

**MINUTES OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
April 10, 2012**

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

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

Visitors: Chris Gibbs, Stephaney Robinson, Niki Robinson, Jan Holder, Kathy Grimes, Wyn C Gibbs, Raymond Lonser

**AGENDA**

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order stating there was a quorum. Mayor Rivera said God bless our Troops, God bless their Families, God bless America and Town of Thatcher Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Dudley Welker

Roll Call.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- A. CDBG project selection.

Terry said this is the second public hearing we have held. We are still proposing to build the handicap accessible bathrooms at the ball field and with the remaining money install handicap ramps on our streets. Mayor Rivera asked if anyone had anything to say for or against. There was no one.

**OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Mayor Chris Gibbs from Safford stood and addressed the Council. He said that he and Mayor Rivera have been working for a few months with transportation issue with a group down town that takes care of health issue for senior citizens and transportation issue. We would like to team with Apache Nation they have a busing program that brings kids to EAC after they get here they wait 8 hours and then go back. They would like to keep busy during that time. So we are looking at them busing people around that do not have transportation to get around. It cost would be one dollar each way. We are getting a small group of citizens to study which location would be best for the service. Then we can talk with the tribe and see what we can figure out. We may need to be involved with storage or maintenance. I wanted you to know we are working on it and will have more information in future. Mayor Rivera added that they talked about connection looking in the future where someone could get on in Lordsburg and can go to Globe or Miami and eventually to the Phoenix Valley but that is a ways down the road. We are very fortunate that the Indian Nation wants to work with us.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

- A. Dog Fair – Evelyn Hallford  
Stephaney Robinson stood and said she was involved in the dog fair she also introduced her daughter Niki who read the article she wrote at school when in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade

concerning taking care of animals. Stephaney said this article is what started her looking at ways to help the animals in this valley. We did research and found the best way to help is to get Spay/Neuter Hotline back going again so we are going to raise money to give to them for Graham County. The fund raiser will be April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Graham County Park we will have a shot clinic, contest for dogs, obstacle course, dog fashion show and a lot more entries it should be fun for everyone. We are inviting all of you to come and also asking for a donation to help with the Spay/Neuter Hotline any amount would be appreciated.

B. Gila Watershed Partnership – Jan Holder

Jan Holder stood and said was here to report on what we have been doing lately and past projects she also said that Phil Ronnerud came with her. Jan said this was founded in 1992, what the original group wanted was for everyone to have a say in what was happening to our community as far as natural resources improvement quantity and quality of waters. We have support of not only the Towns but ADEQ, BLM, Forest Service, Game and Fish. This is important because if something does happen we can bring everyone in right away. We believe that everyone's opinion counts and everyone is treated with respect. Some of the past projects were the abandoned vehicles we collected almost 400 cars, we helped clean along the river for a farmer that ADEQ required cleaning. It would have cost him hundreds and thousand of dollars for labor and equipment. We have a well sealing project we have two wells sealed and there are 17 more that we would like to seal. Jan told of projects on the San Francisco in upper Eagle Creek and Duncan and also the economic development of Chase Creek and a number of others. Jan said we appreciate the support the Town of Thatcher gives and hope to continue to receive our support. She said that Heath Brown meets with them often and she encouraged any of Council to come to their meeting.

C. Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition – Kathy Grimes

Kathy Grimes stood and addressed Council by inviting them to three big events coming up. The month of April has been designated as Substance Abuse Month. Kathy presented a picture of the Mayor's and Supervisor signing of the proclamation. The first is the Substance Abuse Conference on April 15<sup>th</sup> we have twelve different presenters that will be at conference. The next event will be April 28<sup>th</sup> at Home Depot Dump the Drugs so you can bring unused or expired prescription or over the counter medications. Your Police Officers are helping with that. The last will be May 1st at the Safford High School with the Harlem Ambassadors. It is a fund raiser for the valley but also a good family event the cost is five dollars for adults and students and half price for senior citizens and it is twenty dollars for the whole family it will be a good time. Please come to the events they will all be good and we appreciate your help.

D. Fair Housing Proclamation.

Mayor Rivera read the proclamation which stated that the month of April is Fair Housing Month.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Action Item

A. Approve minutes of the March 13, 2012 Regular Council Meeting.

- 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 Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

**OLD BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. 2012/2013 Tentative Budget.

Terry said this budget is the same as what we discussed at the work session. The total budget expenses will be \$10,172,746.69. If you pass the tentative budget it can go down but can not go up. The actual budget is about 7.5 million which is up about 3% up from last year.

