

**MINUTES OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
June 12, 2012**

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

Absent: Councilman Morris

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

Visitors: Glen Orr, Bret Whitmer, Joy Martin, Brenda Stevens, Rebecca Williams, Steph Robinson, Kent Ellett (USFS), Buddy Zale (USFS), Phillip Elliott (AZSF), Eugene Beaudoin(AZSF),Dennis Delaney

**AGENDA**

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm stating there was a quorum. Mayor Rivera said God Bless our Troops, God Bless their families ,God Bless Thatcher and God Bless the United States of America

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Matt Clifford

Roll Call.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

A. 2012/2013 Budget

Terry said this is the same budget we talked about in the work session. I lowered the Hurf money by about 40 thousand dollars but other than that it is the same.

**OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Dennis Delaney from KR Saline and Associates we manage the city power supplies. Most of what I say will be follow up. The first issue is the Spur contact it has several off ramp transmission at little risk. Spur has extended the offer to allow participants to increase their capacity. They have also offered to buy back from some entity. At this point there is no action that Thatcher needs to do this agreement starts in 2015. The next thing I would like to touch on is the Hoover remodeling it has been reallocated to the states of Arizona and Nevada and California is reallocated to individual entities. The Federal Legislation allocates power to the State and the State allocates power to the members in Arizona. The Administrator has started the process by asking question and Terry has prepared a letter answering those questions. Terry said in the past it has been a 30 year contract and runs out in 2017 we are hoping to maintain the 95% that we have again. The next issue is Navajo a portion is owned by reclamation ear marked for CAP pumping needs. The arrangement between CAP and CRP terminated last October. So Western has started making short term available on Navajo. We did our research and opt not be bid for Thatcher one because we have Thatcher supply pretty must nailed down with CRSP and Western replacement power for this summer and because it would require reserves, it turned out not to be a lower cost. The last item is the EIM (Energy Imbalance Mark) it is the matching of generation in load in real time that is needed to keep the grid stable so you don't have black outs. In March the Secretary of Energy issued a memo directing them to make changes in the way they operate. We don't think it is a good thing. What they want to do is integrate massive amounts of winds that is located in areas that is far away from load center and machines that can react and put that burden on the PMA's . The fear is the cost doesn't come with

funding so the only funding would come from existing customers so that would roll down to you. This is being pushed because of the future energy problems of less coal, less gas, but it comes with a lot of problems what if there is not wind the hydro will have to kick back in. This issue will be on the table for the next five to ten years.

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

#### A. Fire Department assistance on wildland fires – Kent Ellett

Kent Ellett stood and introduced himself as the District Ranger for the Forest Service and the guys with me are Phillip Elliott (ASF), Eugene Beaudoin (ASF) Buddy Zale (US Forest Service Fire Management). Kent said that most States Fire Department assists Federal agencies in wild land fires. We rely on local fire department and they in return rely on us. If we train and work together then when there is a fire we know who to call and what to do. Eugene stood and said what we are trying to do is give you the opportunity to come on board with the State as cooperators. We provide opportunities for wild land training possibly getting excess equipment they also maintain the equipment while they are using it. When you get called out on a fire in the forest or the river you are right now suppressing the fire until someone else arrives. If you were under the agreement you would be reimbursed for that through the State for not only the firefights but the engine of about \$1500 a day depending on what size it is. Kent said so when you sign up with the State. You have the right at any time to tell us you can't go or even ask to be released from a fire. You can choose to go on longer fires or just one to two hours fires. Kent said we provide the training for your men to get a red card. Town of Pima signed up for Graham, Greenlee and Cochise but you can sign up for other if you choose. Mayor Rivera ask who that the liability? Eugene said most of that will fall under your workers comp but it depends on the situation, if fighting the fire the state should pay for that. Eugene said there are also grants that you can apply for. Kent said the first step is to get you signed up then we can work through the details of what you have and get the training. Terry said that he and Mike will take a look at it. Mayor Rivera suggested that be done and come back to Council meeting with a recommendation so it can be voted on.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the May 8, 2012 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 minutes and report. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion, consideration and possible action.

- A. **RESOLUTION NO. 604-2012:**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-13 OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA.

Terry said the total budget is 10 million dollars of that we will spend 3 to 4 million and the rest

contingency of 2 ½ million dollars and we budget for some grants, we get some but not all making actual expenses to be over 5 million.

Councilman Innes made motion to approve Resolution No 604-2012 Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved

B. School Library Joint Summer Reading Project.

Terry said last month we had Principal Peterson was here and explained the program and asked for one thousand dollars to help with the cost. The program has been going for at least a week. Matt Peterson stood and reported that the first day they had 15 kids then 12 going up to 30 and then 20. We are hoping that the word will get out that we are open. Mayor Rivera asked what age group and Mr. Peterson said K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Terry said I think it is a good program.

Councilman Merriman made motion to give money to the Summer Reading Project. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed.

C. ADOT IGA/JPA for the Church Street widening project.

Terry said every project we do requires the agreement this is for Church Street right a way and engineering. This is just the first step.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to approve the agreement. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion, consideration and possible action

A. **RESOLUTION NO. 605-2012:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, STATING THE PROCEDURES FOR PURCHASING FROM THE MAYOR AND ANY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

Terry said this housekeeping we need each year the state requires a purchasing policy.

Councilman Larson made motion to approve Resolution No 605-2012 and seconded by Councilman Innes. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

B. **RESOLUTION NO. 606-2012:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, STATING THE SALARY EQUIVALENCY AND THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED POSITIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS.

Terry said again this is a yearly requirement this set the salary if someone is hurt. This is the entry level of a Police Officer.

Councilman Innes made motion to approve Resolution No 606-2012 and a second by Vice Mayor Mulleneaux. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

C. **RESOLUTION NO. 607-2012:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND MANAGER TO EXECUTE FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, IGA'S WITH GRAHAM COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR DISPATCHING SERVICES,

ANIMAL CONTROL SHELTER SERVICES, ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES AND WIDE AREA NETWORK COMMUNICATION SERVICES.

Terry said these are yearly budget items ranging from 2 % to 15% increase from last year based on the Counties cost.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux and second by Councilman Merriman .The vote was unanimous Motion passed

- D. **RESOLUTION NO. 608-2012:** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR A TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT TO THE STATE OF ARIZONA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION OF US 70 (MAIN STREET)

Terry said we have discussed this in previous meetings. This is the enhancement grant that Heath has put together along Highway 70. We are looking at putting in new sidewalks some vegetation and trash cans and street lights. This is first thing we have to do in order to get the grant.

Councilman Larson made motion to approve Resolution No 608-2012 seconded by Councilman Merriman. 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.

Terry said for the first part of the Executive Session that Council, Dennis Delaney, Matt Clifford and myself be included.

Councilman Innes made motion to go into Executive Session. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Time was 8:16PM.

- A. Decision on Executive Session.

None

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said the school project will pave on the 28<sup>th</sup> and then all that is left is the paving of the intersection and will be completed. We will then move to the park. The retaining wall is almost complete we are waiting on block the electric is being relocated. We also have to run a water line and sewer line. Heath and I have talked to the consultant on the P&Z Code review we think we have everything tied down. As she completes a section she will send it to us so Council can review and then start the public meeting. Terry said to let the public know that Chief Stevens is going to retire on Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> and we appreciate his efforts. I would make a suggestion that we open the position to inside the town and out side of the town and place the ad in the paper. Mayor Rivera said to move forward with that idea. Terry said he had been working on sales tax information. Last year we receive some sales from Wal Mart but ran out half way through the year that was \$373 thousand that we won't receive this year. Taking that into consideration our sales tax revenue is up 4% to 5 %. My projection is we will match or exceed what we had last year. With the Big 5 store and maybe a new restaurant we should do ok. Terry said at last Council meeting someone asked about Red Lamp. They have completed their repairs on the original list and we have given them another list so it is

progressing. Terry said this month we sent out bids for final dirt work on Town House. We did not get one bid back. Heath and I have talked about bidding it out for just dirt work and no retaining walls or take our own people in and do a final grading of road. We need to do some more research before we make recommendations to the Council. The Terry reminded Council of the Grand Opening for Big 5 store on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said this next Saturday a house on Church St between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> will be used for training. We had a fire in Daley Esters on Friday started with a shed that went to camp trailer then to the neighbor's yard and got their shed then to another shed and a trampoline then across the alley to a fence and camp trailer so there was a good fire for a while. Chief Payne said the only other item is the IGA with the Forest Service we will take a look at that and bring it back next month.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Steven said he had been in law enforcement for 31 years. Chief Stevens introduced Officer Williams she started the 28<sup>th</sup> of May she is the first female officer that Thatcher has had. We are pleased to have her she is a local girl that came home. Chief said this summer the training has closed down. We will be sending Officer Williams to Forensic Interview training, they interview small child we have needed one for some time. She will attend a four hour basic training and then 40 hour class in Sierra Vista on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Rivera said on behalf of all the citizens we are happy for you and we wish you all the luck.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Safe House- Mayor Rivera they did not have a meeting because we meet on a four month bases.

B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Merriman said Freeport reported has the site preparation going for the million dollar expansion of the concentrator. They believe it will be about 900 new employees and 2500 people for the construction to build it. The town of Morenci is also doing a lot of new improvement like a swimming pool, day care center, and wellness center. Councilman Merriman said there has been a number of a ribbon cutting. We have a meeting next week on the preparation the new power line called Sun Tracks so that will be discussed.

C. SEAGO- Mayor – Mayor Rivera said he could not attend and Councilman Merriman said they had election of officer and talked about border issue. Mayor Rivera said that Yolanda their executive secretary after 34 years announced her retirement.

D. Boys and Girls Club.- Councilman Larson I did not attend meeting but the paper said things are going through but at this point still supported by City of Safford.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Larson made motion to adjourn meeting. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Time 11:30pm

**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 12th day of June, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lona Duncan, Town Clerk