

**MINUTES OF THE WORK STUDY MEETING OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STAR VALLEY**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 3:00 pm  
251 N Highway 87, Tonto Apache Reservation #30, Payson, Arizona  
(Mazatzal Hotel & Casino)**

- **CALL TO ORDER:**
- **ROLL CALL:**

**Town of Star Valley**

**Present: Mayor Bobby Davis, Vice Mayor Andy McKinney, Council Member Ray Armington, Council Member George Binney, Council Member Belle McDaniel, Council Member Dennis Dueker, Council Member Matt Highstreet.**

**Town of Payson**

**Present: Mayor Chris Higgins, Vice Mayor Barbara Underwood, Council Member Brett Flaherty, Council Member Joel Mona, Council Member Scott Nossek, Council Member Jolynn Schinstock, Council Member Suzy Tubbs-Avakian.**

**Tonto Apache Tribe**

**Present: Chairman Calvin Johnson, Vice Chairman Charles Lopez, Council Member Lucinda Flores, Council Member Joe Morgan, Council Member Madison Morgan.**

- **PURPOSE OF MEETING:**

1. **This is a joint council meeting hosted by the Tonto Apache Tribe between the councils of the Town of Star Valley, the Town of Payson, and the Tonto Apache Tribe. The meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for the council's to share information, provide updates, and continue the relationship that exists between the three governments.**

Tonto Apache Tribe Chairman Calvin Johnson introduced the councils in attendance. He began by touching on the issues before the tribe at the moment such as the upcoming settlement agreement with the Forest Service to acquire more land south of Payson to help protect scarce groundwater. He went on to talk about the Apache Corners Development. The development is a mixed-use venture to include the Heritage Distilling Company, which will be Arizona's first tribally owned and operated distillery on Native land. Future developments will include an entertainment district, additional restaurants, two convenience stores, and a family entertainment center.

Town of Payson Mayor Chris Higgins commented that the Star Valley Community Park is used and enjoyed by all residents of both towns. He feels the Apache Corners Development is an amazing vision by the Tribal Council. He continued with updates regarding the Town of Payson and the impact of the high cost of living on affordable housing. He said there were incentives for developers to build affordable housing. Also, the projects for the Town of Payson were an indoor aquatic facility, the event center, Rumsey Park, the American Gulch area and trails within the area. Their priorities are the Beeline Bus, Granite Dells Road and working with ADOT on Highway 87.

Town of Star Valley Mayor Bobby Davis spoke about Star Valley’s partnership with the Town of Payson. Star Valley has set a standard to be a good community and give back. He stated that the Town of Star Valley gave back by building a splash pad, which the kids love. The town park has a zipline, splash pad, playgrounds with shade structures and also a pickleball court. The Town is working on a 2.3 million dollar grant from ADOT for road improvements. Town of Star Valley Mayor Bobby Davis complimented the Payson Town Council for passing a one cent sales tax increase to improve Main Street and cover the event center. He said the Town of Star Valley is here to help anyway they can. He is very impressed to see the ridership numbers for the Beeline Bus increase and he is honored to be co-chair of the IPTA.

Tonto Apache Tribe Chairman Calvin Johnson spoke about how proud he is of what the tribe has accomplished. They opened their own clinic without any government subsidy. It will be open to the public and offer services to veterans. They also opened their own school. Another thing they are looking at pursuing is a small ambulatory clinic that specializes in mental health and substance abuse. They received a lot of feedback that the need is great. All this is not possible without everyone’s co-operation and everyone working together. Town of Star Valley Mayor Bobby Davis added that an economic development seminar is being held on June 19, 2024 and June 20, 2024 at the Payson High School Auditorium. It is a no cost meeting and food will be served. It will be a town hall type of meeting. Tonto Apache Tribe Vice-Chairman Charles Lopez commented that it is very encouraging to see the three governments meeting together like this. The Tonto Apache Tribal Council is very progressive. They are getting things done at a fast pace because they all agree. Town of Payson Council Member Brett Flaherty agreed councils are super valuable and create a win/win environment for all. He is glad to be a part of it.

Town of Payson Vice-Mayor Barbara Underwood and Town of Payson Council Member Joel Mona agreed that the towns are moving forward in trying to make this region a better place for everyone. They were optimistic about the future and felt honored to be at the work study meeting. Town of Star Valley Mayor Bobby Davis expressed his appreciation for the town managers of Star Valley and Payson as well as their staff. Town of Payson Mayor Chris Higgins agreed. Town of Payson Council Member Brett Flaherty felt elections spread the message and encourage the vision of the towns and tribe moving forward. The meeting concluded and adjourned.

**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 Work Study Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Star Valley held on this day, the 28th day of March 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.**

**Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.**

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**Del Dupree, Administrative Assistant**