Councilman Innes made motion to pass the Tentative Budget. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

**NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. CDBG project selection.

Terry said the town staff is proposing to handicap bathrooms at the ball park as well as handicap ramps throughout the town.

Council Griffin made motion to approve the CDBG project recommended by staff. Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

- B. **RESOLUTION NO. 600-2012:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER ADOPTING A RESIDENTIAL ANTIDISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR FY 2012, AS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 104(d) OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974 AS AMENDED.

Terry said this house keeping item in order to qualify for CDBG money.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to approve Resolution No 600-2012. Councilman Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

- C. **RESOLUTION NO. 601-2012:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FY 2012 STATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS, CERTIFYING THAT SAID APPLICATION MEETS THE COMMUNITY'S PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE CDBG PROGRAM, AND AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT AND COMPLETE THE ACTIVITIES OUTLINED IN SAID APPLICATION.

Terry said again this is authorizing us to submit our for CDBG application.

Council Innes made motion to approve Resolution No 601-2012. Councilman Merriman 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.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to go into Executive Session. Councilman Morris seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mayor asked for Terry Hinton and Dudley Welker to stay. Time was 8:13 pm

A. Decision on Executive Session.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry told Council that Ken Strobeck and Tom Belshe from the League of Cities and Towns agreed to come to the next Council meeting to give up update on Legislative session and a refresher class on open meeting laws. The book I have given you is from the League and has good information. The school project has about 3 to 4 more weeks where we are working now and depending on the funds they have left we may do some work in front of the Primary, Elementary School on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street for curb and sidewalks starting at College and working toward 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

Last week Heath, Tommy and I made a trip to the valley to look at Splash Parks. We are waiting for some cost estimates from people that are helping decide on what will work in our area. By next Council meeting we should have more information for you. We are currently working on the retaining walls to separate the cemetery from the park the electrical department is working on the power. Council has appointed Councilman Innes to act as a liaison for the P&Z Commission. We have two letters from people for the two positions we have open. Heath has scheduled a meeting for the P& Z Board to review those letters and give the Council recommendation. There will be an ad in the paper to see if there is any interest in serving on the Board of Adjustments. We have an ad in paper for Police Officer which will close on 26<sup>th</sup> of this month by the end of May we hope to have officer in place.

Mayor Rivera asked about Cota Town houses. Terry said we are still negotiating with ADEQ on the plans for water and sewer. Until we know what that will cost us we will not put out the bid packet, but it is ready to go. Councilman Merriman asked about the traffic light and Terry said the lights are done and ADOT is testing the control box.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Mike Payne said we are getting radio in the other trucks and by tomorrow they will all have radios. That will make us in compliance a year ahead of time. I understand that all of the students passed their skills test and waiting for the written test to come back from the State. We were offered another house to burn with in the next month or so. The Officers are going to look at it and see if we want to burn it.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Stevens said that Officer McClain's last day will be April 12<sup>th</sup>. Chief said as Kathy said we are going to co host the Dump the Drugs Day. Sergeant Mulleneaux set up a 5 hours training for CPR so all the officers are now certified. The Officers had 3 hours of training on mental health it is called Title 36 that is where someone is going to do harm to themselves or someone else. This gives the police officers the ability to transport them to the emergency room. We have two officers that are called DRE (Drug Recognition Experts) Sergeant Woods and Officer Norton. Officer Norton went today to an 8 hours recertification school. We will have our quarterly department meeting this coming Friday.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Safe House- Mayor Rivera meeting a week ago they are doing a lot of fund raising. They are asking right now for any plastic container that can be recycled even cans. They are always having yard sells. They have new Board Members and they are very active doing a good job and they help a lot of people. They had a golf tournament in Greenlee County which they made a little over 4000 dollars.
- B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Merriman last meeting was on April 18<sup>th</sup> I was unable to attend.
- C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera said the yesterday. Terry said they had a joint Executive meeting to approve the TIP and it did not have anything to do with our projects.
- D. Boys and Girls Club- Nothing to report. Councilman Larson said he would see if the first Friday at noon would fit into his schedule if so he could take this assignment.
- E. Library Committee – Councilman Morris said the Library Committee has been dissolved because we were just to decide if the library district could be used and we submitted our application to the Board of Supervisors that it was. It is now up to the Citizens Committee to do an Initiative.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Morris made motion to adjourn meeting. Councilman Innes seconded the motion the vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Lona Duncan, Town Clerk

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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 10th day of April, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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Lona Duncan, Town Clerk