

**MINUTES OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
December 16, 2013**

Present: Mayor Bob Rivera, Councilmembers Wayne Griffin, Ken Larson, Aaron Allen, Joy Martin

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

Absent: Vice Mayor Mulleneaux, Councilman Donald Innes

Visitors: Luke Hoopes, Joe & Lori Sedgeman, Juanita & Alfonso Ornelas, Raul & Christy Alaniz, Carlos Montano, Bill Griffin & Nancy Griffin, Jason Underwood, Talon Brown, Chip Griffin, David Bell

**AGENDA**

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order stating there was a quorum. Mayor Rivera said God Bless the men and women in our armed forces God Bless their families, God Bless Thatcher and the United States of America.

Pledge of Allegiance Lead by Talon Brown

Roll Call.

**OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Jason Underwood said back in July we asked your Council for a donation to help the local AFY get started I am here to report on those funds. In expenses, jerseys, cones, flags etc we used 5100 dollars and most of that I used with local vendors, Big 5, Hibbets and M Industries. We also had other entities donate money. The League also bought us 5000 dollars in new equipment, shoulder pad, helmets etc. We are pretty set for next year. There were 121 kids in the Thatcher League. We had seven teams and four of them advanced to the play offs with the younger team winning. It was a good season. We are every grateful that the Town helped get us started.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

- A. Christmas Lighting Contest Awards.

Mayor Rivera said on behalf of this Council we would like to thank you for taking part. The time, energy and patience you put into your homes are worth it. When people stop for a second to look at your lights they feel joy during that moment. The Grand prize went to Joe Sedgeman, 1<sup>st</sup> Prize to Luke Hoopes, 2nd Prize to Chad Rolfe, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize to Juanita Ornelas. Honorable mention to Raul Alaniz, Carlos Montano, G.A. Espinoza, Mark & Ashley Smith, Kathryn Shepherd, Bill & Chip Griffin. Mayor thanked each of them.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the November 18, 2013 Regular Council Meeting.

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

Councilman Griffin made motion to approve consent agenda. Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

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

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

- A. **ORDINANCE NO. 172-2013:** AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING AND INCREASING THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, STATE OF ARIZONA, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 9, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 7, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES AND AMENDMENTS THERETO, BY ANNEXING THERETO CERTAIN TERRITORY CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING TOWN LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Terry said this is Riverwalk on the north end of town. There was a 100% of owners involved in it and this is the next step in the process of making them part of the town.

Councilwomen Martin made motion to accept Ordinance 172-2103. Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

- B. Short Term Disability Coverage.

Terry said presently we have long term with the state that start after 6 months after all leave time is used. There is a gap between using the employees bank time and the six months. We had an employee that this happened to and he ended up retiring because he had no more time. The short term disability starts after 14 days up to the six month period. The cost is 7,800 a year. Councilman Larson said if only one employee has had to use it maybe we should look at a self funded plan. Mayor Rivera said maybe we should look at the different options and talk again next month or at a work session.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said the Santa in the Park went very well there was a good crowd. Santa was there about 1 ½ hours next year he will need to be there longer. We had a number of venders. Councilman Griffin asked how many they thought attended Councilwomen said they gave out 300 candy canes and 260 ornaments. Mayor

Rivera asked for cost. Terry said the power was about 5000 dollars but that will be used again, the lights about 900 dollars will be used again. Terry said about two to three thousand dollars that we will have to pay again next year. We also had Santa flown in by the PHI helicopter. Terry said he would like to thank Rob Casillas, Brent Morris and Arnold Lopez for all the work they did on the park. Terry said that Valley View, 1<sup>st</sup> Street and the Splash Park are paved. We still have about three weeks work to do on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. We are trying to get the intersection done while the college is out. The road to the Cemetery is open again. The bathroom should be completed by end of January. The sure pay is almost completed we should have it ready for January. We will be hosting an ADOT meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> here in the Council Chambers with upper management if anyone wants to attend. We will clean alleys next week and then we will start crack sealing. Councilwomen Martin asked about the Thatcher School weight room. Terry said we put in with the school to FMI for a grant the school received it and it is finished. It will be open to the public during evening hours once or twice a week starting in January. I will find out more about the hours later. It is a weight room and not a fitness gym. If we get enough people interested in it we might have to help with the cost of paying someone to stay. Councilman Allen said it is a very nice.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said we burned the little white house on Saturday and it went very well. We are in need of air packs so to help us decide what type of air pack we want we are going to have a basketball game, the firemen will wear the different air packs and turn outs. It should be fun. The first of the year we will start on the training manual again. Councilman Griffin asked if they have new members. Chief Payne said yes Jake Ferrin is our newest member.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods said as far as training Officer Ellsworth and Officer Williams completed their HGN training and are now certified. Next month all our Officers will be attending a defensive drivers school on the track at the Mesa PD yard. We have applied for over 30 thousand dollars from left over money from Stone Garden funds. We want to upgrade radio's, rifle plates for body armor. They did give us 2700 dollars from last year which I am going to purchase trauma packs for each vehicle. I have attended two meetings where different agencies are trying to put together an advocacy center in Graham County to where it is a one stop place to take care of victims of sex crimes. Right now they are farmed out to different agencies. They are going to come to you for ideas on how to get it started.

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Safe House- Councilwomen Martin they had a face book campaign where they won a Toyota Prius to help them transport their people around. They were able to open their endowment fund thanks in part to our \$5000 donation. They have a Christmas Angel like thing where they hang ornaments on the rail out front for people to take and help. They are always in need of food donations. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in January they will have a big yard sale. Councilwomen Martin also thanked Terry and the Town employee,

Fire Department everyone pitched in and helped to make Santa in the Park a success. Some comments were it was wonderful, it was great, hope to be part of it next year, need Santa to be there longer, bringing Santa in on the helicopter was my favorite part. I received a lot of good comments.

B. Chamber of Commerce- None

C. SEAGO – Councilman Allen said it was a business meeting. The executive guy wanted some emergency powers and he was denied. Senator McCain sent a representative to the meeting saying if there we have any meeting that his office needs to be aware that would help us to let her know.

Mayor Rivera reported that he has been meeting with EAC Chairman of the Board Rick Mattice and Thatcher School Board President Preston Alder on becoming partners on a building for a civic center across from the High School or going in partners with the new middle school building for a library. Rick Mattice wanted to know if the Thatcher School was on board with it. Mr. Alder said the only concern was opening it during school hours. As far as building a civic center I asked Mr. Mattice if they would sell the land for one dollar an acre and he told me it was up to the President he would make that decision. So Terry will need to negotiate with the Vice President or President to see what they will sell the land for. As far as our meetings we all agreed that something should happen.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Griffin made motion to adjourn meeting. Councilman Allen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

#### **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 16th day of December, 2013. 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