

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
October 25, 2011**

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

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

Visitors: Todd Haynie, Matt Clifford, Norene Kurtze, Rochelle Allen, Van Green, Jeremy Green

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera welcomed and Call Meeting to Order. God Bless our Troops, God Bless their families and God Bless America. Boys Scouts stood and introduced themselves. Trevor Christensen said they were working on communication, McKay Palmer, Darius Martindale, Parker Hatch

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Todd Haynie

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

A. EAC Presentation – Todd Haynie

Mayor Rivera said he saw this presentation and thought it was very professionally done so I asked Mr. Haynie to present it to Council. Mr. Haynie stood and said he was Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Eastern Arizona College. The College will be celebrating their 125th anniversary in two years. In that 125 year time a lot has changed but our commitment to the student has not. Mr. Haynie also told Council that in the fall of 2012 we will begin a partnership with ASU that will allow us to offer face to face bachelors degrees to ASU. Mayor Rivera thanked Mr. Haynie for sharing the information with Council.

B. Safe House Presentation

Rochelle Allen stood and said she works at the Safe House as a victim advocate and also the battered emigrant women coordinator for Graham and Greenlee County. We are trying to get a Stop Grant and the importance of the MOU agreement is showing support from the community. If we get this grant it will get us back where we were before the economy went down. The MOU list our services and says we will we will refer people to the police department when appropriate and that you will refer to us when needed that would include victims that fall under VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) and the VAWA self petitions is for emigrates victims. Rochelle gave Council an example of the MOU if you would like to add or change we can. Terry asked Rochelle if having it signed at the next Council meeting on November 8th would be early enough for the grant and she thought it would. Mayor Rivera asked for it to be on the next Council agenda unless Ms Allen finds out she needs it earlier.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the September 13, 2011 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 accept minutes and reports. Councilman Morris seconded the motion the vote was unanimous. Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion, consideration and possible action

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. RAGHT Health Insurance Presentation.

Noreen Kurtze stood and introduced her self as the Vice President of Erin P Collins & Associates, Inc. we are a benefits consulting firm from Kingman, Arizona but for tonight presentation I am the administrator of the Rural Arizona Group Health Trust. I will give you some back background on the trust and then let you ask any question you might have. The Trust was formed as of July 1 2002 by the cities of Winslow, Holbrook and Parker with 220 employees. Today we have fifteen entities with approximately 930 employees. Our Trust offers a comprehensive program for medical we have a PPO and the High deductible program a Dental, Vision and Life Ins. Our Trust is governed by a Board of Trustee's and each entity having a seat at the board and each has one vote. On the financial side our rate increase has been less that 3% a year. We believe we have done so well because we have a wellness consultant that develops programs and also goes on site to get members health information we believe by keeping our members healthy it cuts cost long term. The assessments that members receive include giving blood, blood pressure, body measurements, heart, skin, and men's health screenings, mammograms and flu shots to get people active in managing their own health. Currently the Trust has .1million dollars in the bank with 7.4 in surplus funds the difference is our liability for claims that have already been utilized by our members but not paid. All of those dollars are owned by the 15 entities in the Trust. If any of the entities leave our trust we hold enough to pay the claims and the rest is given back to the entity. Councilman Griffin said so because there is a larger group of people you are able to go out to the insurance companies and get a better rate is that correct. Noreen said what we are doing is running our own insurance companies the medical and dental plans are self insured so our office is the administrator we go out and contract each of the services that would be under the umbrella of say Blue Cross Blue Shield with our claims administrator. By doing this it keeps the administrative cost down anywhere from twenty five cents to forty cents on the dollar. Mayor Rivera asked so can they go to any doctor. Noreen said no what we do is lease or rent Blue Cross Blue Shields network of physicians and pay them a monthly fee per employee to get access not only to the doctor network but the discount they negotiated. The Trust is paying the claims instead of Blue Cross Blue Shield. Terry said our renewal date is

Feb 1st and so we are looking at options we had another broker make a presentation today. I am going to propose that before our meeting on Nov. 8th we have a work session just for insurance and have anyone who wants to make a presentation be there. I would also like to see if they can change our renewal date to July 1st to go along with our budget period. The RAGHT is an excellence program the City of Safford and Graham County both have it.

B. Transportation Enhancement Grant JPA approval.

Terry explained to Council that this form is from Arizona Dept of Transportation dealing with the walking path. Terry said Heath and Dudley have both reviewed it and it is pretty standard. It is ready to pass.

Councilman Merriman made motion to pass the Transportation Enhancement Grant JPA. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

C. **RESOLUTION NO. 597-2011:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, DECLARING AS A PUBLIC RECORD THAT CERTAIN DOCUMENT FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK AND ENTITLED " INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE".

Terry said Mike and Gary went to a training class and came back saying we should have adopted this when we passed the last version of the International Building Code. This gives Mike, Gary & Heath some enforcement abilities. With this after we have gone through our normal process and person still does not comply they can write out a citation sighting them directly to Court. I have given this to the Judge and he doesn't see anything wrong with it.

Councilman Morris made motion to approve Resolution No 597-2011. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

D. **ORDINANCE NO. 167-2011:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, ADOPTING THE 2009 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, REGULATING AND GOVERNING THE CONDITIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL PROPERTY, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES; BY PROVIDING THE STANDARDS FOR SUPPLIED UTILITIES AND FACILITIES AND OTHER PHYSICAL THINGS AND CONDITIONS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT STRUCTURES ARE SAFE, SANITARY AND FIT FOR OCCUPATION AND USE; AND THE CONDEMNATION OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES UNFIT FOR HUMAN OCCUPANCY AND USE, AND THE DEMOLITION OF SUCH EXISTING STRUCTURES IN THE TOWN OF THATCHER; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND COLLECTION OF FEES.

Terry said the Resolution makes it a public record so we don't have to publish the whole thing in the new paper.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to approve the Ordinance No. 167-2011. Councilman Larson 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 asked for Terry Hinton and Dudley Welker to stay in executive session.

Councilman Morris made the motion to go into executive session. Councilman Merriman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed at 8:50pm

- A. Decision on Executive Session.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said by the end of week will be completed on the hill the sewer and water will be tested and will need approval from ADEQ. We have another engineer to survey the site and we will prepare plans for walls and final grade that will be about 60 to 90 days to complete. Terry said that Heath talked with the owner and told them we expect them to finish the building before it get so bad it will have to be taken down and start over.

The update on school project is we finished the parking lot on the east side of Middle School gym we are now working on north side. We have some paving to be done on 4th and 2nd during the Christmas vacation because the intersection needs to be torn up so it will drain properly. The area is so small we will have to go from the highway down 4th Street by Linda Bowman house to 2nd Street in order to keep the cost down. That cost will come from our budget. By the first of January we will go back to 3rd and 1st and finish up with the schools funds. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux asked if we have a time line on the traffic signal. Terry said we have a partnering meeting on November 9th with the contractor and ADOT I believe they will start the week after the meeting. Councilman Griffin asked about the hole on Eloisa Rd. Terry said it will take about a week to fix and that is on the list to be worked on.

Terry gave an update on the redistricting we received an email from the Mayor of Globe wanting us to pass a resolution supporting a map that they have. I met with County and City of Safford today it was a consensus of our group that we not sign off on the Globe resolutions because it is too early to decide. There is a meeting here Thursday at the Little Theater at 6:30 pm this week that would be a good meeting to attend we need to voice our opinion. I believe that the redistricting committee has been listening to the Indian National who wants to remain together as an all Indian District and in order to accomplish that it splits everyone in rural areas up. Some that we will be with is Sierra Vista, Vail and part of Tucson they consider themselves rural area but they are not. What the District has approved for our Legislative District is not good for us. We have no common interest with those on our list.

In your packet is a notice of some Executive training that the City of Safford is putting on at the General Service building we are invited the time is from 1:00 to 5:00 on November 3rd.

Last night I attend the City of Safford's work session were Eric Buckley talked about the water system now and in the future. Right now Bonita Creek galleries are not running full. They are running the Clonts well to force a little back pressure. It is slowing the water down so the pipe line is not calling for as much water. While they are not in trouble right now unless things start improving they

will have to implement their three stage plan 1) educate 2) mandatory you can't water at certain times 3) Curtailing water for certain things. He was just trying to prepare at this time. Mayor Rivera said this is not just their issue we are all in it together.

Terry said we are beginning the process of the CDBG grant we are next in line for the 2012 but no guarantee of funding. We are trying to find a project, one will be corners that do not have handicap ramps we were hoping to put the ADA bathroom in out at the ball park but not sure that will go. Safford wanted some of our money to go toward putting a new roof on the 10 million tank. We are also working on a project for Seago it has to be on a functionally classified road and Church Street qualifies. The first phrase would be for engineering and right a way and second phrase would be for the construction. City of Safford will be in competition with us for the TIP grant.

Terry said that he and Heath will be attending the Governor's Development Conference tomorrow. I meet with the Director from ADOT he bought his new Engineer I think he will try and work with us. The director said after a year he would come back and see how they had progressed. Mayor Rivera asked Terry to check with Judge Long to see if he was still interested in the sur charge increase.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said last weekend was the Volunteer Firefighters Conference put on by Ft Thomas we had good training. They had people come in and do some training on execution. I believe the annual dinner is the last Tuesday in November. We also have the light parade coming up.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Stevens said they received a 3600 grant from the 100 Club. It will be used for 11 volistic helmets. On October 14th we had a training meeting on collection of evidences and preserving the evidence scene. I had a lab tech from Phoenix and Tucson that are DPS officers come down. We had Willcox, Pima, Clifton, Safford and County attend. Officer Norton attended the Advanced Reconstruction School this month. Officer Whisman broke his elbow and will be on light duty. We have been trying to get all the training done for the year we have one officer that needs two hours.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Safe House- Mayor Rivera said he attended the meeting they had election of officers. Vice Mayor Jason Kouts is the President, Mayor George Lemen is the Vice President and I am the new Treasurer. We reviewed the mission statement that they need in order to get funding. They had a list of potential members to ask and see if they wanted to be a Board Member. We also approved a retirement plan like a 401 they are going to review it and bring back to us. Next meeting a gentleman is going to come in and do a work shop on how the Board of Directors should govern and their responsibilities. That meeting will be in our conference room on November 15th at 5:15 pm.

B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Merriman Bill Civish reported on his trip to Russia. Freeport gave him a traveling trophy so it will go from towns to town seeing which one can bring in the most tourism. The Forest Service is going

open up 5000 acres they will cut wood. They are looking for businesses than can use the wood and bring it off the mountain. The College could be in trouble because they have Gila County campus which has 2000 students with the redistricting they will not get that money and they have a ten year contract so they will be 3 million dollars in debt so they want their expenditure of limitation changed.

- C. SEAGO- Councilman Merriman said he attend the SEAGO meeting they are working on Path Ways Temporary Labor Program in the Cochise College area. They are training them to take out abcesses. Another thing they wanted to try is Union Pacific purchased all the right a ways and land that goes from Benson to Naco. They are going to try to make Naco an entry port in the Southeastern Arizona area.
- D. Library Committee- Councilman Morris said they have had two public outreach meetings. They are now looking at information they received from the public getting ready for the presentation to the Board of Supervisor next month. Then the initiative program starts hoping to get it on next year ballot.
- E. Boys and Girls Club- Councilman Innes said they had a Salsa walk and made 660 dollars and had a painting project last Saturday. I think they are doing okay.

Adjournment:

Councilman Innes made motion to adjourn meeting with Vice Mayor Mulleneaux seconding. The vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 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 25th day of October, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk