

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
October 19, 2010**

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

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

Absent: Chief Mark Steven

Visitors: Aimee Staten, Chris Long, Darrin Griffin, Clint Spencer

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera called meeting to order at 7:00 pm stating there was a quorum. Mayor said God bless our Troops their Families and God bless America.

Mayor Rivera asked the Scout Masters and Boy Scouts to stand and introduce themselves. Darrin Griffin (leader) said they are Troop 5019 from Thatcher First Ward and Clint Spencer introduced himself as the Scout Master, the boys were Josh Palmer, Oliver Nicholas, Collin Hunt, Brock DeSpain, Mati DeSpain, Zac Spencer

Pledge of Allegiance. Chris Long

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the September 14, 2010 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

Councilman Griffin asked if the signs we paid for on the old Val's Building is part of the lease agreement. Terry said no but the signs are reusable so if one of the businesses moves we can put another name in, we are trying to keep business in Thatcher. The Magistrate will have one over his door as soon as the permit from ADOT is approved.

Councilman Morris made motion to approve minutes and reports. Vice Mayor

Mulleneaux seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Bid award for solar panel grants.

Terry said in your packet there is the bid recap sheet. Staff would recommend the low bid of \$199,225.00 from Sun Pumps for the two competitive grants that we have. The grants we have are the one that Sun Pumps wrote and got for us it is a demonstration grant for them to display some of their equipment. They will install some solar panels and three dc arrayers in our ponds. I believe for a period of five years it belongs to them and then they turn it over to us. The other two grants are from the State Department of Commerce one was what they gave everyone to use and the other we had to apply for on a competitive bases for more solar panels. Heath said in the Sun Pumps # 1 bid there are 168 panels and a total of 230 watts that is about 40 kW's. Mayor Rivera asked what the bid asked for. Heath said it asked for the maximum power for the dollar amount we had. Terry said Sun Pumps not only gave the maximum power but also for less money. Councilman Morris ask why does Sun Pumps have two bids one having a higher output for less money. Terry said it is because of the control panel the one that cost the most generates less power. Heath said it is a different brand. Terry said the low bid from Sun Pumps will be a Sharp Solar Module with a 25 year warranty.

Councilman Innes made motion to accept low bid of \$199,225.00 Sun Pumps #1. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

B. Dedication of Town Park portion of Reay Lane.

Terry said he did not get the resolution completed so this will be on the next month's agenda. What happened was when we purchased the land for the Reay Lane Park it was a field and the owners of the field owned out to the section line which is out in the middle of street and we had a purchase agreement. When ADOT looked at this we did not have a deed just a bill of sell. So we had a deed prepared and it is completed and recorded. ADOT wants us to transfer ownership from us to us. Dudley Welker said they basically want Town of Thatcher to promise to never close the road. Terry said I will have a resolution ready at next Council meeting dedicating that portion of our property back to us to be a street.

C. Appointment of the Thatcher Town Magistrate.

Terry said last month we discussed that it was time to appoint the magistrate. You have a letter from our current Magistrate Chris Long requesting he stay for another two years and staff concurs that he be reappointed. Councilman Griffin asked if we have any obligation to post in the paper. Terry said no since he is here you can reappoint we have posted in years passed and received no response.

Councilman Morris made the motion to reappoint Chris Long as Town Magistrate. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

Judge Long thanked Council for their support. This is a very small court and I realize that when I attend meetings in Phoenix in general I feel pretty small. I am happy to

serve the people of this town. It has been a good experience and I think this may be my last term to serve. I have had 26 years with DPS so when I moved from executive to judicial branch of government I saw a lot of things that I was never aware of I have learned to respect these people. I promise to continue to do my best. Mayor Rivera thanked Judge Long. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux stated that he was a DPS officer stationed in Willcox back in 1970. Chris and I had been good friends before this but he was working for Mountain Bell Telephone at that time. He asked to ride with me one night and it turned out to be one of the exciting events in my career. There was a narcotic stake out for a drug bust which ended up being a shut out with one person being shot and the good guys chasing the bad guys. Chris had so much fun that night he spent 26 years as a DPS officer.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said about three or four weeks ago I received an email about a competitive grant from the governor office so I got a hold of Shaffen and he put something together real quick and submitted it and we received the award of 35 thousand dollars so we might get a new car out of it. I think Safford got the same as we did and I think Pima will receive 50 thousand. When Chief Stevens gets back we will find out more about the grant.

We are working on side walks in Daley Estes they should be finished by Christmas. At Christmas break for the school we need to go over on 3rd Ave and put a drain, curb, and sidewalks in on that short section we have. Other than that we are doing maintenance and trying to get caught back up on the weeds. Gary, Mike and Heath have been busy putting door hangers on doors. Terry asked Mike how many they hung today and Mike said about 60. Terry said the process is that we hang a notice on their door log it in and wait a week to see if it is cleaned up if not then we send them the formal letter. Some are getting close to the time that it has to be cleaned up. We have received bids for cleaning the property up on Reay Lane and then we will bill the property owner and if not paid there will be a lien on the property. Councilman Larson said Mike McCarthy has talked to me about the lots on both sides of his house and how bad they are. Terry said we cleaned the Roseberry lot on the west side this week and then in February the house and trailers will be burned for training by the Fire Class 1 & 2. Councilman Larson said he also said there are a lot of kids going in and out of the house. Terry said the Police Department is watching that house. We still have some problem places but we are spraying and the alleys looks pretty good. The horse has been moved out of the back yard it just takes a long time for the process to go through.

Terry said the Schools are going good with few complaints. Mayor Rivera asked if there are any issues on the parking at new nursing building. Terry said no we actually improved the parking there. Mayor asked if he had heard anymore about Bealls Store. Terry said they are still working on the building. Mike said they will let out a bid in the next week or so and that will be for someone to come in and set up the interior of the store. Councilman Innes asked if they will close Stage and Terry said no they run independent of each other. Aimee Staten stated the Bealls people told them they would open Feb 2011.

Terry said one other thing is they had the hearing for our motion on summary judgment on the Lexon Insurance claim against the bond and it was denied so it will go to court in February. I believe we should hire our own attorney from here on out and be on our own. I expect in the next week or two we will get an offer to

settle they sent us one offer and we denied it sent them back some suggestions so I should hear back. Councilman Merriman asked if anything more has been said about Springbok and Terry said nothing has been brought in.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said they have been doing school tours we had all the second graders and we will be doing the first graders tomorrow. We are teaching fire safety in the home. We have teamed up with Women Club they have certificates for the kids and they have a form where the kids can make up a home safety escape plan and then they feed them pizza it is a pretty good deal.

There is a radio meeting tomorrow on the narrow band at the County. We have put in for grants but if we don't get them we will have to budget for them. Terry said this is a Federal thing not a County change so everyone will have to get new radios. Terry said we have known about it for a while so when we buy a new radio they are the right and when we got the car and fire truck they were equipped with the new narrow band radio. We did get ten thousand dollars from the County through a grant but that won't buy every much. Chief Payne said the cost has gone from \$700 hundred dollars to \$2500 to \$3000 dollars.

Mayor Rivera said he listened to a presentation that John Lucas and others they got all that money from the Federal Government. I think they are looking at Arizona and Graham County. Graham County is way ahead of the game in Arizona so they are modeling everything after Graham County. John has done a lot of work for Graham County in emergency towers and radio for different communications. Chief Payne said there is another phrase call p25 where it put everything into digital that will probably be when the scanners will need to be changed. Terry said that will be a ways down the road.

Mayor Rivera asked about the building permits. Chief Payne said this time of year we normally go down and then we start to increase. We are still down from the peak but getting back to where we where traditionally. Chief Payne said he counted 20 homes for sell in Daley Estate. What I see people doing is adding to there homes instead of building and fixing up their home. Mayor Rivera said the reason I ask is that Freeport had a Job Fair and they are going to open up Chino and Tyrone and Safford, Morenci and Miami are hiring more people. Chief Payne said he attended a meeting today about the sulfur plant it had to do with the off loading of the sulfur and the transportation. I ask them about the railroad spur and they talked like if the mine ramps up like they think it will and goes into the next phrase up there they will consider the spur but they said the price went up to 50 million dollars so they are holding off on doing the spur.

C. Police Department Report.

Terry said the Chief is out of town and he already talked about the grant everything thing else is pretty steady the calls are down from what they were.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Safe House- Vice Mayor Mulleneaux said they call the day of meeting and cancelled it so it will be re scheduled.

B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Merriman said they picked candidates for new officers for next year and they picked a committee to interview for the new board members. The Chamber party will be February 12th and the meetings will

be on the 3rd Tuesday of the month now. One of the Hospital members came to the meeting and mentioned the Tour de Safford on October 30th that is the 104, 66 and 33 mile bike event. This is the first time that if you get into this event and finish it will give them a platinum card so they can be qualified for Tucson tour. Terry said Kimball Hansen has done a super job on getting the routes he has had to change it a number of times it is amazing the work he has done. Councilman Merriman said they are going to try to tie this with other events like maybe the Salsafest. Councilman Merriman said he attended the 12th Annual Transportation Summit. Most of it was doom and gloom about not having enough money only enough for maintenance on the roads. The other talk was on railroad money. They did finish the bridge at Hoover Dam they are trying to make a new freeway all the way from there to Phoenix. Then they are supposed to make two harbors in Mexico. They want a train to go from Phoenix down into Mexico. Mayor Rivera said they call them Super Ports. Mayor said it is taking a ship to long to go from Panamá or down by the bottom of South America to get on the eastern side. So they figure if they can get a super port at Baja, California and then ship from there to the United States it would be shorter. Councilman Merriman said there was a lot of talk on that.

- C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera said he had a meeting this Friday in Duncan and the main topic of concern is the purchase of a new Seago building in Bisbee. The Administrative Council rejected the idea and now it is going before the Executive Board. They are trying to use reserve money that in my opinion shouldn't be used to purchase a building. Council Merriman will be going also.
- D. Arizona Foundation - Councilman Larson said we had a meeting this evening. We learned on the 5th of November the Affiliated Council for the Arizona Foundation will review our request to become an affiliate of the Arizona Foundation. We are going to rename it to be the Gila Valley Community Foundation. We are also working on a pamphlet to explain what the Gila Valley Foundation is all about so people will understand it more. It is also designed so that if people can request their donation go to a certain place like the Thatcher Foundation fund so that it will go to a Thatcher organization. We are hoping this will increase the amount of money we receive for the year. We are going to have about 40 thousand dollars to give out this year. We are right now going through the applications and next month we will make a final decision on who will receive what donation. Councilman Larson asked if Thatcher had given their money yet Terry said no we need a written request asking for the money that is for our records.
- E. Library Committee- Councilman Morris said there was no meeting.

Terry asked Council about changing the Council Meetings in Dec, Feb & Jan. They agreed on Dec.21, Jan 10th and Feb 15th

Mayor Rivera said the Pam Hume will be moving to Phoenix because her job was eliminated. She needs help loading the truck that will be tomorrow morning at 6:00am any help would be appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Merriman made motion to adjourn meeting Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

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 19th day of October, 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk