

**MINUTES OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
December 13, 2011**

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

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

Visitors: David Ramirez, John Dixon, Harold Judd, Murlin Larson & family, Joe Sedgeman, Mrs. Alaniz , Luke Hoopes

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm stating there was a quorum. Mayor Rivera said God bless our Troops, God bless their families and God bless America.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Councilman Wayne Griffin

Roll Call.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Use of CDBG Funds.

Terry said the CDBG requires two public hearings and this is the first of the two. We are eligible in 2012 for the grant. The ideas we have for this grant at this time is helping the City of Safford place a new roof on their 10 million gallon water tank. That will cost about 400 thousand dollars. Another possible use that could qualify is the ADA problems. There are a few intersections that do not have handicap ramps and at the ballpark the bathroom does not meet ADA standards so we would like to build a nice facility. Our last project was the Daley Estates sidewalks. So if any of you have any ideas please let us know.

B. JD's Grill House Liquor License.

Terry said Mr. Dixon has applied for a liquor license for JD Grill. John Dixon stood and said we were formerly called Golden Corral which did not sell liquor I am the only one in the area that does not have a liquor license. There is not a bar inside and the liquor is not sold as package to go. Mr. Dixon said you have to have 40% food sells in order to get this license.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

A. Christmas Lighting Contest Presentations.

Mayor Rivera thanked everyone for taking the time to make your house and the Town of Thatcher a nice beautiful view for all to see. The Grand Prize goes to Bill Hoopes, 1st Place to David Ramirez, 2nd Place to Wilson Gaethje, 3rd Place to Harold Judd, Honorable Mention goes to Murlin Larson, Joe Sedgeman, Raul Alaniz, Luke Hoopes and Carlos Montano. Mayor Rivera said again we appreciate what you do to make this a better place to live. Terry said the whole valley benefits from your lights.

CONSENT AGENDA: Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the November 8, 2011 Regular Council.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. JD's Grill House Liquor license application.

Council Griffin made motion to approve the Liquor License for JD's Grill House. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02 (A)(1)(7) the Council may go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and to consult with the Town Attorney for legal advise.

Councilman Morris made motion to go into executive session. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mayor asked for all to leave but Council. Time 8:35pm

- A. Decision on Executive Session.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said we are ready to pave at the school during Christmas break. We also worked Eloisa Lane and then CKC will come in and pave. I am still working on the details of the CoOp electric purchase.

City of Safford brought me 12 requests for proposals for their economic development study that they received a grant from FMI. Our goal is to cut those down to 4 or 5 for interviews next week. All managers will be involved in the interviews.

We had meetings on the new insurance for the employees. We think it will be a good thing for town and the employees.

Thatcher will be participating in a County wide mapping program that includes the County, Safford, FMI, and ourselves we will share the cost. It is an overhead mapping, not only straight down but side views it is very accurate. The cost looks like 3 to 4 thousand a year which will be about the same as the last time but with more information. We have a proposal on the town houses from PLS for the plans and the site work for final leveling and retention walls. We have about 190 thousand left in funds so after the estimates are in we will know how much work we can get done. I am hoping all the grading.

We also have contracted a landscaping engineer to help design the water park. We would like to have it functional when it gets warm enough to use.

We were hoping to have the flag up in the lobby but the glass had to be ordered it is not in yet. The Herb Winsor signs are in and the truck signs were put up today. Mayor Rivera said he thought it would be nice to have Harry and Cathy Williams come and take a picture when the flag so in the case.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said the steak fry was really nice thank you for coming. This last Saturday we burned the trailer house over by Rowley corner on 8th and 1st. It went every well they have people to clean up. Mayor Rivera asked if our fire fighter had to be 21 years of age and Chief said no we have two that are under that age. Councilman Innes said the work that is being done at the school is awesome it looks nice.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Stevens the month of November we had some training I sent Sergeant Woods and Officer Norton to eight hour certification of drugs. Mesa PD came over and gave four hours of tack training which all attended. They received a four hour school on ethic's and first amendment that was put on by former City of Attorney Eric Edwards most attended. The three Sergeants went to leadership training put on by the County. We also had Cody Mullenau from the swat team do training on the 40 millimeter school. Chief showed the Council the rubberized bullet saying it is dead accurate. It also has a gas bullet. Everyone had to be certified on it for liability purposes. The County Attorney would like more training classes they did a search and seizer class on the 9th of December. There were two kids that hit about twelve vehicles. They took a credit card out of one of them and through good police work Officer Jim Whisman made an ID of him and Officer Curtis and Woods apprehended him. He confessed to everything. That was a good catch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Safe House- Mayor Rivera said they had a gentleman form ASU train us on responsibilities of the Board of Directors. Our next meeting is in March.

B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Merriman said they had their Christmas dinner at the Cooper Steer a few reports one from the College about two degrees from ASU. The hospital said their project in the front is completed and they may have a heart specialist coming to the hospital. Also at the College they had the meeting for the US Forest for the 5000 acres of wood showing different ways to use the wood. The Chamber has three people leaving the board Todd Haney, David Konopnicki and Kevin Peck we will get new board members in January.

C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera said the next meeting will be In February. Terry said they approved our 661 thousand dollar for engineering and right a way on Church Street. I am not sure how long that will be before we can use the fund.

D. Boys and Girls Club – Councilman Innes said we met today. They are still trying to arrange to break the bonds with City of Safford. We are listed as Gila Valley Recreational Youth Center. The director is Mike Gains they are working on a business plan and fund raiser projects like an annual golf tournament.

E. Library Committee – Councilman Morris had nothing to report.

Mayor Rivera said I would like to go over the victories and positives that have happened this year. The police department and the fire department for the grant they received, completed Reay Lane with grant of over 600 thousand, also the widening of Reay Lane with sidewalks, our roads are in good shape we are addressing Eloisa Lane and others. Vice Mayor Mullenau thanked Terry for the work he did getting the

school project done and financially we are in good shape I think you have lead well and did what we asked of you. Mayor said also the bird watching tower, our solar panels on waste water plant. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux thanked the Police, Fire, Engineer and Admin departments for the work they do for the Town. Mayor Rivera said that Terry was selected for the Risk Management Financial Committee. Mayor Rivera asked Terry to tell all the workers that we appreciate all the work they have done this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Innes made motion to adjourn meeting Councilman Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Time 9:10pm

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

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk