

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
AND EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE COMMON  
COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STAR VALLEY**

**Tuesday, July 6, 2021 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 Pastor Dave Barber of Rim View Community Church.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- CALL TO ORDER
- ROLL CALL:  
Vice Mayor McKinney X, Council Member Davis X, Council Member Armington X,  
Council Member Binney X, Council Member Rappaport (appeared telephonically) X,  
Council Member McDaniel X, Mayor Coon X.

- **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 June 15, 2021.**

**B. Approval of Claims Payable from June 16, 2021 through June 30, 2021  
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 McDaniel.**

**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.**

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Public hearing, discussion, and possible action to adopt Resolution No. R 21-04, adopting the final budget for fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$10,509,425.00. Presentation by Finance Administrator Nutt.**

Finance Administrator Nutt stated the Town is fulfilling its statutory requirement to present to council the final budget which was adopted at the June meeting in the form of the tentative budget. Ms. Nutt reported that no changes were made and the information that was communicated to council at that time is now reflected in the final budget. Any questions about the budget can be discussed and any changes council would like to see in the final budget can be made at this time as long as the fund balance does not change within any individual fund. Ms. Nutt reported the budget has been available on the Town's website and the local newspaper and the Town didn't receive any feedback from those public notifications. Ms. Nutt asked if there were any questions about the information council received. There were no questions and Mayor Coon opened the meeting to public comment. There were no public comments and the Mayor closed this portion of the meeting. The Mayor then opened the meeting to council discussion or questions. There were none and the Mayor entertained a motion.

**A motion to adopt Resolution No. R 21-04 adopting the final budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 for the Town of Star Valley in the amount of \$10,509,425.00 was made by Council Member Davis and was seconded by Council Member Armington.**

**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. **Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. R 21-05 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Star Valley, Arizona, authorizing the Town Manager to apply for funds from the Tohono O'odham Nation and providing for the expenditure of such funds.**

Town Clerk Chapin explained she has applied for tribal grant funds from the Tohono O'odham Nation for the purchase and installation of the SkyWays Hip Shade structure for the children's playground at the community park. This resolution is required as proof that the Town Manager is authorized to seek and enter into a grant of this nature.

**A motion to adopt Resolution No. R 21-05 authorizing the Town Manager to apply for funds from the Tohono O'odham Nation was made by Council Member McDaniel and was seconded by Council Member Davis.**

**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.**

**3. Discussion and possible action regarding a donation request from the Mogollon Valley Pit Program to assist with operating expenses. Requested by Council Member Armington.**

Council Member Armington stated everyone in the Town of Star Valley as well as Payson uses the Blattner Pit. He thinks it's good for the community because it is someplace for everyone to dump their brush. Joe Tanguay explained he is a board member, vice president and a volunteer for the Mogollon Valley Pit Program. They are a 501c3 corporation doing business as the Blattner Brush Pit. They operate from April through the end of October on Saturdays from 8am to 4pm except for holiday weekends. Mr. Tanguay reported the pit program is free to all residents of Payson, Star Valley and the surrounding communities so people can fire wise their properties. Their biggest expenses are the equipment and maintenance. Mr. Tanguay reported they no longer burn, but grind, all the material and the first grinding provided electricity for twenty two hundred homes for a month. Donations from the Town of Star Valley to help the fire wise program would be greatly appreciated, concluded Mr. Tanguay.

Mayor Coon asked what would be an appropriate donation. Mr. Tanguay reported they received a \$7,000.00 donation from Payson and a \$5,000.00 donation from Gila County. All the rest of their operating expenses come from donations and contributions. Any little bit would help to keep the gate open to receive brush, stated Mr. Tanguay. Council Member Binney stated he thinks it's really bad to burn brush because of CO2. Queried Council Member Binney – How many customers do you get a day? Mr. Tanguay answered they are only opened one day a week and they have had as low as fifty and as high as one hundred and forty dumps. The burning is done at a power plant to generate electricity and is no longer done at the brush pit, added Mr. Tanguay. Council Member Binney stated he thinks they should charge people that use it \$5.00. Mr. Tanguay responded they have been surviving pretty well on donations and they would like to keep it as a free service for the community.

Council Member McDaniel asked how much it costs for the company to chip all the wood. Mr. Tanguay answered it is free and the last time the company was in town they hauled out fourteen semi's worth of material. Twenty percent of the people that use the brush pit are from Star Valley, added Mr. Tanguay. Mayor Coon stated the Town definitely encourages to fire wise and clean up yards. Council Member Davis stated it's a great service that he has used multiple times and he recommends a \$5,000.00 donation. Vice Mayor McKinney stated it is a tremendous benefit for Star Valley to have this chipping facility. It's important to foster the personal initiative of citizens to fire wise and he supports the motion. **A motion to approve a contribution to the Mogollon Valley Pit Program in the amount of \$5,000.00 to assist with operating expenses for the Blattner Brush Pit was made by Council Member Davis and was seconded by Council Member Armington.**

**A roll call vote was taken:**

**Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Davis Yes, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney No, Council Member Rappaport Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Coon Yes.**

**The motion was voted on and passed 6 – 1.**

**4. Discussion and possible action to consider Council Member Binney's suggestion to put beavers at the head waters of the water shed for the purpose of flood mitigation.**

Council Member Binney explained he has been reading about the re-introduction of beavers to communities, stream restoration and re-hydrating the land. Beavers, reported Council Member Binney, are a keystone species that make the entire environment better. They build dams that slow the water down and put it in the ground so it soaks in. That will do nothing but good for the wells in this area. If it

slows the water down during heavy rains then less water flow is put in the creeks. Even if beavers can't be included because there is not enough water, then a manmade beaver dam could be done at the very top of the water shed. Eventually, if there is enough water running year round, they can be re-introduced. The Town would have to hire Arizona Game and Fish to do a study to see if they were ever present in the past naturally. Arizona used to be a great beaver state, stated Council Member Binney. The whole United States was. Council Member Binney stated he would like the Town to look into it. He doesn't know what the expense would be so we'd have to get a price tag for it.

Council Member McDaniel reported that to have a non-game biologist with Arizona Game and Fish go on a field trip to evaluate the site does not cost anything. The Town would just have to put in the request. Council Member Binney advocated it wouldn't be much to start to look. It may not even be feasible, added Council Member Binney. Council Member Davis asked Vice Mayor McKinney what Arizona Game and Fish said when he spoke with them. Vice Mayor McKinney reported he contacted Arizona Game and Fish and they have engaged in re-introduction of beavers into the appropriate habitat in the past. It is not known if there are appropriate potential habitats for beavers here. Vice Mayor McKinney stated he thinks it is a great idea because where you have beavers all of the other species tend to do better than they would without the beavers. Council Member Binney reported that most of the beaver re-introduction that he has read about has been in southern Arizona. In the long run it does nothing but good. All it takes is a little money to steer Arizona Game and Fish into this area, added Council Member Binney. Council Member Davis stated he agrees and the Town should at least talk to Arizona Game and Fish to check into it.

Town Manager/Attorney Grier stated the reintroduction of beavers is maybe something Arizona Game and Fish does. A detention basin for flood mitigation is something all-together different. Mr. Grier explained that Council Member Binney already had his answer on detention basins when the forest service made the Town aware it would literally take a congressional act of congress to use property for detention basins. Secondly, added Mr. Grier, the Town would get sued by SRP because it is their waterway and their water. Thirdly, the big flood in 1970 was a product of something similar that Council Member Binney is suggesting that killed twenty three people. Mr. Grier stated he's not so sure the Town wouldn't be creating something similar to that situation and it would be a liability to him that would be unimaginable. Three very good legal reasons to not throw money at something that is never going to happen. The Town would be exposed to unimaginable legal expenses, we are not going to beat the forest service on doing detention basins on forest service property and we are certainly not going to beat SRP, concluded Mr. Grier.

Council Member Rappaport stated her big concern is SRP because her understanding is as long as it's water on the surface it is theirs. She thinks it's all natural and would be wonderful if the Town could get it done. Mayor Coon stated he agrees with Mr. Grier that SRP would stop this because they have full power of the water in this state. Feasibility, biological and environmental studies are not cheap and it will cost a lot of money. Council Member Binney stated he agrees that things cost a lot of money, but he doesn't think it will cost much to look into it. Council Member Binney suggested that contacting Arizona Game and Fish is where the Town would start. Mayor Coon asked if he is advising to make a few phone calls to SRP and the forest service to get their input. "Yes," answered Council Member Binney, as a start.

Council Member Armington stated he doesn't think it will fly. Mayor Coon stated he agrees and doesn't think it is going to go anywhere. Maybe, suggested Mayor Coon, the Town could check into it without putting a lot of money into it. Mr. Grier asked who is going to check into it? Council Member Binney stated he can't do it without the backing of the Town. Discussion ensued. Council Member Davis stated the Town Attorney is advising us not to do this. Mayor Coon stated he doesn't want the Town Manager spending a lot of time checking into this because that gets time consuming. Council

Member Binney stated he doesn't like the idea of major liability and he will do it himself and just leave the Town out of it. Mayor Coon opened it up for a motion. There was no motion and it died for lack of a motion.

**5. Discussion and possible action to consider Council Member Binney's suggestion to use goats for the purpose of fire mitigation.**

Council Member Binney reported that Council Member Henderson brought this up a long time ago and he thinks it's a good idea to take vegetation to reduce the fire load. The Town would have to pay someone who herds goats. Goats go in and clear brush, which fertilizes the forest in the process. You get fire suppression and there's no burning. Queried Mayor Coon – So they just let them run free? Council Member Binney responded it depends on the situation. He read in some areas they fence them off with temporary fencing. It's the underbrush that kilns all the fires and goats will wipe everything out. Mayor Coon stated he is just curious about the control of the goats and whether or not they will roam free. Council Member Binney answered sometimes they are fenced in and other times they are herded. It is not on people's personal property, added Council Member Binney.

Mayor Coon asked where the Town would get the goats. Council Member Binney answered a computer search for goat herders would have to be done to see what they charge. It would be a lot cheaper than hiring someone with a weed whacker, added Council Member Binney. Vice Mayor McKinney reported there is a guy in Round Valley that has a herd of goats and he operates in that vicinity. Vice Mayor McKinney stated he does not know if the goat herder would be interested in a more formal commercial operation. He is not sure where in Star Valley Council Member Binney has in mind to have the goats eat. They are very, very effective at taking care of underbrush if it can be done. Vice Mayor McKinney stated he is somewhat skeptical about cleaning up the right of way on 260 because the Town would be running into another government agency jurisdiction being the Arizona Department of Transportation ("ADOT"). Council Member Davis opined he doesn't think the Town could put anything on the highways. Vice Mayor McKinney added this would be another avenue for Council Member Binney to explore. Council Member McDaniel stated she thinks the goats would draw in a lot of predators and she is curious who would be responsible for any loss. Mayor Coon asked for a motion. Council Member Binney responded just let it ride.

Vice Mayor McKinney requested to address the concerns of the public prior to going into Executive Session because it could be lengthy.

**• 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.

Donna Fox stated she rented a storage shop from Steve Coury and she is starting to put solar into vehicles – converting vans and things of that nature. She has trademarked the name of a company "Solar

Intentions.” Ms. Fox explained she was excited and came in to get a business permit. She found out not so much excitement. She thought about it and she doesn’t want to put in her shop and get denied a business license. Ms. Fox reported she then started talking to people – she is about jobs and people want to go back to work. She talked to Steve Coury about leasing the land on the east side of his building to start a swap meet for two days on the weekend. Ms. Fox reported she put in a business license application and was denied. The reason it stated was that a swap meet has to be completely enclosed within a building. Ms. Fox stated that looking at the regulation deeper there are three conditions: one is behind a six foot fence; another is behind an opaque wall; and another is behind landscaping screening. Ms. Fox reported she met with Steve Coury group and they are going to move it back inside the fence. She has been talking to a lot of people and not one person is opposed to this idea. She reserved the site Rim Country Swap Meet and that’s going to be the name. Ms. Fox stated she will re-submit for a swap meet on weekends. This is about jobs and there are not many avenues here. Ms. Fox stated she hopes the Town will support it. She knows that swap meets can look tacky but they will try to keep it clean and nice and neat to keep the disarray at a minimal. Ms. Fox concluded she thinks it can be brought within compliance of the Town’s statutes and regulations.

There were no further public comments and the Mayor closed the public comment portion

**6. Discussion and possible action to adjourn into Executive Session, pursuant to:**

**A.R.S. § 38-431.03.A.1 - Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of any public body, except that, with the exception of salary discussions, an officer, appointee or employee may demand that the discussion or consideration occur at a public meeting. The public body shall provide the officer, appointee, employee with written notice of the executive session as is appropriate but not less than twenty-four hours for the officer, appointee, or employee to determine whether the discussion or consideration should occur at a public meeting.**

**Discussion to consider performance review and employee contract for the Town Manager/Attorney.**

Mayor Coon stated if there is no discussion he will entertain a motion to adjourn into Executive Session. There was no discussion.

**A motion to adjourn into Executive Session was made by Council Member McDaniel and was seconded by Council Member Binney.**

**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.**

- **ADJOURNED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- **REGULAR MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER**

- 7. **Discussion and possible action regarding performance review and employee contract for the Town Manager/Attorney.**

Mayor Coon asked if there is any discussion. There was no discussion and the Mayor entertained a motion.

**A motion to give the Town Manager/Town Attorney Tim Grier a CPI cost of living increase of 27.79% was made by Council Member Davis and was seconded by Council Member Armington.**

**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.**

- **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**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 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.**

**Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edie Chapin, Town Clerk