

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

**Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.
3675 East Highway 260, Star Valley, AZ
(Star Valley Town Hall)**

- **PRAYER:** Council Member McDaniel offered the invocation in the absence of Pastor Dave.
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **CALL TO ORDER**
- **ROLL CALL:**

Official	Status
Mayor Davis	Absent
Vice Mayor McKinney	Present
Council Member Armington	Present
Council Member Binney	Present
Council Member Dueker	Present
Council Member Highstreet	Absent
Council Member McDaniel	Present

✓ **A quorum was established.**

- **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. Remarks from the public should 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.

Bob Wolf, resident of Star Valley, addressed the Council regarding the proposed request for a unique zip code designation for the Town of Star Valley. Mr. Wolf expressed support for the proposal, stating that a unique zip code would help establish a stronger identity for the Town and further distinguish Star Valley from Payson. No action was taken. Public comment was subsequently closed by Vice Mayor McKinney.

- **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

All items listed under the Consent Agenda were voted on as a single motion. If discussion was desired regarding any Consent Agenda item, that item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

A. Approval of the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on August 4, 2026.

B. Approval of Accounts Payable for the General Fund and Water Department for the period of August 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026.

Council Member Armington moved to approve Consent Agenda Items A and B as presented. Council Member McDaniel seconded the motion.

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 – ABSENT.
- Council Member McDaniel – YES.
- Mayor Davis – ABSENT.

The motion carried 5-0, with Council Member Highstreet and Mayor Davis absent.

PROCLAMATION

1. Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Town Clerk Jacob von Prisk read a proclamation recognizing September 2026 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in the Town of Star Valley.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion regarding Hellsgate Fire District services and introduction of the new Fire Chief Randy Haugen.

Fire Chief Randy Haugen reintroduced himself to the Council, noting that he had previously appeared before the Council in April while serving as Interim Fire Chief of the Hellsgate Fire District. Chief Haugen reported that he was appointed as the permanent Fire Chief in June 2026.

Chief Haugen provided an overview of the District's current staffing levels, consisting of three Captains, three Engineers, and seventeen reserve firefighters who assist with emergency response operations. He reported that the District responded to 63 calls during July 2026, including 45 medical calls, and has responded to 362 calls year-to-date. Chief Haugen noted that the District's call volume remains consistent with the previous year.

Chief Haugen explained that modern fire service operations involve a wide variety of emergency responses, including medical emergencies, lift assists, motor vehicle accidents, structure fires, and wildland fire incidents. He commended District personnel for their dedication and continued service to the community. Chief Haugen also discussed the District's partnership with Lifeline Ambulance. He reported that ambulance personnel are stationed at the Hellsgate Fire District station during peak hours to improve emergency response times within Star Valley. According to Chief Haugen, the program has reduced ambulance response times by approximately eight to ten minutes while increasing the number of emergency personnel available on scene.

Additionally, Chief Haugen informed Council that annual hydrant inspections are currently underway throughout the Town. These inspections are conducted to verify hydrant functionality and accessibility while conserving water wherever possible. Chief Haugen reported that hydrants inspected to date have been operating properly and stated that District staff remain in communication with Town staff regarding any issues that may be identified. Chief Haugen concluded by expressing his desire to provide quarterly updates to the Council regarding Fire District operations and services.

No action was taken.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase and installation of a commemorative plaque honoring veterans at Star Valley Town Hall.

Vice Mayor McKinney introduced the item, stating that the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the United States presented an opportunity for the Town of Star Valley to participate in national commemorative activities and honor the service and sacrifices of American veterans.

Town Clerk von Prisk presented examples of outdoor commemorative plaques that had been included within the Council packet. Vice Mayor McKinney discussed design options, including both rustic and modern styles, and invited Council input regarding the proposed plaque.

Town Clerk von Prisk read the proposed inscription honoring veterans and commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence. Council discussed possible wording revisions, plaque placement near the entrance of Town Hall, and the possibility of coordinating installation of the plaque with a future Veterans Day ceremony.

Staff reported that the examples presented to Council ranged from approximately \$2,700 to \$2,900 depending upon the final design selected. Council members generally favored the rustic-style design and expressed support for constructing a durable cast-metal plaque intended to serve as a permanent memorial.

Following discussion, Council agreed that a project budget not to exceed \$3,000 would be appropriate.

Motion by Council Member Armington to authorize Town Staff to purchase and install a commemorative plaque honoring veterans at Star Valley Town Hall with a project budget not to exceed \$3,000. Seconded by Council Member McDaniel.

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 – ABSENT.
- Council Member McDaniel – YES.
- Mayor Davis – ABSENT.

The motion carried 5-0, with Council Member Highstreet and Mayor Davis absent.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Town of Star Valley and the Town of Payson for code enforcement services.

Town Manager Grier presented an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Star Valley and the Town of Payson for code enforcement services.

Town Manager Grier explained that Star Valley does not currently employ a dedicated Code Enforcement Officer. Under the proposed agreement, Payson's Code Enforcement Officer would assist the Town by conducting field inspections when written complaints are received. Star Valley would continue handling notices, case preparation, prosecution efforts, and court proceedings when necessary.

Town Manager Grier stated that the proposed agreement would provide access to code enforcement services on an as-needed basis at a rate of \$110 per hour. He also noted that code enforcement matters requiring on-site inspections have historically been limited. Mr. Grier further advised that the Payson Town Council had recently approved the agreement during one of its regular meetings.

Town Manager Grier also indicated that he intends to provide a future presentation regarding the Town's code enforcement procedures.

Motion by Council Member McDaniel to authorize the Mayor to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Payson for code enforcement services. Seconded by Council Member Dueker.

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 – ABSENT.
- Council Member McDaniel – YES.
- Mayor Davis – ABSENT.

The motion carried 5-0, with Council Member Highstreet and Mayor Davis absent.

4. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. R 26-06, a Resolution of the Town of Star Valley, Gila County, Arizona, authorizing the submission of an application for financing through the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund with a maximum loan amount not to exceed \$120,000 for the Knolls Booster Station Project.

Town Manager Grier presented Resolution No. R 26-06 authorizing submission of an application for financing through the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) for the Knolls Booster Station Project with a maximum loan amount not to exceed \$120,000.

Town Manager Grier explained that the Council had previously directed staff to pursue available funding options related to concerns regarding the fire pump system and electrical damage at the Knolls Booster Station. Based upon information available at that time, costs were estimated at approximately \$120,000, and Town Engineer Dale Miller subsequently prepared the WIFA application. Mr. Grier explained that adoption of a

resolution was required as part of the application process.

Town Manager Grier further reported that Lewis Electric had recently conducted additional inspections of the equipment. Council Member Binney discussed information received from Nathan Lewis regarding the condition of the system and indicated that repairs could potentially be completed for significantly less than originally estimated. Council discussed the condition of the equipment, repair alternatives, and the possibility that the existing system may not require complete replacement.

Although repair costs may ultimately be substantially lower than the original estimate, staff recommended proceeding with the WIFA application as a precautionary measure while additional evaluations continue. Town Manager Grier explained that the application could be withdrawn if financing ultimately proves unnecessary.

Vice Mayor McKinney expressed appreciation for WIFA and noted that the agency has been very supportive of Star Valley and its infrastructure projects over the years.

Motion by Council Member Armington to adopt Resolution No. R 26-06 authorizing submission of an application for financing through the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona for the Knolls Booster Station Project. Seconded by Council Member Dueker.

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 – ABSENT.
- Council Member McDaniel – YES.
- Mayor Davis – ABSENT.

The motion carried 5-0, with Council Member Highstreet and Mayor Davis absent.

5. Discussion and possible approval of a formal request to the United States Postal Service (USPS) seeking the assignment of a zip code unique to the Town of Star Valley. Presentation by Vice Mayor McKinney.

Vice Mayor McKinney introduced discussion regarding a proposed request to the United States Postal Service seeking assignment of a unique zip code for the Town of Star Valley. Vice Mayor McKinney stated that he had been involved with the effort and believed the Town would benefit from having its own postal designation. He noted that Star Valley is a distinct municipality separate from Payson and that confusion often occurs regarding the Town's identity and location. Vice Mayor McKinney emphasized that the request was not intended to seek establishment of a separate post office, but rather recognition of Star Valley as its own community through a unique zip code designation.

Town Clerk von Prisk read the proposed request letter prepared for submission to the United States Postal Service.

Council members discussed both the potential benefits and concerns associated with obtaining a unique zip code. Council Member Armington stated that he had spoken with Lori Mills regarding the proposal and indicated that she intended to contact Congressman Eli Crane concerning the matter. Council Member Armington expressed support for the concept but also noted concerns that a new zip code could impact insurance data and potentially affect homeowners and automobile insurance rates.

Council also discussed the ZIP+4 postal designations currently utilized within Star Valley. Discussion occurred regarding whether broader use of existing ZIP+4 identifiers could help address concerns related to taxation and community identification, although uncertainty remained regarding the various ZIP+4 designations assigned throughout Town.

Council Member McDaniel acknowledged the civic appeal of obtaining a unique zip code but expressed concern regarding the administrative burden such a change could place upon residents and businesses. Council Member McDaniel noted that a new zip code could require updates to banking, insurance, utility, licensing, payroll, subscription, retirement, Social Security, and other records. She further stated that Star Valley already maintains a distinct community identity and is recognized by the United States Postal Service as a valid mailing address.

Motion by Council Member Armington to approve the request letter and authorize submission to the United States Postal Service. Seconded by Vice Mayor McKinney.

A roll call vote was taken:

- Vice Mayor McKinney – YES.
- Council Member Armington – YES.
- Council Member Binney – NO.
- Council Member Dueker – NO.
- Council Member Highstreet – ABSENT.
- Council Member McDaniel – NO.
- Mayor Davis – ABSENT.

The motion failed 2-3, with Council Member Highstreet and Mayor Davis absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Armington moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member McDaniel seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0, with Council Member Highstreet and Mayor Davis absent.

APPROVED:

Bobby Davis, Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Jacob von Prisk, 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 1st day of September 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated the 4th day of September 2026.

Jacob von Prisk, Town Clerk