

**MINUTES OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
August 14, 2012**

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

Staff Present: Terry Hinton Manger, Heath Brown Engineer, Matt Clifford Town Attorney, Shaffen Woods Chief of Police, Mike Payne Fire Department, Lona Duncan Town Clerk

Absent: Councilman Ken Larson, Councilman Charles Morris

Visitors: Bret Whitmer, Krista Olmstead

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order stating there was a quorum at 7:00pm. Mayor Rivera said God Bless our Troops their families the Town of Thatcher and God bless the United States of America. Mayor Rivera also welcomed Chief Shaffen Woods to the table and said congratulations.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Bret Whitmer

Roll Call.

PUBLIC HEARING:

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Bret Whitmer stood and addressed the Council by saying that he was here at the last Council meeting and I have been thinking about you voting for Manager Hinton to update or rewrite the P& Z code instead of paying a company to do it. I would like for the Council to reconsider and have a company write it. As Mr. Hinton quoted City of Safford paid 40 thousand and Casa Grande paid so much I believe there is a reason they paid to have it done. Terry said the City of Safford has just finished theirs and is going to give us their draft to look at. Heath and I have talked and for the builders and contractors we think that Safford and Thatcher should be as close to the same as possible. Mayor Rivera said the process was for Terry and Heath to work on it and bring it back to Council for ideas and approval are you still opposed to that Mr. Whitmer. Mr. Whitmer answered yes I believe there is a reason we pay for professional I am not saying they could not do it I just saying that Manager Hinton needs to continue working on what he does for the Town.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the July 10, 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 consent agenda. Councilman Merriman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion, consideration and possible action.

- A. Appoint Shaffen Woods as Police Chief.

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to approve the appointment of Shaffen Woods as Town of Thatcher's Police Chief. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Supplemental Benefit Program for Public Safety Employees.

Terry said resent legislation from the State of Arizona has mandated that we come up with a supplemental benefit program for public safety employee's that would include full time police and fireman. It says if they have to go on long term disability they will receive the same amount of take home pay that they would have while working. They will not have to use leave time. Councilman Griffin asked so we treat them as an active member. Terry said yes. Mayor Rivera asked if it was new statue and answer was yes. Terry said they are requesting it be in place now. Councilman Griffin said I think I read you have to stipulate that is expires after 6 months or it will go the full year. Terry said that is correct.

Councilman Innes made motion to approve supplemental plan with the six month expiration. Mayor Rivera seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- B. Bid award for Splash Pad Equipment.

Terry said the bid closed and we received one bid from Exerplay, Inc. These are the people we have worked with. Terry said staff would recommend approving this bid. Councilman Griffin asked if this includes the system that treats the water. Terry said yes it includes all the equipment necessary for it to run but we will have to install it.

Councilman Griffin made motion to approve bid of \$155,298.82 from Exerplay,

Inc. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

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

Councilman Innes made motion to go into Executive session. Councilman Merriman seconded the motion. Time was 7:55pm. Terry asked that he and Matt Clifford to be in the meeting.

A. Decision on Executive Session.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said the park is under construction out by ball fields you can see where the road and the parking area will be. We are putting in the sewer line and then going to the water line. When the water line gets to where the El Paso Natural Gas line goes we will have to close the road because of the way we have to dig to get across. There will be a three way stop which will include Arena Way, Ball Park Ave and Stadium Ave. We finished putting the covert in the ditch on 8th Street. I have heard a lot of good comments. The Reay Lane Park cover should be here in three weeks. It will be about a 2 week project. The Town Code is under review the consultant has given us a first draft and in three weeks will probably get a second draft. We talked about the P&Z Code earlier it is up to Council as to whether you want a consultant or have Heath and I do it. Councilman Innes said didn't you say that when it was completed you would have a legal opinion. Terry said yes and even if the consultant does the work we have to have an attorney look at it. Councilman Innes asked if anyone had expressed interest in the Cota Town Homes now that it looks nice and level. Terry said I have not heard back from the gentleman that owns.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said the funeral for Jerry Robinson was very nice and we were glad the department could help. He gave a lot of his time and years to the Fire Department and this community. We were able to support the family with their request of placing his casket on the fire truck. Mayor Rivera said I thought it was very nice and other fire fighter from other valleys came it was all very good. Chief Payne stated he will be missed. Chief Payne said I also sent you a report on the house burn. One of the things we are doing is I have contacted a Captain and a Training Officer with a Tucson Fire Department to look at it. These people have spent a lot of years teaching and think they will do a good job for us. Mayor Rivera suggested that council read it and then come back next meeting or even

ask Chief Payne or make suggestions. Chief Payne said we can learn from this and we would like to limit the mistakes. Mayor Rivera said I am speaking for the Council the beard issue needs to be addressed. Chief Payne said he had talked to Rue before this meeting and let him know he needs to make a decision. Chief Payne said there was a fire in Central on Saturday. When we got there the man said it was a controlled burn. Chief said we told him what he was doing was not legal. The County is doing the investigation but he may be looking at arson charges. The State Fire School is September 5th- 9th. Our firemen are taking a number of different classes that will help the department. We should end up with three more safety officers and a fire instructor. Also we are starting again on the Fire Fighter Manual they are on the second chapter night. Each month we take a charter and then each week we relate something we do to that chapter. Councilman Merriman asked did you hear they wanted to put up a flag pole memorial for Jerry Robinson. Chief Payne said yes Terry and I have talked about it and have picked out a place in front of the Fire Station. Mayor Rivera said thank you for what you have done and also thank the fire fighters.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods thanked Council for the opportunity of getting to serve in this position. As far as training two weeks ago we had a live fire shoot and building search training with Safford Police Department. Last week we had two of officers complete a week long general instructor school training that was here at EAC. Next week I will finish the AZ Post Leadership training it has been one week every three months. It is probably the best training I have received. We also have scheduled Law and Legal updates training for Sept 5th in Safford. Tomorrow is the first day of school so we will patrol the school area. We just want high visibility so people will be aware that children are out there walking. We have two officers from the college helping and then next week when the College starts we will help them. Officer West is working on the Neighborhood Night Out and the committee wants to know if you still want to do "The Walk" that was required by National Night Out. Vice Mayor Mulleneaux said I believe it is tradition and we should. Chief said they also want to honor 9/11 by having a patriotic video if that is ok answer was yes. Chief Woods said his first department meeting will be this Friday we are cooking so come by if you want a hot dog. Terry said the Chief and the Sergeants are working on Police Standard Operating Procedures manual for small entities. They are customizing that for the Town of Thatcher and will then bring to Council for approval. In conjunction there is a 15 minute training that the Sergeant will complete with the Officers after their shifts. It looks like a useful tool. Councilman Merriman said you mentioned something about your Officers watching a certain group of families. Chief said that is called the Neighborhood Liaison Officer Program and I discussed that with the Officers and we are going to get that into place. We are also going to look at engraving bikes again. There are tons of program like that we need to start doing again. We are also going to reach out to other agency and pull our resources.

Heath Brown informed Council that ADEQ gave approval for the sewer water at

the Cota Town Houses. Terry said there is a display ad in the paper for Judge Long's position. He will retire in October. So depending on when the Court Conference is I may have to call a special meeting to appoint the new Magistrate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Safe House- Mayor Rivera said next meeting is in October.
- B. Chamber of Commerce - Councilman Merriman said the membership is up at this time. All the Mayor's got together and they have this brochure of what people would like to see happen with the transit transportation. City of Safford reported that Bonita Creek is down 70% and they are looking at another rate study. The Boys and Girls Club is trying to get funding waiting on a form from the government. There was a ribbon cutting for TNT Women Fitness today it was very nice. The next ribbon cutting will be for San Tan Urgent Care on August 27th, the Gila Valley Leadership will start again Sept 20th and the Salsa Trail is September 28th & 29th.
- C. SEAGO - Mayor River said the next meeting will be Oct 26th.
- D. Boys and Girls Club - Nothing reported

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Mulleneaux made motion to adjourn. Councilman Merriman seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 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 14th day of August, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk