

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

**Tuesday, August 5, 2025 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 comments. There were no public comments, and Mayor Davis 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 July 1, 2025.

B. Approval of Accounts Payable from July 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025

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 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.

PROCLAMATION:

1. Child Support Awareness Month

Town Clerk Chapin read the proclamation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Update from Chief Staub, Payson Police Department and Star Valley Law Enforcement, regarding law enforcement in Star Valley.

Town Manager Grier stated that the Town of Star Valley is proud to have Payson law enforcement as the town's law enforcement. He went on to introduce Acting Payson Police Chief Dave Staub, who introduced other members of the Payson Police Department. Chief Staub stated that the police force has been down to ten officers, but they now have five additional officers currently in field training. He said his goal is to provide monthly updates to Town Manager Grier. Chief Staub spoke about the recent accidents on Highway 260 and said they authorized an additional position which is focused on highway patrol. They have averaged about fifty-five stops per week along with the Gila County Sheriff's Department and DPS on Highway 87 and Highway 260. In his opinion, said Chief Staub, the relationship between Payson and Star Valley works well. Mayor Davis and the Council thanked him for the presentation.

2. Discussion and public hearing regarding the use of FY2025 Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds. Presentation by Administrative & Special Projects Coordinator Angela Gotto with Central Arizona Governments ("CAG").

Angela Gotto, Special Projects Coordinator for Central Arizona Governments ("CAG"), stated that the hearing tonight is for public input regarding possible projects for consideration for the 2025 CDBG grant cycle. The Town of Star Valley is expected to receive approximately \$156,800 in federal fiscal year 2025 CDBG funds from the Arizona Department of Housing. All proposed regional projects must meet one of three national objectives – benefit low to moderate income persons in the area, alleviate slum and blight in the community, or address an urgent need of the town. Examples of possible uses include public infrastructure, community facilities, housing, public services and removal of architectural barriers. Ms. Gotto then passed around examples of completed projects using CDBG funds and added that this includes Star Valley's last CDBG project. Only projects identified and listed at today's public hearing are eligible to be submitted for consideration as a project during the next hearing on September 16th, concluded Ms. Gotto, when the Town Council will select the final project.

Town Manager Grier stated staff is recommending three projects – paving the parking lot at the park; a water storage tank; or a water line replacement. A lot has happened in the last week that we need

to talk about as the council decides if those are the three projects. Staff met with WIFA yesterday. The town put in a second application with WIFA for a water line replacement project. The water line replacement project, if you remember, is a \$3 million dollar overall project replacing the sixty year old asbestos concrete water lines. We've been talking about starting that project for a couple of years now and it seems like it keeps getting bumped for other projects. We still have that \$3 million dollar project ahead of us. The town is trying to get the principle forgiveness on the loan as that is what is important to us. Town Manager Grier then asked Finance Administrator Ridings for the numbers on the WIFA loan. Finance Administrator Ridings reported that the town was asking for \$260,000. WIFA will give us \$217,500 on a forgivable loan. That means \$42,500 that we pay back on a 4.4% interest rate for twenty years. That loan will cost us just over \$24,000. Queried Town Manager Grier – How can we say no to that?

Town Manager Grier then asked Water Operator Dean Shaffer for his opinion on the three projects and what the priority should be. Water Operator Shaffer said he thinks the priority should be replacing the aging water lines and that the town should look to doing that more than water storage. We have plenty of storage now that we are getting that 116,000 gallon tank built at the Quail Valley site. We should keep moving forward, stated Water Operator Shaffer, on the water line replacement program. As we do these projects and replace these lines we put more valving in so that we can shut off and isolate just a certain area to prevent outages from being so large. That is another benefit of replacing these lines, concluded Water Operator Shaffer. Town Manager Grier asked the council if they wanted to bump one of the three projects for an item they may have that is not listed. Town Manager Grier explained that he was initially hot on the idea of paving the parking lot at the park. He then began to think that may be a mistake that can't be fixed if we do a large amount of paving. He also stated he thinks it would take away from the charm of the park. Council Member Dueker said he is happy with the three projects going forward. Council Member Highstreet said he is in favor of focusing on the water line replacements as the priority. Mayor Davis opened the meeting for public hearing. Richard Likens of 83 S. Hillside Drive in Star Valley voiced his opinion that the water line replacements should be the top priority. There were no further comments, and Mayor Davis closed the public hearing portion. There was no further discussion.

3. Report and update on the new Beeline Bus management plan by Executive Director Andrea Robles with Central Arizona Governments (“CAG”) and the possible fiscal impact on the Town of Star Valley.

Andrea Robles, Executive Director for CAG provided an update on the Beeline Bus. About a little over a year and a half ago, explained Executive Director Robles, the cities and towns in Gila County came together to petition the Gila County Board of Supervisors to form what is called an Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (“IPTA”). Each of the communities are represented on this board by the mayors – the board is comprised of seven members. There has been discussion on how to streamline some of the services and expenses that are occurring within Gila County Transit. Up this way is the Beeline Bus and the Miami/Globe area has Copper Mountain Transit. She knows that a lot of the member jurisdictions contribute to the operations – the Town of Star Valley provides some funding to the Town of Payson, Gila County does the same, and Gila County and Globe provide funding to the Copper Mountain Transit. The conversation she heard from the Gila County Manager is that they would like to look to start streamlining some of this and where they can cut some expenses, especially if there is duplication of services.

The Gila County IPTA was formed last year, reported Executive Director Robles. Money has been allocated from CAG's Transportation Program to bring a consultant on board to work with the Beeline Bus and Copper Mountain Transit to start looking at some of the documentation. There is a check list of items that need to happen in order for the IPTA to be eligible to apply for the next grant cycle. They would be applying on behalf of the entire county for the funding through ADOT to provide transit service in the county. It is in the early phases, and she stated that she doesn't have a lot of information as to what's going to happen once this develops. She knows there has been questions about staffing, buses and routes. From what she understands, stated Executive Director Robles, everything would be status quo, at least for the first year or so. They will need to get a Transit Manager on board to develop their plan. She met with Mayor Davis and Town Manager Grier this morning, she was in Payson this afternoon and she's met with some of the other mayors and managers throughout Gila County and it seems like everybody is on board to get to that next step. Queried Town Manager Grier – Can you tell us when that next step would happen? They are going to try to get a board meeting together, answered Executive Director Robles, hopefully within the next month. Then an RFP would need to be issued to hire a consultant so the consultant can begin this process and begin working with the communities. Payson is handling it now, stated Town Manager Grier. Queried Town Manager Grier – Do you anticipate a hand off any sooner than next October? If everything went as planned, answered Executive Director Robles, the funding wouldn't be awarded until next October. That would then be the time to start looking at that transition. Mayor Davis asked the council if they had any questions. There were none and Mayor Davis thanked Executive Director Robles for coming up today.

Council Member Binney stated that everything comes to dollars and cents. He's never really gotten how many people ride the bus out of Star Valley. When he looks at it, it is always empty. They are talking about hiring a transit manager and consultant and he doesn't know what that is going to do to the cost of all this. Council Member Binney stated he would really like to see ridership numbers and the cost per individual. Executive Director Robles responded that she would be happy to reach out to the Town of Payson to see if she could get that information.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding a contribution to the Beeline Bus to the Town of Payson.

Town Manager Grier said the Town of Star Valley has been invoiced by the Town of Payson for a \$10,000 contribution to the Beeline Bus. Transit Coordinator Brandon Urness with the Town of Payson explained this was the contribution last year and they were requesting the same again. Council Member Highstreet asked for ridership data for Star Valley. Transit Coordinator Urness provided numbers from a presentation shared in March of 2025 which showed 836 riders picked up in Star Valley. There has been a 15% increase month over month this year, added Transit Coordinator Urness, and they are also looking to expand services to include Saturdays. Mayor Davis asked for a motion.

A motion to contribute \$10,000 to the Beeline Bus Program for FY2025-2026 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.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding cancelling the August 19, 2025 regular council meeting.

Mayor Davis explained that the council will be heading to the Arizona League of Cities and Towns Conference.,

A motion to cancel the August 19, 2025 regular council meeting was made by Vice Mayor McKinney 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.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding the Arizona Alpine Trail. Requested by Council Member McDaniel.

Council Member McDaniel stated that she has not heard back from them yet about specific details but what she heard was that the Arizona Alpine Trail System wanted to put an official stopping point in Payson by the rodeo grounds. They have a system of trails all over the state that connects to existing forest service roads – it's a very popular trail system. From what she was told, it was going to be a \$16,000 investment from Payson and the rest would be funded by grants. Payson didn't want to do it because of that cost. She thought it would be interesting to see if they could do it in Star Valley. Especially back here where the UTV company already is. The owner of that company said he was interested in the details of that as well, concluded Council Member McDaniel. There was no further discussion.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding adding a second water storage tank for the splash pad.

Town Manager Grier stated he thinks we are getting closer to figuring out the splash pad. One challenge we have is that the current 10,000 gallon water storage tank is not large enough to use the splash pad longer than 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Staff believes that if we add an additional 10,000 gallon tank then we would be able to use the splash pad unlimited hours. What is happening now, with all the different features turned up, is that the storage tank sometimes overflows. Our goal, stated Town Manager Grier, has always been to be able to use that water twice. We know the sensitivity to water use up here and so we have worked on trying to get the water from the splash pad to be water that we irrigate with at night. He asked Water Operator Dean Shaffer to talk about the numbers, why this will work, and how many gallons are actually run through the splash pad.

Last month, reported Water Operator Dean Shaffer, we ran 147,000 gallons through the park meter. That's the water that mainly goes through the splash pad. We catch that water back into the tank and we irrigate with it at night, so it is reclaimed water. For July, reported Water Operator Shaffer, the irrigation system used 87,000 gallons more than the splash pad – so that water came from the domestic water system. We are running about 235,000 gallons total through the irrigation system at the park. Town Manager Grier asked me a few months ago if we could extend the hours of the splash pad. Of course we can't, stated Water Operator Shaffer. When we designed the tank, it was to run for six hours. He believes there are some people asking to run it longer. We can do that if we add a second tank. The irrigation system can still absorb another 90,000 gallons a month of water.

The way it was designed to start with was 20 gallons a minute for 6 hours, reported Water Operator Shaffer, roughly 7,200 gallons of water. To run the splash pad longer and to turn it up more we have to add more storage – the irrigation system can take it. We could still use it as reclaimed and run less domestic water straight into the irrigation. Right now, when the tank runs that low, he has the domestic water backed up through a separate meter to help keep the boosters running to make it through the night for the irrigation. If the council would like to run the splash pad more, concluded Water Operator Shaffer, we have to add another tank.

Mayor Davis asked if a 10,000 gallon tank would be enough. “Yes,” replied Water Operator Shaffer. This is all designed for summer usage, stated Council Member Highstreet, when the splash pad is running. The splash pad season is five months, reported Water Operator Shaffer. Queried Council Member Highstreet – What do we know about the winter usage? The demand on the irrigation gets turned down and eventually gets turned off in the winter. Council Member Highstreet stated his only concern is that we are investing more money into the infrastructure for the sole purpose of reducing operating costs now. Queried Council Member Highstreet – Can those operating costs be recuperated when the system is not running? Does it balance out – summer vs. winter usage? You are looking at an investment that would take about 2 ½ years to pay back for the second tank, replied Water Operator Shaffer. Mayor Davis said he is all for getting the new storage tank.

Town Manager Grier said the strategy of using recycled water to irrigate the park is a no cost solution. We are almost to the finish line with the splash pad – we know it gets a lot of use – it was a good project for us to do. The cost of an additional water tank, concluded Town Manager Grier, is approximately \$27,000. Council Member Binney asked if the \$27,000 price tag includes a paint job. This tank should be fenced in, replied Town Manager Grier. There will be pipes exposed and a water level indicator that we are concerned about. Council Member Binney stated he would like the hill and the dry areas watered for the wild flowers – they were gorgeous last year. There was no further discussion. **A motion to authorize the Town Manager to move forward with the purchase and installation of a water storage tank for the splash pad was made by Council Member McDaniel 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.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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 5th day of August 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 8th day of August 2025.

Del Dupree, Administrative Assistant