

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
July 13, 2010**

Present: Mayor Bob Rivera, Councilman Charles Morris, Eric Merriman, Donald Innes, Kenneth Larson, Wayne Griffin

Absent: Vice Mayor Mulleneaux

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

Visitors: Kevin West, Emma Sanchez, Lori Rhinehart, Aimee Staten, Aaron Allen, Chris Gibbs

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone and said God bless our Troops God bless their family and God bless the United States of America.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Lori Rhinehart

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

A. National Night Out Proclamation – Pam Hume

Mayor Rivera said the Daley Estates Neighborhood Block Watch and the Thatcher Police Department are inviting us to the National Night Out. Mayor Rivera read the Proclamation of the 27th annual event on August 3rd. Mayor Rivera thanked Lori Rhinehart and all who help with this event. Lori stood and said they received a great donation from KFC today of shredded chicken so we will have great sandwiches. Lori said we appreciation all of your support and look forward to seeing you that night.

B. Pre-Paid Legal Life Events Plan – Emma Sanchez

Mayor Rivera said he invited Ms Sanchez to be here to present a service that could be offered to our employees. Ms Sanchez stood and said she was a former resident of Thatcher and a graduate of Eastern Arizona College. These benefits are voluntary and are at no cost to the Town and it is a month to month membership with no contract so for \$18.90 a month the employees can protect their legal rights. There are four areas of one hundred percent coverage. The first is you will be able to call your attorney and ask any question to find out your rights and options in any situation. They will review any contract or document before you sign, your will and living will is included and your medical power of attorney is included with no extra cost and in the State of Arizona you also have probate assistance. The second area of coverage is Motor Vehicle legal assistance this is if you get a moving violation you will have presentation at no additional charge to get it dismissed or the best outcome so you won't have it on your driving recorder and your insurance doesn't go up. On

major medical expense if you were in an accident and someone else dies as long as you are legally driving your attorney fees are 100% pre-paid. The third is if you or your spouse is suited civilly you have 60 hours of attorney time for your defense. If the 60 hours are not used it will continue to be added for the next 5 years until it reaches 300 hours. The fourth area is if the IRS does an auditor you will have up to 50 hours of certified tax attorneys time to help before and during audit and anything else will be cover at a minimum of 25% discount that would be things like divorce, bankruptcy, child support, child custody, DUI things like that. Included in that same \$18.90 a month is the legal shield this is an emergency 24hour number you can call to find out your rights. We also have and Identity theft plan for 9.95 a month this will protect them from all five different areas. We have licensed investigator and what you get is up to date credit reports from that point on the investigator will monitor your information on a regular bases. If they see any thing like name changes, address change new lines of credit they will send you and email for you to verify. If there is something wrong they will do 90% of work for you and get you back to regular status. The last thing is safe guard for minors for \$1.00 more a month as long as the child is under the age of 18 and living at home you can project them also. If your employees choose to have all this it would be \$29.85 per month. We only need 5 employees to sign up to get this rate. Mayor Rivera asks if anyone else in the valley was using this and Ms. Sanchez said that City of Safford and Graham County use it. Mayor Rivera asked her to get with Terry to find a good time to present it to the employees.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the June 8, 2010 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Highway 70 Bypass and 191 Bypass discussion.

Terry said I have attended a lot of meetings on Hwy 70 and a re aliment of Hwy 191. I have had conversations with Mr Kincaid and Mr. Cooper it is troubling some of the things ADOT is talking about doing. One of the things is that they are saying the project is 30 to 40 years out so why are they going to spend money on planning when it appears that in 20years when they get around to do it they will have to do it all over again and spend more money. I just don't see the benefit for doing it right now. ADOT budget and everyone else have problems and we could use the money for things right here in Thatcher the highway right out here hasn't been overlaid in a

number of years. There are a lot of projects here in this valley that the money could be used for. The Hwy 70 by pass they are talking about is coming out to the west of Pima about the Klondyke Rd and going around at the base of mountain and then coming back in about where the straight away comes in. There maybe some benefits to that one but I am concern about the commercial people and what it will do to them. Councilman Innes asked what the need for the by pass is and Terry said the extra traffic. The 191 does not by pass anything it makes a big circle and comes back and there is only access on or off except for every two miles which is going to be a little tough. There are just a lot of problems which can be worked out but why spend the money on consultants at this time. ADOT can't afford to buy right a way right now and how many things are going to change in the next thirty to forty years. I am also concerned they are basing their traffic projections on the big projects that were going to happen and have not because of the economy. I would like the Council to have the Mayor write a letter about our concerns and as many that can attend the next meeting on Aug 5th would be good. Councilman Innes ask if we should get the County to do the same. Terry said it is on the County's agenda and I am not sure about City of Safford.

- B. **RESOLUTION NO. 574-2010:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND MANAGER TO EXECUTE FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, THE BASIC SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SEAGO.

Terry said this is the yearly agreement so we can stay with Seago. The assessment went up some but not much. Mayor Rivera said we get a lot of that back through the service they provide.

Councilman Morris made motion to accept Resolution No. 574-2010. Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

- C. **Appointment of P & Z Commission Members**

Terry said there is a memo in your packet from Heath about P&Z Commission that outlines the fact that the members need to be re appointed. We are suggesting that we appoint a four year term to Mark Vinning, Mike Ajeman, Dennis Martin and a three year term for Pat Nelson and Ramon Morales and one year term for David Griffin and Jerry Hoopes. At there next scheduled meeting they will elect a chairman and vice chairman. Councilman Morris asked if when there term is up they can be re appointed and Terry said yes. We took the junior members and gave them the four year term and on down to make it staggered. Terry said Heath did talk to the P&Z Commission at there last meeting and this was their suggestion.

Councilman Innes made motion to accept the appointment as stated by Heath Brown. Councilman Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed.

10. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said a week from this Monday our new web site will be on line. It is a work

in progress staff has been working on updating it I think you will like it. We will have our own server and not have to go through the school. There will be a place for your bio and picture it will keep track of the number of hits and why. We are going to have forms on there for people to fill out like building permits, business license etc. each department will have there own section. I think we are going to like it.

We completed the 2nd Street just in time for the water and it worked real well. Monday we will be in Daley Estates to finish sidewalks. We have been interviewing today for the position on the concrete crew and will continue tomorrow. We are working on weeds on the streets, Daley Estates alleys and the clean up letters are still going out. We are sending out letter to old vacant houses telling them they are beyond a weed problem but now a heath and safety issue and suggesting they think about tearing them down or doing something with them. Mayor Rivera asked about newer vacant houses and Terry said we are dealing with them as well. We have three new homes started in Mountain View Estates. Terry said we have a few single family homes going up and Heath said we have nine going right now. We are still fighting with the insurance company on the bond with the town houses. They received a delay from a Judge on July 15th for 60 days and when that is over I am sure they will ask for another.

H&S Feed Building is open they have the feed store and the beauty solon. The offices are upstairs and that is just H&S and the tanning solon is in the beauty solon part. We are getting ready to put some lighted signs up next door for the magistrate and the two businesses they will be 3X8 in size. We are getting a new lawn mover for the parks from John Deer. We have been taken off the dam list. They finished there study on the Frye Creek reservoir and re evaluated the amount of water behind the dam and it is not out of compliance.

We received a total of three EECDBG grants that is for the solar panels in the sewer plant. We received the grant that they gave everyone then we receive a petition grant from the State for about equal amount and a third from Sun Pumps. We might not be able to do the whole plant but it will be close. Mayor Chris Gibbs from Safford said they were doing some pumps and some energy efficiency at old town hall. Sun Pumps is using us as a show case in both of our communities so they can market the concepts internationally. Terry said they did all the paper work on it and I think the first five years they maintain them and own them and then they become ours. The total in grant funds is over 500 thousand dollars we will have to put in about 100 thousand.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said we will leave tomorrow to check the fire truck we will be there Thursday and Friday and back on Saturday. We will need to witness the pump test and the ladder test and if there is anything that is not in the contract or something they need to do. Rusty Noland from the Town Shop with his knowledge of cranes and hydraulics and BK Merriman for the auto body and I can do the pump part of it should beable to cover everthing. We also have Fire School coming up on Sept 8th thru the 12th there is some good training there. We have another Fire Fighter 1& 2 class when school starts. We just completed a drill with FMI and it was good training for us and them. Mayor Rivera asked who all went Mike said as far as Fire Departments it was us and Ft Thomas and other entities like Southwest Ambulance, Graham County Sheriff, media etc. It was real good. We are continuing with wet drills and summer drills we are also getting ready for ladder truck training. Mayor River said he talked with Chief Payne about

full time firefight. If the town had to pay for this service it would take 16 men and a cost of 1.2 million dollars. I don't believe people realize the cost savings for just the Town of Thatcher not to mention the whole valley. The readiness and the insurance savings on homes because of our Fire department there are a lot of benefits the fire department gives back to us.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Steven said we received the grant for our Resource Officers even with the cut back of 70 schools. Terry said Carol Lee McAtee wrote the grant and she is really good at it. Chief said we are working on the National Night Out. We have the squad room almost finished there is a lot more room because there will be counter tops instead of desks. It is real nice. Today all the agencies got together for a four hour training on SB 1070 that goes into effect on the 29th. Mayor Rivera asked which training are we using are we going on our own. Chief said we are going with AZ Post the one they put out but we do have to somewhat come up with our own policy but the Az Chief policies looks good. I talked to Chief Griffin and the Under Sheriff and we are going to stay together. I really don't see it changing the way do we things here we are already doing it the right way. Chief said it basically gives you, if you have reasonable suspension. The rights to ask for their legal status after you have made a legal stop. If it is just race alone you can not ask that question. There has to be some infraction before you can stop them. Chief Stevens said the law is confusing but it is still in the working stages.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Safe House- Councilman Merriman said they had eleven of their people that worked with the Safe House tell a story of how they have helped someone through out the years and they were all very good. They said they are looking to get 100 thousand dollars from the San Carlos Reservation to help out the Safe House someone mentioned that over half the batter women are from San Carlos area. They are remodeling the inside of their building. They have a new Board member Tammy Mayhew and they had members from Greenlee and Willcox at the meeting. They are looking at doing a golf tournament for a fund raiser in Safford and Greenlee. They are doing a good job.
- B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Merriman said they had a meeting today they are looking at October or February to do a fund raiser they are going to send out email to members to get their feed back as to what they would like. Marie Freestone was named President/CEO today. Eastern Arizona College nursing building will be opening on August 23rd. Todd Haynie told us that it takes about 2 years to get into the Phoenix area nursing program so they should do will.
- C. SEAGO- Mayor said the next meeting will be in October.
- D. Arizona Foundation - Councilman Larson said they are still in the process of joining the Arizona Foundation. We have a meeting on July 23rd we are going to have Carla from Arizona Foundation come and talk to us. We are hoping it won't be too much longer.
- E. Library Committee- No meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Merriman made motion to adjourn meeting and Councilman Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous meet adjourned at 8:15 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 13th day of July, 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk