

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
July 10, 2012**

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

Absent: Councilman Morris

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

Visitors: Bret Whitmer, Raymond Lonser, Barbara Stailey, Brent Herbert, Jim & Judy Reed, Joy Martin, Vance Lunt, Lori Rhinehart

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 Thatcher God Bless the United States of America.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Chief Stevens

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Raymond Lonser stood and said the lives at 3507 W River Walk Lane. I ask Mr. Hinton many moons ago about some pot holes in the road and they are fixed thank you. We have about 10 families living on River Walk Lane. I would like to ask the Police Department if we could have a more visible police patrol down by us. I have noticed that strange cars park at the end of the road and I don't know who there are. Terry said our jurisdictions go to the end of the payment so that area would be in the County. Mr. Lonser said so I need to go and talk to the County about patrolling it more. Terry said yes, we will watch the end of road and if something happen we will respond but we normally don't patrol down there. Mr. Lonser said thank you and I will go ask the County.

Brent Herbert stood and said in September of 2007 I was voted off the Thatcher Fire Department for the reason they said I was degrading the fire department. I was trying to point out the fact that we need to have the fire fighter certified so we would not have accidents and the department needs to be in compliance with OSHA regulations. OSHA stipulates that fire fights be trained up to a standard level of training and also the training officers have to be a higher level than the regular fire fighters and you have 3 officers that are not certified. Another issue that puts the city at liability is you have an Assistance Chief with a beard. The rule is no facial hair between the face and the seal of the mask. I am tried of people getting hurt this does not need to go on. If OSHA looked at it there could be serious problems. As a tax payer I am concerned with the liability to the town.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

A. Daley Estates Neighborhood Watch – Judy Reed

Mrs. Reed said the Neighborhood Watch committee would like to change the date for the Night Out because of the heat and the weather. We would like to move it to Sept 18th. By doing this it would knock us out of participating in the National Night Out but this is for our community. We are asking Council to move the date and sign the Proclamation. Mayor Rivera said he didn't see a problem with moving it and he

recognized all the leaders and volunteers that have worked so hard at getting this together each year. Councilman Innes asked if we would still be recognized by National Night Out and Judy said no it would be called a Neighborhood Night Out. We had originally thought about the second Tuesday of the month which is 9/11 but that is when Council meets. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux said we could move the council meeting. It was agreed for the Community Night Out to be Sept 11th starting at 6:00 pm. The Council meeting will be Sept 18th.

B. National Night Out Proclamation.

Mayor Rivera read the Proclamation with the changes in date and name to Thatcher Community Night Out.

CONSENT AGENDA: Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the June 12, 2012 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to approve the minutes and reports. Councilman Merriman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Planning and Zoning Code Update.

Terry said we had joint meeting with the individual that was working on the Code Update .The proposal was more than we had expected it is the 36 thousand dollar range. I would like to give two options to you. First, Heath and I can work on this getting professional to help when needed or second we can go out for an RFP in a sealed bid. Since that time we have check to see what other entities have spent, City of Safford 42 thousand, City of Maricopa 100 thousand. Heath and I think we can do it section at a time and bring it to Council and P & Z Commission to get your comments. We will then take the final document out for legal review. Mayor Rivera said it is the consensus of the Council for you and Heath to work on the update.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Playground equipment cover for Reay Lane Park.

Terry said the Council has talked about putting a cover over the play ground equipment at the parks. We have received some proposals for a 40x40 metal roof in the 12 or 13 thousand dollar range. The low bid we have right now is Bunger Steel out of Phoenix and that would be about 6 weeks away.

Councilman Innes made motion to proceed with covering the play ground equipment. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

B. Park Camera systems discussion.

Terry said we are looking at quotes for 3 cameras for the parks because of vandalism. We are looking at the top range being 4 to 5 thousand for each park. The cameras will cover the play ground, restrooms and racket ball courts. This is just an informational item. Councilman Griffin said it will also help if someone child gets hurts. Terry said this is a good system you can tell who it is. With recorders you can use a lap top and log into it and see the information.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said the school project is complete and we are now working on sewer repairs and road repairs. I hope to have approval to put pipe in on 8th Street waiting for signatures then we will go to the play ground covers. We are working some on he new park with sewer, water and utility lines. The acceptances of Police of Chief applications will end Thursday at 5 we have 7 applications right now. The Council needs to tell me how you want to do that. Do you all want to look at the applications, do you all want to interview and how many do you want to interview. The process should start next week so just let me know.

Terry said he would like to take a few minutes and go over the state of the Town and what the Council has been able accomplish this year. We got a new ladder truck but didn't come with equipment so we used 60 thousand dollars on the truck. We equipped all of the fire trucks with new narrow bank radio's that was 30 thousand and the Police Department was able to get their radio's with a grant so we are in complete compliance a year ahead of time. Some of the new police equipment is ballistic shields, bolt cutter, helmets. We replaced four rifles, sniper equipment police vehicles and a lot of training was done. In Public Works we ended up with 2 new pickups a boom truck and bucket truck, we fog coated 6 miles of road. On Reay Lane from Hwy 70 just passed the railroad tracks we straighten the curve and put in sidewalks and curbs also the traffic signal on Highway 70. We finished the school project with new bus lanes at the middle school also sidewalks and curbing and paving it was a joint project with the school. We finished the infrastructure at the Eac town homes. We started working on new park at the ball fields where we will have ramada's, basketball court, sand volleyball court, playground equipment and a splash pad. We completed a bird watching platform and put in solar panels that we received by grants. We have recreation programs Little League baseball & softball, basketball, we have adult volleyball and adult basketball, we have swim teams, football camps, tennis camps . We sponsored a singing and drama camp and also a youth reading program. With all of these thing our revenues are above what we had budgeted and our expenses were below the budget amount. The general fund, sewer fund and electric fund all finished in the black. Last year our audit was one of the best in Arizona and the Nation. Our building permits are back up before the pre boom level. Mayor Rivera said thank you for report that is very good.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said it has been a very active time here the last three or four weeks. You have all been informed of the house burning and the accident that Rob was involved in. He is back to work and is healing without skin grafts. We are still looking at what happened. Each member that was there is making a statement on what they say happen, we have some conflicts. We have 600 pictures and are documenting everything in the picture. Then we will put it all together by showing what was suppose to happen and what actually happen and make improvements. This went from being a training exercise to being a real problem. We are working on the report and we will have some outside people look at it also. We hope we learn from it and become better. We practice with real fire and hope we can learn enough so this will not happen again. The State Fire School will be the first week of Sept this year. One of the courses is safe and effect fire training I for one will be taking that. I have taken it before but I would like to bring it back to the department and do more training. Councilman Innes asked if the State Fire Marshall's office will look at the accident. Chief Payne said they have never gotten back with me they are under staffed but we are looking at some Chief's from out of town that come from great fire departments. Chief Payne said Rob doesn't want it to become a negative thing he wants it to be a positive learning process. Mayor Rivera asked what the time line was for the final report. Chief Payne said I hope to have it by next Council meeting. Mayor stated we are glad that Rob is doing well. Chief Payne said the Fire Fighter 1 & 2 class will not have the Gift Class with the College it will only be an adult class at night so we hope to get more of our guys in that class. Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of our fire fighters have been through Fire Fighter 1 & 2 we are working on getting that completed. We will send 12 to 15 guys to the State Fire School. We are working the yearly billing for the District and have given those numbers to Terry. Mayor Rivera ask him to relay to the Fire Fighter that the Council supports them 100% and what happened happened and we will learn and do what we have to do to be in compliance.

C. Police Department Report.

Mayor Rivera said on behalf of the Council and the Citizens of Thatcher we wish you well and you did a good job. Chief Stevens thanked the Council for their support and your friendship. As far as reporting for the Police Department we have had some training this month on hazardous training at the City of Safford. The bear that was taken out of the tree it was the second bear since I have been here it all ended well with no citizens hurt. I appreciate everything you have done for me. Mayor Rivera thanked Chief again.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Safe House- Nothing on a quarterly bases
- B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Merriman said that Town of Pima reported that on some of the fires they have used their tanker trucks and getting money for that. Freeport reported they still don't have the approval for the new plant they want to put in, also said the tailings over here dropped and no one was hurt. We had a meeting with Ms. Welker from Bowie who is over the Chamber about the Suntrea transmitted line. It was showing the line is going through but it is on the

same route as the old one. There will be a substation that will come to this area for power or to pick up if we have solar collected items to put on that transmission line. The wind turbines are in New Mexico and there is a big sun belt by Bowie and San Simon area. Mayor River asked is he knew when that work would start. Councilman Merriman said not really but It is being approved. If we can get it into this valley it would help us.

- C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera said there was nothing to report.
- D. Boys and Girls Club- Councilman Larson said there was nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Innes made motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

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

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk