

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

**March 2, 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 Vice Mayor McKinney.
- 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 by ZOOM.**

- **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 Regular Council Meeting held on February 2, 2021.

**B. Approval of Claims Payable from February 16, 2021 through February 28, 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 McDaniel and was seconded by Council Member Davis.

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. **Discussion and possible action regarding a contribution by the Town to the Payson Pro Rodeo Committee for the spring rodeo or combined spring and fall rodeos.**

Mayor Coon reported the Pro Rodeo Committee is asking for \$1,075.00 for the spring rodeo and \$2,575.00 for the combined spring and fall rodeos. Mayor Coon asked Pro Rodeo Committee Member Vice Mayor McKinney for an update on how COVID is affecting the spring rodeo. Vice Mayor McKinney reported the most recent information he has is that the spring rodeo may very well not happen. The issue is whether or not the state of Arizona will be issuing liquor licenses to mass events, which he supposes is to discourage people from massing at an event. With no liquor license, stated Vice Mayor McKinney, it is not economically feasible to hold the spring rodeo. It's too far in the future to have any information about the August rodeo, concluded Vice Mayor McKinney.

Mayor Coon stated he understands that last year the Town got reimbursed for the spring contribution. The Town has an option as to whether to do the combined rodeos or just the spring rodeo. Mayor Coon asked council what they think about that. Mayor Coon added he thinks if the Town puts the money in for both, and the spring rodeo is not held, then the Town will get reimbursed. Mayor Coon asked if that is correct. Town Manager Grier answered the Town received a partial refund of \$1,000.00 last year. Finance Administrator Nutt confirmed that the Town issued a check in the amount of \$1,075.00 and the Town was refunded \$1,000.00. Last year, stated Mr. Grier, the Town contributed the full amount and it does look like the refund was \$75.00 short. Because the Town paid for both of them, informed Council Member Rappaport, the Town got a \$75.00 discount. Town Manager Grier commented it doesn't seem fair the Town got dinged for the cancellation of the spring rodeo.

Council Member Rappaport suggested the Town just pay for the August rodeo. Council Member Armington reported he had some dealings last year at the August rodeo and he is very disappointed with the whole committee and their attitude of trying to be secretive. The board was not being honest with the vendors or the public. They were announcing they were going to limit the seating and when it came time for the rodeo they just opened the gates and packed them in. This is a 501c3 and they need to be open to the public. They are acting like they are a Fortune 500 company and they are out to make as much money as they can. Council Member Armington concluded he will not support the pro rodeo this year.

Council Member Binney stated he always stands behind auditing public money. He will support it, but public money should be audited, reiterated Council Member Binney. Council Member Binney recommended not to write the check until after the spring event. Queried Mayor Coon – When do they want this money? Town Manager Grier responded they want it now. Council Member Binney recommended to send the money for the August rodeo and if they have the spring rodeo the Town can send them the money if that still happens. Mayor Coon stated he is not comfortable just handing the money out when the rodeo committee can't tell the Town whether or not they are going to have it. That is really not good business. The Town should know what the rodeo committee is going to do before writing a check, concluded Mayor Coon. Council Member Binney responded the state is holding it up and since no one knows what the state is going to do it makes planning really difficult.

Mayor Coon asked if there is anyone that can be contacted to find out. Vice Mayor McKinney answered the blockage is at the state level and not at the rodeo committee level. Mayor Coon reiterated the Town has the right to know the circumstances before writing a check. Council Member Davis stated he supports the August rodeo for \$1,500.00. Queried Council Member Davis – Why send them the money if they aren't going to hold the spring rodeo? Council Member Davis asked if that amount is right? Town Manager Grier answered he agrees with that amount. Vice Mayor McKinney added the amounts are suggested amounts. The Town doesn't have to accept those amounts and can say what it will

contribute. Mayor Coon stated he is not too comfortable giving them money for the spring rodeo if the Town doesn't know if they are going to have it or not. If the state is dragging their feet with the liquor license then the Town should drag its feet too. Mayor Coon suggested just putting in for the fall rodeo. Mayor Coon asked if there was any more discussion. There was none.

A motion to approve \$1,500.00 for the August rodeo was made by Council Member Davis and was seconded by Council Member Rappaport.

A roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion was voted on and passed 6 - 1.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding a compost program for locals requested by Council Member McDaniel.

Mayor Coon asked Council Member McDaniel to explain what this program is all about. Council Member McDaniel reported the Sierra Vista refuse station has a municipal compost program. The residents bring all their compost to the brush pit. Once they have a significant pile they hire an independent company to come in and mulch it with a chipper. The goal is to not burn it and also to give back to the community for their gardens. Council Member McDaniel stated she thinks it's a really good program that the Sierra Vista locals love. She was curious if there was some way the Town could do the same for Star Valley residents since so many people are into gardening.

Mayor Coon asked if this would be located at the burn pit. That's what they do in Sierra Vista, responded Council Member McDaniel. If that were possible, it would be easy if the Town could utilize that space for composting. Mayor Coon asked if there would be someone to supervise the project. Council Member McDaniel responded she's not sure. Mayor Coon explained that compost has to be monitored as to what goes in and it would have to be regulated. Council Member McDaniel responded that might be a good idea and the Town could also post a list of what can and can't go in. Mayor Coon asked if that would be a cost to the Town. Council Member McDaniel answered the Town could have a volunteer and maybe do it once a month.

Council Member Davis asked if they already have a program set up. Council Member McDaniel answered that Sierra Vista has been doing their program since 1994. Council Member Davis suggested to check with the county to see if they have a program, or if they are even willing to implement a program, because that is something they would have to put in their budget to support. Council Member McDaniel questioned if the Town would have to do it through the county. Council Member Davis answered he believes the brush pit off the 260 is county property. Council Member Armington pointed out it is forest service property.

Council Member Binney stated composting is an expensive operation. The Town would be looking at half a million to three quarters of a million dollars in equipment just to bring this online and at least one employee for forty hours a week. If you let people bring stuff in unsupervised, pointed out Council Member Binney, you get in trouble really quick. There are some weed seeds, like star thistle, you don't want. The Town doesn't want more employees than it already has. If the Town could get a private contractor to do it, stated Council Member Binney, that would be fine. The volume we are talking about would be within a twenty mile radius and not just Star Valley. It's a very worthwhile project but part of the problem is acres of space, along with needing water and nitrogen to make it work. The Town would have to get water out to the brush pit and nitrogen costs money. This is a pretty big project to vote on with the information provided, concluded Council Member Binney.

Mayor Coon asked if a backhoe would be needed. Council Member Binney answered a five yard loader would be needed for the volume he is talking about and it would take five or ten acres. Mayor Coon asked if the brush pit has the room to do this. Council Member Binney answered he does not know. People can easily make compost at home, pointed out Council Member Binney. Mayor Coon stated compost is not that expensive to purchase and it may not be cost effective for the Town to do it. Council Member Binney commented in order to do this it's going to cost a lot of money and he would really hate to see the Town getting into hiring people. This is a big project, concluded Council Member Binney. Council Member Rappaport stated she is concerned about what would be dumped and thinks it is just too much for a small town. She agrees with Council Member Binney that compost is easy to do at home and this project is way too big for the Town.

Mayor Coon stated he agrees the Town might not be big enough to support an expensive program. It's a good idea, but council doesn't have enough information to go ahead with it. Council Member Armington stated he agrees with Council Member Binney. The Town may want to contact the county supervisors, recommended Council Member Armington, because there was some talk about doing something like this at the county dump. Vice Mayor McKinney commented he likes the concept very much but the potential scope is daunting. The logistics of it will be very complicated. We don't have enough information to make an intelligent vote this evening, concluded Vice Mayor McKinney. Council Member Binney added that transporting compost is expensive. People can compost at home, reiterated Council Member Binney. If everyone did it at home there would be no transportation cost and you wouldn't be polluting the environment. The best thing to do would be to teach people how to compost at home, concluded Council Member Binney.

Mayor Coon stated he respects Council Member Binney's judgement on it and he agrees with what he is saying. Mayor Coon added he appreciates that Council Member McDaniel brought this to the Town's attention. Council Member Rappaport commented it's a good idea but it doesn't make sense to her moneywise or planning wise. Council Member McDaniel stated she is happy to hear council's input and she just thought it was a neat idea to talk about. Mayor Coon stated council will let it ride for now and consider it an interesting discussion. Council Member Rappaport suggested Council Member McDaniel could contact the county and get a little more information because she would like to hear about it later.

- **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 was no public in attendance 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 2nd day of March 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 26th day of March 2021.

Edie Chapin, Town Clerk