

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
February 10, 2010**

Present: Mayor Rivera, Vice Mayor Mulleneaux, Councilman Donald Innes, Eric Merriman, Charles Morris, Wayne Griffin, Ken Larson

Staff Present: Terry Hinton Town Manager, Heath Brown Engineer. Dudley Welker Town Attorney, Chief Mike Payne Fire Department, Lona Duncan Town Clerk

Visitors: Aimee Staten, Pat Rowan, Aaron Allen,

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order at 7:03pm stating there was a quorum. The Mayor said God bless our Troops where ever they are God bless their families and America.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Dudley Welker

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Willis Haas stood and addressed Council. He said he lives on Robinson Rand Road and would like to ask the Council about the status of the annexation of the Robinson Ranch area. I am a supporter of that I think it would be a great idea and I would like to see the City push that through. Mayor Rivera said we didn't get enough information from your area we did from the Central area they did not want it so we pulled back. Mayor said if you want it annexed and you could be the driver and generate interest or maybe a petition going we could look at it again. Terry said at the time we were just not sure what your area wanted it was positive but not overwhelming positive. Terry said he could just a citizen petition stating this is what they would like. Mr. Haas asked does the Council in general support the annexation is it good for Thatcher. I live in that island and I can't come to meetings and speak because I don't belong to Thatcher. In terms of law enforcement there is not a lot going on out there but we do have a speeding problem and the sheriff just doesn't have the resources. I can't speak for neighbors I think it would be good for Robinson Ranch and the City you would have more tax base. I will ask my neighbors. I understand you don't collect property taxes but our numbers should help with state revenue. I just want you to know I offer my support. I have two more issues I would like to hit on real quick. The intersection of Robinson Ranch Rd and 8th street it really needs a street light it is dark there. Mayor Rivera suggested talking to Supervisor Jim Palmer. The other thing is the section of 8th Street between 1st and 20th is there any plan to widen and make a walking path. I drive that every day there are a lot of people walking it or riding bikes. There is no shoulder and I know what kind of money we are talking about but I feel for safety it is important. Terry said we have the pipe in stock for that project but I can not gain the right a way from the farmers. Mr. Haas said I had to walk that road one day and it is a miserable road to walk on. Councilman Innes said that is an old farm road and by default has become a very busy street. Mayor Rivera said we are very aware of that situation and would like to correct it. Terry said I check on that land every so often hoping to get right a way.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the January 20, 2010 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.

- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

Councilman Innes made motion to approve minutes and reports. Councilman Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **RESOLUTION NO. 562-2010:** A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, ADOPTING THATCHER'S IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION AND MITIGATION PROGRAM IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FAIR AND ACCURATE CREDIT TRANSACTIONS ACT OF 2003 ("FACTACT").

Terry said new Fed Regulation require us to have a program in place to deal with identity theft because we have personal information. Nothing has to happen unless someone tells us they have had identity stolen then there is a process we need to follow.

Councilman Morris made motion to approve Resolution NO. 562-2010. Councilman Merriman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

- B. **RESOLUTION NO. 563-2010:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, PERTAINING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN ARIZONA'S 2010 HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN.

Terry said this has to be done in order to apply for Governor Highway Safety grant. It is normally done is June but they wanted it early.

Councilman Innes made the motion to approve Resolution No 563-2010. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03 (A)(7) the Council may go into Executive Session to consult with the Town Attorney for legal advise.

Terry asked that Dudley Welker, Heath Brown, Lona Duncan and myself stay for Executive Session.

Councilman Morris made motion to go into executive session. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous time 8:00pm

- A. Decision on Executive Session.
None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said you will find on the financial report and item under volley ball program some rather large charges but if you will look at the revenue there is 32 thousand in and only 16 thousand going out .We are helping out with the sponsorship of Club Volleyball. We

will make a few dollars on it and it doesn't cost us anything all we have to do is make a check now and then. We are just a pass through it helps them out and there are kids from the whole valley that are included. We are trying to talk them into having a tournament here but we will have to see on that.

The 1st street and Reay Lane intersection will be open in the morning. We had a culvert collapse there so we fixed it and put in a water line for one of the farmers to utilize that drip system. In the intersection we found the gas line had 3 pin hole leaks and found a shut off value they didn't know they had and water the same way there was a value that had been covered up for years so it took us longer than planned. It is really nice now. We will now go back to Daley Estates to the sidewalk project again. Seago notified us that our environmental revision to the plan had clearance so the pedestrian bridge is now a go.

I have heard back from Mr. Cade on the Safford Library he gave me a list of some 1300 or 1400 patrons from our area. We are going to verify the address to our utility records. Mr. Kincaid and I are going to discuss ways to make it a little simpler maybe a voucher system or something if Council chooses or wants to support the library so with that information we will move forward.

We are doing some major renovation down at the park. The bathrooms are getting new fixtures, painting the floors and the ceiling and new door closures. It will be like new in about two weeks.

There are about 861 more feet of right a way that we need for the traffic signal if you look that has been staked out. I have been talking with Mr. Ticer for a little corner of the sidewalk there is a fire hydrant they need space to put the pole that holds the traffic signal and he seems to think it is a good idea. I dropped off papers to him today to look at. We may have to spend a small amount but we need that right a way in our possession prior to going to the Feds for bids so there will be less red tape. Councilman Morris asked what side of the street and answer was the service station side. Terry said most of that 861 ft is about half in sidewalks so there are 3 or 4 hundred square feet of actual dirt there that we need to get right a way for. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux ask the estimated time line which Terry said a year and a half to two years as soon as it went into federal money it added eighteen months. Terry said if it had been ready we may have gotten it into round two of the stimulus money. They are beginning a second round of the projects like what we have on Reay Lane that went to bid. It started in Feb and will close in March and work in April or May. The next around they say the projects have to be ready to bid in 90 days so unless it is already done that is impossible to do so we don't have a project ready for that but the last thing I heard was they are going to split it in two's they will authorize fifty percent now and fifty percent later. Heath and I are working on a couple of different projects to get them ready and if we don't get them in that then we want them in the SEAGO pipeline. One project is the overlay from the highway and the improvement we are going to get the right a way on the ditch move. The other project is to take Hoopes Ave from Golf Course to Valley View. Since ADOT is talking about a bypass going south of us then Hoopes would be one area they would probably want to connect to that by pass. We don't want to have all the through traffic going through residential and we have a lot of right a way. I would propose that we build a two lane road up next to the fence and where they met take some of that and put a sidewalk in the middle and separate it from the current road and make what is there now a frontage road. We would control the access probably at Brinkerhoff and Valley View and blocking it at the three way entrance so we could separate the through traffic from the residential traffic. It will be years down the road but we are going to try and get ready for it if something comes available.

I have an update on the EAC pool. They painted the pool and you don't see the black in there it is crystal clear and working great. They plan on having it open just like last year. I ask them if they weren't going to offer a swim team or swim lessons to please let me know and we would be glad to sponsor those kinds of activities. We also talked about the land over by the school and they have given the idea to their Board about selling some of that land for us to put our complex on. I believe their offer was cost plus 10 and they paid in the 20's for that land. That is a starting point if Council some where down the line

wants to utilize that land closer to the high school. I have not talked to the school recently to see if they might have money to put into the project. One of the possibilities is if we use that land maybe putting the school library and ours together giving them an extra class room and help share the cost of operations. Again I haven't talked to the school these are just my ideas. Councilman Innes said I have heard some talk that goes along with the library that we can maybe incorporate some performing arts and phrase that in and maybe if EAC wants to be involved with the land they would have some usage of the performing arts area or class rooms.

Mayor Rivera asked Terry about the status of the Cota bankrupt building. Terry said we had the mediation and it didn't go anywhere. Lexon Insurance Company was to have to me an offer for the Town of Thatcher right a way and that hasn't happen yet. Out instructions to the attorney is press forward with the summary judgment and get it before a Judge and let's get it done. Lexon is doing very thing they can to get out of the performance bond. Dudley Welker said that he has seen insurance companies sit on the money just so they can earn the interest. Terry said I have not received an answer back as to when the Judge will hear the summary judgment.

Councilman Innes asked how we are doing on the follow up on the notices of cleanup projects. Terry said it is an ongoing process we have Gary looking at a place on Main Street and a trailer on Church Street that has pasted their time limit and another is across from Councilman Morris that has cleaned up. Councilman Innes said the old cars look bad. Terry said we do go out and look and there are some that still have open letters but we are working them. Councilman Merriman asked about the electric meters. Terry said that is still in process we have about 3 or 4 hundred smart meters and about 150 more to put in. There are about 3 or 4 collector meters which will read the meters and transmit the signal somewhere else so we can turn meters on and off and read them. We have about 1500 meters out there and we are only able to buy a few at a time it is an ongoing project. When we finally finish you can get online to see your usage or pay your bill that will be through a link on our web site. We will have a company read the meters and Jan can from the office turn them on, off and read. It will have pre pay option which they can come in and buy what you want and when it runs out it automatically shuts off. I would suggest anyone who has been on the turn off list or have been delinquent that they are required to be on the pre pay system. I also think we need to offer something for the College kids and renters like if they sign up for pre pay they don't have to put down a utility deposit. It will also save us on meter reading. Councilman Innes ask if there was a study done on the buy back time for this system and the answer was no. He also asked are they going into the new buildings. Terry said we have a few on hand and if the meter needs to be changed out we use those meters. The draw back is some of the meters we are taking out are still good so we are trying to find someone to buy them so we won't be out so much. Councilman Merriman asked about the voltage regulator. Terry said they are being rebuilt and we have swapped two out already and we bought a spare so we have two new one in and we are waiting on the third one and there is a bad switch that has been ordered they should be here in 2 months and then we will have to shut the whole town down for about 2 hours to install them.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said we had elections and I was elected Chief again Rue Mattice Asst Chief we have four captain and they are Chris Allen, Duane Elders, Brian Merriman and Kevin Blake. We have a good group. The burning of the house is the 20th of this month it will be good training. We have also invited a couple of other fire departments around here. There should be about 50 fire fighters starting at about 8:00. There will be a lot done inside that people won't see that will take about 2 or 3 hours. Then we will let it burn and that will go fast. The walls are block and the owner is responsible to clean up the mess. Just for your information we are up to about three fourths of our groups have their Classification 2. A problem we will run into for further training is the Fire Marshall Office for training no longer exists so the AFSI will pick up training and certification. The AFSI is

made up of the Metro Chiefs, Arizona Fire Chief, Volunteer Fire Fighters, Professional Fire Fighters and Fire District Association all will come together and have a representative to do the training. We will continue through the college to do training and encourage all our guys to go. It takes about 240 hours which when completed they are reimbursed. Information on the Ladder truck we will have to go out there in March or April and complete a certification test. We have had a few fire calls but the weather is helping us out. Terry said there has been some talk that in the next few years that all analog radios will be obsolete by a federal man date. Terry said Mike got some information from the County will try to get a County wide grant to replace all the radio so we are in the process of getting an inventory of our models and numbers so we can submit to the County. Mike told me today that the grant he put in for doesn't look like it will go through so we are hoping the County's grant will.

C. Police Department Report.

Terry said Chief Stevens has been very sick so he is not here tonight

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Safe House- Councilman Griffin said they will have their quarterly meeting next month. They are doing a fund raiser in about a week they will be selling Krispy Cream donuts just get a hold of them if you are interested.

B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Merriman said on February 23 we will have another breakfast and have the candidates running for City of Safford Mayor to give presentation. On March 5th we have the Governor coming here at EAC from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm just to visit with the County also John McClain will be on Monday February 15th at 1:00pm. We had a presentation from Springbok about the Golf Course and the 50 year lease. They are hoping by 2011 to start selling homes and lots which will go on for a seven to eight year period they are looking at 2400 homes around the golf course. He said the homes will be around 210 thousand and up all at ground level and you have to be 50 years of age or above to purchase. We also had Art Sanders there who is the Mayor of Queen Creek is also on board with the project. Councilman Merriman said that EAC is doing very good with the Nursing Facility the block is up and windows are going in. Also Kimball Hansen is leaving the area so the Chamber Board is looking at a lady from Freeport to fill the position.

C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera said we have on Feb 20th a regular business meeting.

D. Arizona Foundation.- Councilman Larson said we are in the process of creating the Graham County Foundation as part of the Arizona Foundation in order to generation more money and grants. Next Tuesday there will be another meeting and we are hoping this will happen. They have tried in the past and it didn't work but everyone is on board with it so we believe it will. Councilman Larson said we gave out 23,000 to local organizations to help with their projects the Food Bank and Boys & Girls Club just to name a few. Mayor Rivera asked if they were looking at doing fund raisers to get money built up answer was yes we are looking at that. Money that people give can be ear marked just for Graham County their donation will stay here.

E. Library Committee. - Councilman Morris said we meet after all the presentations were completed everyone seemed agreeable but the timing and economy is bad. The County is looking at going to the vote of the people about 2012. In the mean time we will be working on more information, how to set it up and details for the public presentations.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Morris made motion to adjourn meeting Councilman Innes seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk

Robert Rivera, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular/special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher held on the 10th day of February 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk