

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
June 14, 2011**

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

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

Absent: Councilman Wayne Griffin

Visitors: Debbie Noland, Rusty Noland, Everett Cauthen, Daniel Turowski, Bill Brandau, Philip Ronnerud, Clel Flake, Sandra Upshaw

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order stating there was a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance Lead by Officer Everett Cauthen

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

A. Gila Watershed Partnership Presentation.

Bill Brandau introduced himself as the chairman this year and Philip Ronnerud came with me tonight to give their yearly update. He also thanked Council for their support. The funds we receive from grants does not provide the administrative cost so the money you and Pima, Safford and County fund to us helps with those costs. Gila Watershed Partnership is a local based organization from many different back grounds that recognizes the uses of our water resources. We adjusted our goals over the year from flooding issues to natural resources. The driving issue is water quantity and quality as to avoid large storms and flooding. With the Wallow Fire they are already talking of the flooding issue. The types of programs we have are community clean up, riparian and restoration projects, erosion control, water counts programs, youth education, water retention dams, because we are grant driven our goals will change. Philip stood and said he works for Greenlee County as the Engineer. We hire local people to do the work when we have a project, we have also developed the Water Council and it has been very successful. One of our projects is a fence to keep the cattle out of Eagle Creek this will probably be expanded because I understand that north of this project the fire has taken out a lot of the fences. Philip told Council of number of different projects. Bill Brandau thanked Heath for helping with some of the projects and also Council for the support they give to Gila Valley Watershed.

Mayor Rivera said he would at this time like for the Fire Chief and Chief of Police to present our honoree's tonight .Chief Mark Steven introduced Sergeant Everett Cauthen as officer of the year and we are very proud of him does a great job he is over all the scheduling and training.

Chief Payne introduced Sandra Upshaw as one of the Fire Fighters and Rusty Noland as the other. Sandra has been with us for a short period of time, and does an excellent job. Sandra has completed her Fire Fighter I & 2 she is also and EMT which has been a good assist to us. Chief Payne said we also have Rusty Noland who is our chief

engineer and head mechanic the go to guy when something is broke down. Rusty has also finished his Fire Fighter 1 & 2 class and has background in hydraulics. Chief Payne said you all know Rusty's story and how well he has done. Rusty stood and thanked the Council as you know I started off in Town of Thatcher wearing orange and this community has welcomed me with open arms. Mayor Rivera thanked all three people and told them how the Council appreciated what they were doing for this Town we know the risk you take when you are on a call.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the May 10, 2011 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

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

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. **RESOLUTION NO. 590-2011:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-12 OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA.

Terry said budget has not changed since the tentative budget the total finical resources is 19 million plus dollars. This is a balanced budget.

Councilman Morris made motion to approve Resolution No 590-2011. Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Approval/Disapproval of a Liquor Licence Transfer for Daniel Turowski – Gabi's

Terry said this is a transfer of the license that was already there from original owner. Councilman Innes asked Mr. Turowski if he was going to do anything differently. Mr Turowski said he was not from this area so not sure what was done before. We may use the dance area on Friday and Saturday nights but we are working through royalty issue we are doing things legally, so that may take place in August. As for the liquor license we will card as the law stipulates. We have a grill so anything that can be cooked on a grill will be served steaks, sandwiches, appetizers so far we have had great reviews. Our hours are 10am until 10pm.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to approve the transfer of the liquor license. Councilman Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

- B. **RESOLUTION NO. 589-2011:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, STATING THE PROCEDURES FOR PURCHASING FROM THE MAYOR AND ANY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

Terry said we do every year and nothing has changed from last year.

Councilman Innes made motion to approve Resolution No 589-2011. Councilman Merriman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

- C. **RESOLUTION NO. 591-2011:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, REVOKING THE PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLATS FOR THE FRYE MESA ESTATES SUBDIVISION.

Terry said this is the subdivision on Valley View Road that Nelson and Sollars put together. They are not going to finish that and have another individual that would like to purchase it to build a house for himself and maybe an addition house for a child. They have asked it be revoked so they can sell the land. Councilman Innes asked if there is any obligation on their part that they should follow through with. Terry said if you remember we were going to build the road and back charge them for the cost of the improvements to their subdivision that won't happen now. Heath said one of the significant issue is when the plat is recorded all the roads are deeded to the town, so the reason for the Resolution is we are giving land back that was deeded as streets. Heath said this will be restored it to the one unit again.

Councilman Morris made motion to approve Resolution No. 591-2011. Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

- D. **ORDINANCE NO. 165-2011:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 163-2011 RELATING TO AN INCREASE TO THE GENERAL SALES TAX RATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DESIGNATING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Terry explained this is a companion ordinance that we passed in April. At the time I had asked the League not to include the construction tax increase and the rentals. They passed a law that says in order to raise the sales tax for rental property you have to have election of the people. This Ordinance is exempting the residential rental property from our sales tax increase that starts July 1, 2011.

