stated the Town has had a nice history with Chief Wisner. Town Manager Grier stated Chief Wisner has made some very positive changes with Hellsgate Fire Department and he looks forward to working with the new chief.

Vice Mayor McKinney thanked Chief Wisner for his sterling service and the tremendous job he has done. Vice Mayor McKinney stated that having the local ordinances reflect the input of Hellsgate Fire Department makes an awful lot of sense. We are on the right track, concluded Vice Mayor McKinney, and he would like to encourage Town Manager Grier to follow up on that. Council Member Binney stated he agrees with Vice Mayor McKinney that the fire department is in better financial shape since Chief Wisner took over. Council Member Binney wished the new fire chief the best of luck. Council Member Armington thanked Chief Wisner for his service and welcomed Chief Morris. Council Member Armington concluded he hopes for verbiage in the Town ordinance to allow for private property owners to have a little fire to roast marshmallows and would like to leave this community isolated with its own ordinance.

Mayor Coon questioned if a copy of Payson's fire ordinance is available. Town Manager Grier responded he will provide council with copies of the current fire ordinances for the Town of Star Valley, the Town of Payson and Gila County for comparison of all three. Mr. Grier added he will also get Chief Tischer's input regarding the penalty section. Staff will have a draft ordinance ready for council to review and fine tune at an upcoming meeting, reported Mr. Grier. Council Member McDaniel stated she agrees with Vice Mayor McKinney and is very grateful for Chief Wisner. Council Member McDaniel then welcomed Chief Morris and stated she is looking forward to reading the draft ordinance. Council Member Rappaport stated it's good to sample other ordinances because the Town wants consistency. Town Manager Grier agreed the Town wants to look at consistency.

A motion to authorize the Town Manager to spend the time to come up with an ordinance that will work for the Town with an emphasis on the individual was made by Council Member Binney and was seconded by Council Member Rappaport .

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Davis Yes , 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 7 – 0.

- 2. Second reading and Public Hearing, discussion and possible action concerning Ordinance No. O 20-05 captioned as follows: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STAR VALLEY, ARIZONA, TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ORDINANCE NO. O 20-03.**

Mayor Coon opened the meeting up to public comments. There were none and the mayor closed public comments. The Mayor then opened the meeting to council discussion and comments. Council Member Binney asked if the public can also call in on the phone conference number. "No," answered

Town Manager Grier. Every meeting has been open to the public since the beginning of the Coronavirus, concluded Mr. Grier. There were no further questions or comments.

A motion to approve and adopt Ordinance No. O 20-05, an ordinance to repeal and replace Ordinance No. O 20-03 was made by Council Member Davis and was seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Davis Yes , 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 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 up this portion of the meeting for public comment. There were no 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 Armington.

The motion was voted on and passed 7 – 0.

APPROVED:

Gary Coon, 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 20th day of October 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 21st day of October 2020.

Eddie Chapin, Town Clerk