

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

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 5:15 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 Armington X, Council Member Binney X,
Council Member Dueker X, Council Member Highstreet X, Council Member McDaniel
X, Mayor Davis X.

- **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, a resident of Star Valley, stated she believes in society checks and balances. She came in last Monday, reported Ms. Fox, requesting permission to sit in on the pre-agenda meeting. She was denied. The public is not allowed to attend the pre-agenda meetings. Ms. Fox stated she thinks that is sad because she feels like there are certain council members who get anything put on the agenda. The Town needs checks and balances. We don't have a Town Attorney and a Town Manager – we don't have that check and balance. Regarding the public attending the pre-agenda meeting, we just want to see what is coming our way. It is pertinent that be addressed, advocated Ms. Fox. She feels the public should be allowed to attend the pre-agenda meetings. For one thing, stated Ms. Fox, it will take the pressure off the council members because when someone is doing a hard, fast sell, it is hard for council to say no and stand their ground without feeling bad or feeling brow beaten. That, stated Ms. Fox, is an observation she has. She hopes the public will be allowed to attend the pre-agenda meetings, concluded Ms. Fox.

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

- **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 and the Work-Study Meeting held on February 7, 2023.

B. Approval of Accounts Payable from February 1, 2023 through February 15, 2023 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 Armington.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney X, Council Member Armington X, Council Member Binney X, Council Member Dueker X, Council Member Highstreet X, Council Member McDaniel X, Mayor Davis X.

The motion was voted on and passed 7 - 0.

- **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Discussion and possible action to adjourn into the Work-Study Meeting to discuss streets and roads needs.

- **ADJOURNMENT INTO WORK-STUDY MEETING**

Mayor Davis adjourned the meeting into the Work-Study Meeting.

- **MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER**

Mayor Davis called the meeting back to order.

2. Discussion and possible action to consider a street repair project on Highline Drive.

As we work our way through the work-study sessions, reminded Town Manager Grier, we are trying to focus on developing a three (3) year plan. As we get this information, added Mr. Grier, we need to keep in mind numbers. The Town, reported Mr. Grier, is sitting on about two million one hundred thousand dollars (\$2,100,000) in restricted funds. Those funds can only be used for streets and roads. It is important for council to keep that in mind as we try to craft a good three (3) year plan. The projected revenues coming in, reported Mr. Grier, are about five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). That money is available as well.

Town Manager Grier explained that there are two (2) options available on the Highline Drive street repair project. One option is asphalt, and the other option is cement. The asphalt option is about one half (1/2) the price of the cement option. Mr. Grier stated that Job Order Contractor Roy Haught recommends going with the asphalt. Mr. Haught thinks the asphalt will hold up because it will not be driven on. It has been identified as one of the safety issues we need to get on, stated Mr. Grier. Mayor Davis opened the item up for discussion. Vice Mayor McKinney stated he thinks the cheap one is a good way to go. Council Member Highstreet reported he drives that road every day and it's been a concern for the entire community for a long time. The section of drainage in question is really steep and if it is not

done right the problem will return and could even be compounded. Council Member Highstreet stated he is leaning toward doing it right and spending more money now and not having to do it again. Council Member Dueker stated he needs clarification. Queried Council Member Dueker – Are there two separate issues in the same area? It is just about the option of using different materials, asphalt or cement, responded Mr. Grier. It is not a matter of doing it right. Mr. Haught, stated Mr. Grier, believes the asphalt will do it right and it will hold up because it will not be driven over. Mr. Grier concluded he always depends on Mr. Haught and what he says should be done.

Council Member McDaniel stated she is leaning towards the ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) proposal because Mr. Haught is the expert, and he thinks it is a good fix. Council Member Armington stated he thinks the asphalt will be fine. All we are doing, explained Council Member Armington, is keeping the water from eroding into the granite. By putting a surface down the granite will end up down at the bottom of the hill, which will be a whole other thing to deal with. There was no further discussion. **A motion to approve the repairs on Highline Drive for the estimated cost of \$10,434.72 was made by Council Member Armington and was seconded by Council Member Binney.**

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Dueker Yes, Council Member Highstreet Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Davis Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 7 - 0.

3. Discussion and possible action to increase the spending authority of the Town Manager.

Town Manager Grier stated that this has come to his attention before, but especially with the street project that was just approved. He would like to have gotten on that project quicker than he was able because it has a safety issue to it. Mr. Grier explained that he could not get that project done quickly because of needing to have approval from the council since it exceeded his spending authority. He thinks the five thousand dollar (\$5,000) spending authority does not go very far with streets and roads projects and is suggesting that council increase the manager's spending authority. If you don't want to do it in other areas, added Mr. Grier, that is okay. The safety issue is imminent and that is what he is concerned about with increasing that spending authority. Most things he is going to bring to council, stated Mr. Grier, so it can be a council decision. All donations have to go to council, added Mr. Grier, that was a motion by council some time ago.

Mayor Davis asked Town Manager Grier if he has a recommendation of the amount. Mr. Grier responded he thinks twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) would cover most projects that are out there. Mayor Davis opened the meeting up for discussion. Council Member Binney stated that Mr. Grier has had the five thousand dollar (\$5,000) spending authority since day one. Just in the last two (2) years prices have gone up two hundred percent (200%) to three hundred percent (300%). He was already thinking twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) at the minimum. The emergency stuff needs to be covered, concluded Council Member Binney. Mayor Davis commented he does not disagree with Council Member Binney. Council Member Highstreet asked if the sole intent behind this is for imminent safety issues – to address them without coming to council. That is not the sole intent, responded Mr. Grier. Safety is always the first consideration, but he thinks efficiency is important too. Mr. Grier stated he likes to look at it in aggregate, so as not to disguise the spending authority by piecing it out. He likes to bring everything to council because it gives him the direction that council wants to go. In this case, stated Mr. Grier, he would have liked to have had this project done a couple of months ago but for needing to bring it to council. There are also times, added Mr. Grier, it seems to be inefficient.

A motion to approve increasing the spending authority of the Town Manager to \$25,000 was made by Council Member Dueker and was seconded by Council Member Highstreet.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Armington Yes, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Dueker Yes, Council Member Highstreet Yes, Council Member McDaniel Yes, Mayor Davis Yes.

The motion was voted on and passed 7 - 0.

4. 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 Davis provided a breakdown of the requested contributions: One thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,250) for the Gary Hardt Memorial Rodeo; One thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,750) for the World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo; and two thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$2,950) for the combined rodeos with a discount of fifty dollars (\$50) included. In the past, stated Mayor Davis, he believes the Town has supported both of the rodeos. She personally loves the Rodeos, commented Council Member McDaniel, but she has a responsibility to do what is best for the Town. She would not have a problem, personally, donating her own money. Council Member McDaniel stated she does not know if spending money on this is responsible because it does not bring Star Valley any revenue and it does not positively influence any of the citizens by giving this money away. Mayor Davis stated the Town is very conservative with spending taxpayer money and always has been. Star Valley has been doing this for eighteen (18) years. He thinks, concluded Mayor Davis, the Pro Rodeo Committee does bring that heritage to the community.

Council Member Binney acknowledged he feels the same way as Council Member McDaniel – to a certain degree. He has softened his feelings on it. The community garden and park were developed for a group of people. The rodeo is part of the history here. The motel and Circle K, reported Council Member Binney, do get some economic benefit out of it – his business dies during the rodeo. He wishes, acknowledged Council Member Binney, that they would include their books. He will vote yes, concluded Council Member Binney. In the past couple of years, stated Council Member Armington, he has been distraught with the rodeo that is produced. Whatever they are doing wrong, they are not drawing in the names anymore. Council Member Armington stated he can't support it this year.

Queried Council Member McDaniel – Will our contribution affect whether or not they are able to put on the rodeo? Council Member McDaniel added that she likes the heritage aspect of it also. They will put the rodeo on, responded Mayor Davis. From the heritage perspective, stated Council Member Highstreet, it is pretty awesome. From a taxpayer perspective, acknowledged Council Member Highstreet, he has a hard time justifying unnecessary donations going to that in which we receive very little. The donations to the Senior Center and Meals on Wheels are incredible donations, but sometimes we have to choose what we are going to donate to. He has already made his decision when it comes to spending tax dollars for donation purposes, concluded Council Member Highstreet, and he is not a fan of this particular proposal. Vice Mayor McKinney stated he understands and shares the ambivalence of his fellow council members. He is persuaded to vote in favor of this because of his appreciation of the cultural and historical aspects of the rodeo. It isn't that our contribution is going to be a go, no go as to whether we are going to have a rodeo – that is not the case. The excess profits, reported Vice Mayor McKinney, are donated primarily to local students on their way off to college. His feeling is the cultural and historical aspects overcome his fiscal prudence in this particular case. There were no further comments.

A motion to donate \$2,950.00 to the Rodeo Committee was made by Council Member Binney and was seconded by Vice Mayor McKinney.

A roll call vote was taken:

Vice Mayor McKinney Yes, Council Member Armington No, Council Member Binney Yes, Council Member Dueker No, Council Member Highstreet No, Council Member McDaniel No, Mayor Davis Yes.

The motion was voted on and was denied 3 - 4.

• **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was voted on and passed 7 – 0.

APPROVED:

Bobby Davis, 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 21st day of February 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 27th day of February 2023.

Edie Chapin, Town Clerk