Councilman Innes made motion to approve Ordinance No 165-2011. Councilman Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- E. **RESOLUTION NO. 592-2011:** 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 a yearly service agreement with SEAGO is about \$1800 a little bit less this year.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to approve resolution No 592-2011. Councilman Merriman seconded the motion. The was unanimous Motion passed

- G. **RESOLUTION NO. 593-2011:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, PERTAINING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Indian communities through Legislations and negotiations with the State of Arizona

have so much money to use if they don't use it all they either have to give out grants or the State takes it. Terry said we put in for this before and got the Aims machine so we thought we would try again. We are trying to get radios and cars this time and Chief Payne is trying to get radios for Fire Department so this Resolution will work for both grants. Terry said June 21st is the date that we will have our radios re-programmed to the narrow band. The County will be broadcasting narrow band on July 1 and we still have a number of radios that won't re-program. These grants would help out with the cost.

Councilman Morris made motion to approve Resolution No. 593-2011. Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

H. Contract Renewal for Town Attorney.

Terry said this is just to make sure we have loyalty oaths and contracts this is one we needed to clean up. Mr. Welker said he has looked at it and it is fine. Councilman Larson asked Dudley if this was something he wanted to continue to do since he had moved. Dudley said this is my home and my great great grandfather was the first resident of this town so you have my loyalty.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to approve contract. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03 (A)(1)(3)(7) the Council may go into Executive Session to discuss or consideration of employment, evaluation assignment or appointment, to give advise on negotiations and for legal advise from the Town Attorney.

Mayor Rivera asked that Terry Hinton and Attorney Welker stay for meeting.

Councilman Larson made motion to go into executive session. Council Merriman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed Time 8:40pm

A. Decision on Executive Session.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said in your packet there is a letter from Leisel Innes thanking us for supporting her in Miss Arizona Pageant. Councilman Innes said she is currently in Mesa at the pageant they have a week of learning the ropes. Thank you for helping her.

Reay Lane is striped and finished and fixed now so when we get to walking path we don't have to deal with the railroad. Terry said Chief and Heath and I have talked about increasing the speed from 25 to 35 on that road up to the stop sign in Daley Estates. That will be on next month's agenda. At the school project they poured 50 yards today it is coming along well. Gila Outdoors changed hands on the 7th of the month they wanted the whole building. Councilman Morris asked what was going in across from the district office, Terry said it is a self service ice cream shop where you weigh and then you pay. It is in the shape of a railroad train caboose, Randy Skinner is the owner. Terry said the bird watching platform should be completed in about two more weeks. An electric pole was hit across from the band room. No one was hurt will cost right at 9000.00 to fix and the other was by Don Knight house a transformer blew up so we have had a month of electrical problems. The solar panels are working at 112% of what they are designed.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said last week we had a mutual aid drill with Pima. We went down and looked at the museum, old theater and bar there along Main Street. We took the ladder truck and set guys on top of roof. It gave them a different view of what they have there. They had a catered dinner for all of us we have a good relationship with them. We will do a lot of wet drills during the summer months.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Stevens said Pioneer Day is in the Town of Thatcher on July 23rd. There will be a parade starting at the High School going down Church Street and up Stadium then the floats go to the ball park and the activities will be at EAC ball fields. We will be doing a communicate exercise with Homeland Security they will come in on that day and do a drill with plain language. The National Night Out will be on August 2nd at 6:00 pm so put it on your calendar.

Heath said they are going to start on Monday doing the fog coating. We will start with Bauer Ave and everything north of Brinkerhoff in Daley Estates then move to some street in down town Thatcher.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Safe House- Vice Mayor Mulleneaux said he had nothing to report he was out of Town last month and I have a prior commitment on Wednesday at the time of their meeting so if someone would like that assignment you might keep it in mind. The other thing I would like to mention is at the Hospital Board Meeting they said they are adding single patience rooms. I think it will be a big improvement.

B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Merriman said the meeting today had the Hospital tell us they have 59 beds and changing some of the rooms to single so it will show 49 units they get a higher subsidize for fewer beds. There are some smaller hospital that may be shut down one being Bisbee and Douglas. There is a ribbon cutting on Thursday a medical building across from the bank, another one is July 2nd it is the 20th year anniversary for Trophies & Tee's. EAC summer session will start July 2nd. Freeport reported they are on tact getting information together about doing the mill if that happens there will be about 900 more employees.

C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera said there was nothing to report.

D. Arizona Foundation. Councilman Larson said there are in the process of excepting grant for next year. They are trying to get Gila County involved to get more donations. Mayor Rivera asked if Pima or the County had anyone in the Foundation. Council Larson said no. Chief Payne said that Clint Swapp was on the Board. Councilman Larson said they wanted me out doing things I am not interested in doing nor do I have the time so I resigned. Mayor Rivera asked Terry to take this off the agenda next month.

E. Library Committee- Councilman Morris I haven't heard of a meeting date yet.

Adjournment

Councilman Merriman made motion to adjourn meeting with a second for Councilman Larsen. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

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 14th day of June, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk