Town of Oro Valley
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OV Town Council approves country club acquisition

Oro Valley, Arizona (December 18, 2014) – At its December 17, 2014 regular meeting, Oro Valley Town Council approved a resolution for the acquisition of the El Conquistador Country Club and its related amenities, including 324 acres of land, a 31,475 square-foot building, restaurant, 31 tennis courts, 45 holes of golf and two swimming pools for $1 million. The country club will be converted into a municipal community and recreation center.

"Our residents have been telling us that they want a community center—a central gathering place for events, meetings and fitness activities. This is an incredible opportunity to fulfill that need without taking on any debt," said Mayor Satish I. Hiremath. "Additionally, this acquisition allows us to control the destiny of more than 300 acres of land in the heart of our town."

The $1 million purchase price will be paid for out of the Town's General Fund Contingency over the next three years, resulting in no debt; however, the ongoing maintenance and operations of the facilities, including initial capital improvements (such as life-safety and ADA compliance), will require an additional revenue stream.

To meet that need, Town Council also approved a half-cent sales tax, which is expected to generate approximately $2 million annually. That sales tax would be designated solely for the proposed Community & Recreation Center and related amenities.

On December 18, 2014, the Hilton El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort, which also includes the El Conquistador Country Club, will be sold to HSL Properties by current owners MetLife, Inc. As part of that transition in ownership, HSL Properties will sell the Country Club and its related amenities to the Town of Oro Valley. Troon Golf has been contracted to manage the golf, restaurant and the tennis courts at the resort property.

The Country Club's transfer of ownership to the Town would not take place until March 1, 2015, at which time the Town will also be assigned the Troon Golf management contract. Until that time, the El Conquistador Country Club will continue to operate as a country club.

At the Dec. 17 meeting, Council also voted to initiate a 60-day public notice process to discuss recreation fees related to these facilities. Those fees will be discussed and potentially determined at a February Council meeting, prior to the March 1 transfer of ownership.

For complete details on this project, including Council presentations and Troon financial projections, click here for the Town's online info page or visit: http://www.orovalleyaz.gov/town/news/community-invited-give-input-proposed-country-club-acquisition.

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