

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

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024 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. **Council Member McDaniel and Mayor Davis appeared telephonically.**

- **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 Vice Mayor opened up this portion of the meeting for public comment.

Bob Wolf of 196 Chitwood commented that the signs were still up on Mr. Martinez's property. Mr. Wolf has talked to a former marine who could lose his apartment as he can't pay the \$1800 rent since he is on social security and disability. It's a big problem. He hopes the council can support Mr. Martinez if he chooses to put housing on his property. He also asked if the town could get its own zip code as this would lower homeowner insurance rates.

There were no further comments and the Vice 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 held on December 19, 2023.**
- B. Approval of Accounts Payable from December 16, 2023 through January 15, 2024 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 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 regarding a sponsorship for the 2024 Hashknife Pony Express. Requested by Council Member Armington.**

Council Member Armington began the discussion stating that the town council chose not to support the pony express last year. He explained that this was the 66<sup>th</sup> year of the pony express and they are a 501C-Organization. He felt the town council should get behind them and stay behind them. He and other council members had attended the dedication of the pony express statue in Payson and feels the pony express will be around for a long time. It is expensive undertaking and he said he donated feed for the horses last year. He felt a \$2500 donation was high but suggested \$1,000, \$700 or even \$500 would be appropriate. Council Member Binney commented that he heard Tucson was being sued because they donated to their rodeo and it was considered a gift. He said that since the Town Manager Grier had chastised the council previously on donations and the gift clause he felt the council should give money out of their own pockets. Council Member McDaniel said she was personally in favor of the group but agreed and doesn't support giving town money. Council Member Dueker agreed that town money should be spent for the betterment of the people in Star Valley such as the bus service. No motion was made and the discussion died.

2. **Discussion and possible action concerning the Splash Pad, landscaping and ADA accessibility at the community park.**

Town Manager Grier informed the council that they should consider whether or not to go forward with the project. The splash pad was widely popular but there is work to do on it and problems manifested last year. He said time was of the essence as potential projects are currently backup four to six weeks. One of the issues is the amount of water the splash pad uses as it flows into the rock pit holding area. The water frequently overflows onto the grassy area used for group reservations making a mess. This water could be handled if two things happened. One, install parts for an automatic shutoff if no one is using the splash pad. Currently the pad runs from 10am to 4pm with the water running until a guest pushes the shutoff post. Two, the Town of Payson will have their splash pad running in May which may give Star Valley some relief but he is not confident that it will really provide relief. Another idea would be to set up a 10,000 gallon tank to collect water during the day which would be used to water the park at night. Thus, the water would be used twice. He said since the town was incorporated because of water issues that we should be water conscious at every opportunity.

Grier said there were 3 projects coming together that if they were coordinated would bring great results. He anticipates the CDBG ADA project for sidewalks in the park will happen this year. Also it would be a good opportunity to do a landscape plan (shrubs and flowers) to green up the park with the water from the 10,000 gallon tank. Glen McCombs from the Plant Fair Nursery will address the council on this later in the meeting. Grier said the price tag for this might possibly be \$150,000.

Dean Shaffer spoke regarding the water tank system. The water from the splash pad would be pumped at night into the irrigation system. It wouldn't have to be treated but would be used twice. This would cost \$50,000 for a booster system to do drip/sprinklers. A storage tank would cost \$20,000 and will be above ground. It would be \$70,000 to get the items purchased. He said Roy Haught had an idea of running another line to the leach line system if the water was too much for the tank. The booster system is 16 weeks out on delivery but we could get other things ready with Roy Haught's crew to do the work. Council Member Dueker asked how much water is used at the park during the summer. Shaffer replied that the water is on for 6 hours per day and uses about 7,000 gallons per day. Dueker questioned if we could use the 7,000 gallons to irrigate or would there still be a flooding problem. Shaffer responded that the irrigation system would need to be expanded. Council Member Binney acknowledged that he forgot to turn off the water at times but there were other irresponsible users. Locks are now installed on the meter boxes to prevent it from happening again. Hopefully next month he can put radio frequency on the touch pad. Council Member Highstreet suggested adjusting operating hours of the splash pad to prevent overflow. Shaffer explained that they are trying to use gravity to direct the water overflow back into the tank. Council Member Armington suggested putting a stand up pipe in collecting the overflow and Grier responded that it might pose a problem with kids in the park. Shaffer indicated that the extended irrigation system could handle the overflow and they could use the water to sprinkle the dry area on the hillsides. Grier offered that the hours of operation could be reduced and maybe a sensor would reduce the loss of water but the project is grossly overrun at what the cost was to be. However he would like to see the splash pad continue. He agreed that adding to the irrigation system and greening up the park would be beneficial at an estimated cost of \$150,000.

Glen McCombs of the Plant Fair Nursery thought it was a great idea to green up the park. He will walk the park with a landscaper to get ideas and direction where bushes, trees, native grasses/wildflowers could be put. Council Member McDaniel loved the idea of saving the splash pad, capturing water and beautifying the park. Council Member Dueker wants to have more discussion on cost and remained concerned that there would still be a flood issue. Recommended continuing the discussion at the next council meeting. Grier said that by changing the different features of the splash pad and a sensor they could experiment this coming summer and have good numbers on it. He feels by recapturing the water there is no additional water used since the plants would have to be watered any way. He wasn't looking for a decision tonight but an idea of who is interested in the expansion. A lot of staff time has been used on research and time is of the essence. Mayor Davis agrees to move forward with the project as cost isn't going to get cheaper. Council Member Dueker thought it was ok to go ahead with looking into a 10,000 gallon tank. Grier said he wasn't looking for a decision but rather to get an idea from the council whether he should go ahead with exploring the options and the costs. Council Member Dueker said he would like to see very close numbers on cost before going forward. Grier said there were a lot of factors to consider such as run time, water testing, possible employee cost, etc. Dean Shaffer indicated that to make it work the irrigation would need to run every night. Grier said the current status quo won't work and something needs to be done in order to keep the splash pad or shut it down. He felt the other option of a 10,000 gallon tank would prove cost effective but the recycled water feature would be too expensive. Council Member McDaniel was still enthusiastic about moving ahead. Council Member Highstreet was for moving forward to explore options and numbers. Mayor Davis felt Option #2 was the overall best. Vice Mayor McKinney was enthusiastically in favor of looking at options. Grier stated that we will start working on the project and get better numbers as soon as possible. It will be a challenge getting it all done before summer. He will bring it up at another council meeting and looks for an ok from at least four council members to proceed. Vice Mayor said that completes the agenda and Mayor Davis asked for a motion to adjourn.

**• 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:**

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**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 16th day of January 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.**

**Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.**

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**Del Dupree, Administrative Assistant**