

**MINTUES OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
February 16, 2015**

Present: Mayor Bob Rivera, Vice Mayor Aaron Allen, Councilmember's, Wayne Griffin, Ken Larson, Don Innes, Joy Martin, Ryan Rapier

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

Visitors: David Sowders, Letty Garcia and son Victor

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone calling the meeting to order at 7:00 pm stating there was a quorum. Mayor Rivera said God Bless our men and women in the armed forces and their families.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Councilman Ken Larson

Roll Call.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Liquor License for Toni's Kitchen
None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the January 19, 2015 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

Councilwomen Martin made the motion to approve the Consented 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. Decision on Toni's Kitchen Liquor License.

Terry said this is the same license they had when in The City of Safford it is also the same license that La Casita has next door to them.

Councilman Innes made motion to approve the Liquor License for Toni's Kitchen. Councilwomen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous motion passed

B. Preliminary Budget Discussion.

This year's budget has the same revenue as last year. Chief Woods just found out that he will be getting a grant for body cameras in the amount of about 37 thousand. I had those in this budget so that will be used somewhere else. The actual budget is down by 3% from last year and overall budget is down 8%. The police department will be getting rifle body armor vest, they will need two patrol cars and upgrade the simunition equipment. We will also have to upgrade to the County's radio system about 5 thousand, replace some of our older rifles and give funds for the maintenance on the range that we use for qualification and training. Animal control and dispatching might change because we don't have the figures yet. The landfill fees will probably increase this year. I have put in 40 thousand for park improvement for the neighborhood parks. I would like to purchase a used dump truck which is getting older and not big enough also an excavator that all departments can use. The salary base adjustment is 3.5% and the merit increase is in the budget. Heath, Tommy and myself looked at the streets and have listed those how we see the need. We could get more Hurf money so maybe we can fog coat at least six of the streets. Councilman Rapier asked about street lights. Terry said that would be in the maintenance budget and that could be done if the power is available. Councilman Griffin asked if the base fee on electric would have to go up this year. Terry said KR Saline is still working on that but I don't believe it will. Attorney Clifford asked after what happen in Morenci will there need to be further training for our police officers and does that need to go into budget? Chief Woods said we maintain a higher level of training. I believe more training will be in Town for all agency so that will help our budget plus Az Post give us fund each year for training. Terry said again this budget is similar to last years.

C. March meeting date.

Terry said I had an inquiry from Council about the meeting next month being on the first day of the spring break I was wondering how many would be gone. Councilman Innes and Councilwomen Martin said they would not be in town. It was decided to hold the Council Meeting on March 23rd.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report:

Terry said the water line project is about 1400 ft of pipe in the trench from the sewer treatment up to where it starts underground and it is bracketed down. We

are ordering for it now so when we are ready we can start working. We have about 3 to 4 weeks to finish Riverwalk. Then we will start on the water lines again. I think we will get the grass laid in time for this coming season. The grass will only be in the out fields. Councilman Griffin asked for the future what would it cost to have a new or improved concession stand I know it will be long term. Terry said about a 2 to 3 hundred thousand project. Heath said if we can do it ourselves it would be half that price. Terry said the ball fields will have at each dug out an additional 2 sets of bleachers. In the budget I would like for you to look at the street suggestions. The only thing that is not on there that I would probably add to that is to chip seal Bauer Ave.

B. Fire Department Report.

Mike Terry talked about air packs we are comparing the bids. We have 3 house burns. This Saturday February 21st the apartment behind the PLS will be burned. I have Safford and Pima commented to come and help and maybe Clifton & Morenci. On March the 28st we will burn the PLS Building and the end May after college is out the Jorgenson house. The College is going to make that area into parking lots. Last Saturday night was the dinner in honor of the Emergency Responders fire and police at the VFW. We had Raul Alaniz as the Fire Fighter of the year.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods said they did the Spillman Evidence Module training last week. The DUI van is back and in the parking lot if you would like to look at it. United Way gave us around 38 thousand dollars for the body camera. That will be enough money for 3 years. That includes the camera, software, warranties and storage. We will order them as soon as they can. Taser is the one we decided to purchase mainly because of the storage. At the end of 3 years they will refresh our camera or basically a new camera. At the end of three years we will evaluate the system and decide what to do. Terry said this should save us money because we had to buy 2 servers just to hold all their pictures. Chief Woods said across the county officers are getting body camera's I believe they are needed. We received a grant through The 100 Club for the rifle plates. We do not have a swat team so we believe these rifle plates are necessary for our officers. We also participated in the Emergency Responders firefighters and police dinner and Detective Steven Carter and Detective Kendall Curtis received our Officers of the Year. As a result of the Morenci incident we did give an invitation for extra training on the range if anyone wants it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Safe House- Councilwomen Martin said the next meeting will be March 10th.

B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Innes said he missed the meeting but was told that The Lone Star mine is will be coming in the year 2017and will have about 500 employees.

C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera said he attend a Strategic Planning meeting. We pay due to SEAGO so we asked them were are funds go and what it is used for. We asked to

have it split down so we could look that information. They are going to do that for Graham, Cochise, Greenlee Counties and Santa Cruz. Next Friday February 27th will be our next meeting.

- D. Training Report.
None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Innes made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Mayor Allen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm

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 16th day of February, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk