

**MINUTES OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
February 7, 2012**

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

Staff: Terry Hinton Manger, Heath Brown Engineer, Chief Mark Steven Police, Lona Duncan Town Clerk

Absent: Dudley Welker Attorney, Chief Mike Payne Fire Department

Visitors: Jay Whetten, Paul Groseta, Shawn Wakefield, Conner Palmer, Kevin Reed, Joshua Palmer, Braden Quinn, Brock DeSpain, Collin Lee, Spencer Oliver, Andy Curtis, Bodie Rogers, William Farett, Shawn Turley, Aburey Farley, Cristian Farley, Derek Larsen

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone and called meeting to order stating there was a quorum at 7:00pm. Mayor Rivera said God bless our Troops their families and God Bless America. Mayor asked the Boys Scouts to stand and introduce themselves, Joshua Palmer we are working on Citizenship in the Community, Spencer Oliver, Brock DeSpain, Kevin Reed, Conner Palmer, Colon Reed, Bodie Rogers, Andy Curtis, William Farett, Aubrey Farley, Braden Quinn Collin Lee, Shawn Turley, Cristian Farley, Scouts leaders were Shawn Wakefield Troop #19 and Derrek Larsen of Troop # 5736, Michael Curtis of Troop # 5736

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Lona Duncan

Roll Call.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Giant Service Station Liquor License.

Terry said recently Whiting Brothers Station changed hands to Giants Industries this is the station across from Taco Bell. The Liquor License request is a transfer of the license that was already there. Mayor Rivera asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against this license. No comments

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the December 13, 2011 Regular Council.

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

Councilman Morris made motion to approve Minutes and Reports. Councilman Merriman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Giant Service Station Liquor license application.

Terry explained this is an action item, after the public hearing we need to approve or disapprove the license.

Councilman Morris made the motion to approve Liquor License for Giant Service Station. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

- B. **RESOLUTION NO. 598-2012:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, IN SUPPORT OF THE "SAVE ARIZONA'S FOREST ENVIRONMENT" (SAFE) PLAN.

Mr. Paul Groseta stood and thanked Council for letting him speak tonight. I am from Cottonwood and a fourth generation rancher. I am also the Forest Service Chair of Federal Lands of Arizona Cattle Growers Association. I am here because of Save Arizona's Forest Environment (SAFE) Plan. What brought that about was the million acres that burned up last year in the Wallow Fire. The goal of the SAFE Plan is to produce fuel levels in our National Forest by utilizing cattle and logging and to help streamline Forest Policy and decision making. For any change to federal land you have to go through the NEPA process and that can take a long time. We need help, since 1983 until 2010 there have been 55 thousand fewer head of cattle on Arizona National Forest directly related to forest policy. The Forest Service estimates that 367 million board feet of timber are growing in Arizona forest every year. The forest logging is reduced and almost shut down in Arizona and New Mexico. We are going to keep pushing this to get local support, the game plan is to take this to Congress

and get Legislations support and get NEPA fixed. Again we are asking for your support. Mayor Rivera thanked Mr. Grosota for coming and educating us on the issue.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to approve Resolution # 598-12. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

C. New Thatcher Park design.

Terry said I have given you a couple of pictures drawn by the PLS Group. We are not going to close off the entrance to cemetery as originally planned we will bring it down to be a gentle curve going to the east of the outfield or we could come back around the other way. We purpose taking the road straight into Ball Park Road and Stadium Ave and make it a 3 way stop. You can see from the designs that the splash park is in the front, behind it is play ground equipment, we have sand volleyball courts, basketball courts and four or five ramada's and in the upper left corner is the bathroom. The CDBG grant has been cut back to 204 thousand dollars so we will probably only get the ADA bathrooms and some of the handicap assessable corners and ramps in Daley Estates done. Councilman Griffin asked can you upgrade that entrance so it looks like the main entrance. Terry said yes we can do that. Councilman Larson asked what the cost would be. Terry said the splash park will be 40 to 60 thousand and the play ground equipment will be around 36 thousand. Then you have trees, cement, grass and lights. Terry because of the cost I think it will be a phrased project.

D. Out of State travel for Police Training.

Terry said we have an opportunity to send a police officer to a school called Desert Snow a drug interdiction school. We have funds from Arizona Post if we don't use by June we will lose the funds. We would like to send Officer Josh McClain it is in Las Vegas I believe it is a three day school.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to approve out of state travel. Councilman 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.

Mayor Rivera asked to go into Executive Session with only the Council. Councilman Innes made the motion with a second from Councilman Morris. The vote was unanimous.

- A. Decision on Executive Session.

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said we have finished the work at the Reay Lane Park. We took all the Ramada's down and replace the slab with were broken and put new pillars. It was a safety issue needed to be done. Terry said we are back working on the Thatcher School project at the corner of 4th Ave and 2nd Street with curb, parking, and sidewalks. When we finish there we will go out to the ballpark. We are hoping to get grass and sprinkler system and sidewalk, ramada's we will get as much as we can before summer. We are still crack sealing streets but the crack sealer is down right now. The two Hummvee's we received, one has been converted into a Law Enforcement vehicle with lights, police sigma and painted. We are in the process of making the other one into a brush truck for the fire department. Heath has been in interviews with Graham County and City of Safford to select a firm to work on a economic development project. City of Safford received a grant from Freeport to help identify and help the valley with economic problems. Just to let you know Jared Hancock had to have another surgery last week he will be out for 3 to 4 weeks. He is home and seems to be doing well.

- B. Fire Department Report.

Terry said Chief Payne is at a live drill at the training center across the river and could not attend tonight.

- C. Police Department Report.

Chief Stevens we had training for search and seizure. We also had training out at the range. We had a burglary last week in the amount of \$5000. Officer Curtis recovered most of the items he did a good job. Mayor Rivera said pass along to Officer Curtis we appreciate the good job he did.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Safe House- Mayor Rivera said we will have meeting on 28th of February. There is a golf tournament in March if anyone in interested the money goes to the Safe House.

- B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Merriman said we have not had a meeting but there is a lot going on with the 100 years celebration this week-end.

- C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera said there is a meeting next Friday in Clifton.
- D. Boys and Girls Club. Councilman Innes said they have a meeting this Friday.
- E. Library Committee - Councilman Morris said they are working on getting a Citizen Committee together to pass petitions around and get it on the ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Morris made motion to adjourn meeting Vice Mayor Mulleneaux seconded the motion. Meeting Adjourned at 8:00pm

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 7th day of February, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk