

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

**Tuesday, March 5, 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 Highstreet attended 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 Mayor opened up this portion of the meeting for public comment. There were no 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 held on February 20, 2024.**

- B. Approval of Accounts Payable from February 16, 2024 through February 29, 2024 for the General Fund and for the Water Department.**

Council Member Binney requested a correction on Agenda Item #3 of the minutes. Paint and stain are mixed up – it should be paint lasts and stain doesn't, pointed out Council Member Binney.

**A motion to approve consent agenda items A, with the correction, and B was made by Council Member Binney 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 regarding the water department. Discussion to include the history of the water department, the current status of the water department, challenges, funding and future direction.**

Town Manager Grier began by stating the town has a lot to be proud of but there are new challenges and opportunities to come. He said there would be new water customers and potential water rate increases and this would be a good time to think about where the town wants to go with the water department. He said we should start with the beginning of the town which was incorporated over a water issue with the Town of Payson and the Tower Well. There was a private water company at that time which the Town of Star Valley eventually purchased in 2013. The first water department employee was Rob Rippy who had experience with the company. When Mr. Rippy left, the town hired Dean Shaffer who also had extensive water management experience. Through the years many councils worked to develop a reliable water system capable of producing more water than was needed. Now there is the issue of PFAS. When three wells in the area registered positive for PFAS, the decision was made to immediately turn off the Lumberman's Well, the Circle K Well and the Park Well. The towns goals are to provide redundant, reliable and safe water to the community. The addition of other wells led to the project of running the waterline under Highway 260 to get water to Circle K. Currently, the town is in contact with ADEQ and also the PFAS attorneys in a class action suit against Dupont and 3M. When the town had to shut down three wells, it erased two million dollars' worth of work that created these wells. Therefore, one of the issues before the council will be to review the water rates. Queried Mr. Grier – Should the rates be just enough to cover expenses? Should we have rates that would generate extra income to be put into reserves for future expenses?

There is good news, stated Town Manager Grier. In working with ADEQ, engineer Matthew Olsen will be coming up next week to review our needs. The town is hoping to see a new pump station which will take water from PW1/PW2 Wells up to the Knolls Well. This could be an ADEQ funded project. Another concern is the two RV parks which have PFAS issues. One remedy is to have these parks hook up to the town water system. He was informed by Water Operator Dean Shaffer that other RV parks were approaching him about hooking up to the town water system. Water Operator Dean Shaffer said that Sky Run RV, Lazy D Ranch and Hunter's Lodge were already hooked up to town water and the Lamplighter RV Resort is now asking about it. Mr. Grier commented that the town will see a surge of customers that will want to hook up to the town's water supply to solve their PFAS issues. All of this will require the town to look at capital improvements to anticipate demand and challenges within the coming budgets. We don't know at this time what funds might come out of the PFAS litigation.

Council Member Dueker asked what ADEQ is covering for the town. Mr. Grier said we don't know at this point as we are in the beginning stages. There will be a meeting with an ADEQ engineer next week to look at our needs, costs and potentially new customers. Council Member Armington asked how many wells were in question. Water Operator Dean Shaffer responded that there were three town wells and three others – Lil' W, Houston Creek RV and Lamplighter RV). Mr. Grier indicated that the second testing reads were not in yet. Mr. Shaffer said he was most concerned with well water storage. Council Member Dueker asked if there will be enough new customers so the town doesn't have to subsidize the water department. Mr. Grier responded that Finance Administrator Woody has done the research. The town's water rates have always been artificially low but we have been able to keep costs down and rebuild the water system through grant money. Going forward, stated Mr. Grier, that will be a

decision the council will face. Vice-Mayor McKinney said he needs numbers in order to make decisions. He also needs ADEQ requirements for a ratio between hook-ups and storage tank requirements. Mr. Grier concluded that the council would need to define what direction they want to go with the PFAS issue and prioritize the capital improvement projects. It will be a learn as we go process. Mayor Davis asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Binney 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 5th day of March 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.**

**Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.**

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**Del Dupree, Administrative Assistant**