

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
September 13, 2011**

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

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

Visitors: Marlene Mott, Michael Andazola, Brenden Wilson, Raymond Lonser

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order stating there was a quorum. Mayor said God Bless our Troops God Bless their families and God Bless America. Mayor Rivera asked the Boy Scout to stand and introduce himself he said his name is Brenden Wilson and was working on citizenship in the community.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Marlene Mott and Michael Andazola

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Rivera read the Proclamation for the week of September 19, 2011 as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

A. Centennial Committee – Marlene Mott

Marlene Mott said she and Michael Andazola were committee members for the Centennial Celebration. The theme is Follow the Copper Star. We are asking business to get a banner so people will aware. One event we are having is a challenge to the students to read 100 books before school finishes this year. They will receive an attractive certificate of achievement and they can earn points toward prizes. On Jan 13th & 14th we will have a quilt show at the General Service Building where the beautiful quilts will be raffled off. The monies earned will go to help refurbish the Veterans Memorial in front of the Court House. On Feb 10th in Safford will be the Centennial Parade we are asking Thatcher to have one or two fire engines go from Ft Thomas picking up Pima fire trucks going to Safford on 20th Ave down to the school and at that point start the parade. Michael Andazola said they are asking that the Fire Trucks have the State emblem on each truck. We are going to have LaVona Evans be our Grand Marshall because she will be 100 years old on February 14th. We are also going to have a Variety Show at the EAC Fine Arts Auditorium on the 13th and 14th. Mayor Rivera asked Ms. Mott to come back in January and give them an update on what is going on we appreciate what you are doing.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Action Item

A. Approve minutes of the August 9, 2011 Regular Council Meeting.

- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

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

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Town of Thatcher Personnel Handbook.

Terry said he had been working with the attorney for a while. We have made some changes and we think we have a finished product if you have any different ideas let me know. Mayor Rivera said on page three I think it should read Town of Thatcher expects you to help. Also on page 15 is the part time hour 20-39? Terry said yes the State Retirement is 20 hours or less that is probably what you were thinking. Mayor asked on the vacation leave since the day after Thanksgiving is already taken can we change that to have Veterans Day as a holiday and take off the other. Councilman Griffin said he had a professor that no matter what you did you were only going to get a C average, Mayor agreed. Mayor Rivera said it is a good update and we haven't changed it since 1986.

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

- B. Possible Thatcher School Property Purchase.

Terry explained that Paul approached him saying the Thatcher School wanted to know if we would like to purchase the building where the museum is and what they call the English row all the way to the sidewalk by the administration building and the gym. That will take in about 3 acres. The idea is for us to use it for library, amphitheatre and pool. I thought trying to use some of the old materials putting the old bell tower back up use some of the old bricks and the old flooring as much as we can making it look as much like the old school as possible. I asked Paul what they wanted for it and the price included the gym which was 2 million dollars. Terry said what they are looking for is enough money to buy the land south of the tennis courts. They want to build a new Middle School with a football field, a gym and enough space for a Fine Arts Center in the future. Councilman Innes asked when would we be on the project list to build a library. Terry said that is a ways down the road with the purchase of the electric system and rebuilding our substation. Councilman Morris said should we put that much money into land when we already have a place, that money could be used to help build a new complex. Councilman Innes said I like the location of the building but I also think that the land we have on Reay Lane is a better place for it. We already put the project on hold because we couldn't afford to build it right now. Terry said I understand what you are saying. I told them I would

pass the idea on to you. Mayor Rivera said I guess right now if we had that much money we could break ground on Reay Lane.

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.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to go into executive session a second from Councilman Innes. The vote was unanimous Mayor Rivera asked for only Terry Hinton to stay. Time was 8:47pm

- A. Decision on Executive Session.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said the School project update is in the next two to three weeks we should be finished around the gym and across the street three to four weeks. The next place we will start will be on 3rd Ave and 1st Street on the corner to connect the sidewalks. Terry said our sewer and water project is progressing but very slow. The water has one section with a small leak and another short section has a large leak and that should fix the water system. The south sewer system is the one we will replace the one down the middle is pretty good and the other has a number of leaks we will just have to dig it up. The contractor said he had fixed 65 water leaks so it is a slow process. Brent has been working on Red Lamp he has completed his inspection and went through it with the manager. They have an electrical contractor that has fixed some of the things already. The National League of Cities Conference is in Phoenix this year I think Bob and Eric are going it is Nov 9th if one else wants to go contact us. Friday there is an ADOT Board meeting in Benson at 9:00 am and then a meeting after that to meet with elected officials. Terry said It appears the railroad crossing projects are about to begin. They are going to do the railroad crossing at Palmer Lane first with a new cross, signs and arms. Then move to College Ave we have done some work so we might get a sleeve under the track while they are doing their work. The new owner of the railroad will mainly have a freight line and the passenger cars will go away. Mayor Rivera said that Mayor Shipley from Globe said they are cutting off the passenger from Globe to the Casino. He says there is money out there and would like to see if Pima, Thatcher and Safford will go in with Globe for support purpose only. Terry said that he was asked by Fire Chief in Fort Thomas because they are doing the Fire Conference in October, they need help from our electric crew to install the poles for one of the games. I thought I better ask Council they all agreed. Councilman Merriman asked about the dependents for the insurance do we have everything cover on that because we were to bring it back to Council on the deductions and how much was going to be taken out of employees pay checks. Terry said yes we did that with the budget the Council approved the Heath Savings Plan as the base plan and if employee wanted the PPO plan they would have to pay the difference. Councilman Merriman said he did get a phone call of a person in the Health Program saying that Aetna was coming back and the rates are only \$375.00 for family. Terry said tell them to come in and we will look at the coverage.

Councilman Larson said he attended a class at the conference about community emergency preparedness. Terry said we do have a plan in place the way it works is Thatcher and each city has there only plan and then if it is something that affects us on a larger scale then the County takes the lead and then it goes to the State. Terry said Mike Payne and Chief Stevens go every quarter to a County wide meeting at the court house. Councilman Innes asked about clean up letters. Terry said that is an on going process but on Oct 22nd the church is going to have clean up day and I have even them lots that need to be cleaned up. Councilman Innes asked about the old Roseberry house who is going to clean up that? Terry said it is the responsibility of the owners. And where do we stand with the bike trail? Terry said it is still about 18 months out. Heath said the assessment process is approved and now the environmental clearance has to be done. Mayor Rivera said Terry and I met with the Director of Southern Arizona she is the liaison for the Governors office her name is Kristiann O'Brian. We discussed ADOT and the transportation issues and how the process takes so long. We even talked about Reay Lane where it had to have an environmental clearance just for an inch and half of asphalt. We also discussed issues on immigration. Terry said we talked about the State Land Department and economic issues. Mayor Rivera said what she did was open the door for us to email her on any issue we need help with. It was a good meeting. Councilman Morris said that four members of the Council will be gone for the Oct 11th meeting maybe we need to change the date. It as decided to change to Oct. 25th.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said we just got back from State Fire School we took 16 men and received some really good training. Some of the classes we took were live fire training, defensive driving course, hydraulics class, basic fire fighter skills, fire cause and determination, rope rescue II and inspectors class. It is good training to be around the professionals and learn new techniques. The Volunteer Fire Fighter Association Conference will be in October and Ft Thomas is putting it on this year. The Arizona Volunteer Fire Fighters received a grant to make videos for Arizona. Some of those were made at fire school so a few of our Fire Fighters were in the videos which will be aired on TV. What the videos are about is a lot of communities can't afford to pay for Fire Fighters so these are saying if you want to volunteer contact this number. They have received 200 calls due to the videos. The ladder truck is ready to go out on fires.

C. Police Department Report.

Terry said the police department participated in a County wide training they had a live fire shoot out at the fire range. On Oct 4th we will have another County wide training. We have the staff from DPS coming over to review entry procedures that will at our Fire Station. We had Willcox call and asked if they could attend. We also this last month had two of our Police Officers catch the bank robber who was at the Paradise Inn in Thatcher. Officer McClain and Officer Whisman did an outstanding job on locating him taking care of it and the interview. It was excellent police work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Safe House – Vice Mayor Mulleneaux said he is still unable to attend needs to be

assigned to someone else.

- B. Chamber of Commerce – Councilman Merriman said that Bill Civish spoke about some people who came over from Russia because this area is noted for its birds there are 200 types. While here they went through the Chamber and saw the Salsa Fiesta. They contacted Bill and asked him to do a presentation for them on how to bring tourism so he is going to Russia. The BLM had Scott talk they are getting permits finalized for the two 500 KV lines that are coming from New Mexico and headed for California. It will probably be on the other side of the mountain. David Kincaid manager of Safford said that the show “Today in America” will be filming this area. They will be using it for spots showing the area to be good for retirement. EAC said that Thursday Tom Horne will be at the college at 11:00am. Freeport is getting ready to go to 125 thousand tons of ore a day. One of the men said there is 60 more years of ore in the Morenci area. The Safford mine is starting on the number two tailing. The Forest Service are going to finalize the 20 year permit for the summer homes the bad part when they give the permits they will have an inspection and some of those homes will not pass. They have five thousand acres they are going to start taking timber off Mt Graham. The Salsa Fiesta will be next week-end starting on Friday evening they will have the balloons on Main Street and Saturday at the fair grounds. Mayor Rivera said Council needs to go see the birding watching building it is very nice.
- C. SEAGO – Mayor Rivera said the next meeting is in October they are sponsoring the ADOT meeting in Benson Friday.
- D. Library Committee – Councilman Morris said they meet tonight. They are going to have two public meeting one on Sept 29th in Pima and Oct 1st in County Board room. They will have a power point to explain why it is being done and what it will cost each person for their home, it will be 20 cents per hundred or about 25 dollar a year. This will provide funds for the existing libraries. Some of the criteria is they have to have a continuing way to have funding like a school or government and it has to be in service for a year before they receive funding. A petition drive will be at the Salsa Fiesta with the hope of getting it on the ballot for next November. If it doesn't get the support of the people then that will be the end of it. The Safford library is only open 4 days a week because of financial problems. If this goes through then it will help supplement them. There will not be a cost for people to get a library card. They are free libraries and you can use all the facilities the library offers.

Councilman Innes reported on the Boys and Girls Club saying he learned the building was bought by City of Safford and they are going to rent to them. The play ground that sits next to it is owned by Heavy Owens there was an agreement contract that if they left it would have to return to buildable land. Heavy has said that is the City of Safford responsibility to do that. City of Safford had a line item budget for them of a 130 thousand what is left can be used until the end of year. They are still working on the by- laws and liabilities they have a lot to work out. Harold Colvin is Chairman of Board, Michael Gains the Director the board has only volunteers. They have some really good programs to take care of the kid like computer program, life management and life skills. They will go to each of the communities for donations and will have fund raisers'. Mayor Rivera said Thatcher did a lot of in kind work to help with the building when it first started. Mayor Rivera thanked Councilman Innes for doing this.

Mayor Rivera asked if the Boys and Girls Club could be added to agenda.

Adjournment:

Councilman Morris made motion to adjourn meeting with a second by Don Innes. The vote was unanimous meeting adjourned at 9:33pm

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 September, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk