

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
March 23, 2015**

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

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

Absent: Councilman Don Innes

Visitors: David Sowders

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 men and women in the armored forces where ever they are at around the world expressing those in harm's way. God Bless our first responders the police and fire. God Bless Town of Thatcher and the United States of America. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Councilwomen Martin

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the February 16, 2015 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. Vice Mayor Allen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. 2014/2015 Preliminary Budget Discussion.

Terry said I have given you a copy of final proposed budget. We have the figures from the State to put the revenues in, made the adjustments for the insurance and retirement. The biggest change is in the Police Department Retirement there is an increase of 65,000.00 due to the increase from 31.85% to 40.48% which is

the Town's portion to pay. The Elected Official's rate stayed the same and the ASRS went from 11.65 % to 11.47%. The budget is balanced not taking anything out of fund balance. We are paying our debit service for building and ladder truck. There is another 40 thousand in there for parks, 2 police cars, a replacement pickup truck, a small backhoe, a 10 wheel dump truck, an upgrade for the GPS equipment, upgrade on simunitions equipment, rifle body armor plates, replacement of old rifles. We are not looking at any rate increase this year. Sanitation is still being subsidized by the general fund of about 25 thousand, the sewer and the electric are in the black. The actual budget is down by 2% from last year that is because of the money we put in on the Splash Park and the overall budget is down 8%. Councilwomen Martin asked if the 40 thousand was enough to cover the neighbor parks. Answer was yes. We don't have land at Quail Ridge yet but we do on the location on 1st Ave. Councilman Larson asked about the COOP purchase. We have worked out most of the details as to how it will work. It is the hands of the consultants for the numbers and making it work for both entities. I hope to have that soon. There are three different options. 1) We make the deal and pay them for wheeling the power and maintaining the wires and we keep the customers. 2) We purchase the system and operate it ourselves paying them for wheeling which we pay right now. 3) We do nothing and keep the system the way it is. Council will make the decision as to which way we go. Councilwomen Martin asked if they were going to have a separate work session or come back with questions. Terry said he would like them to come with question but that is a Council call. There is an item on the budget for 25,000.00 for economic development in case the Gila Valley Economic Development Corporation gets off the ground. The Board of Directors has been formed and they have had some meetings. Councilwomen asked if this money is used for travel. Terry said no it is for actual operations of the corporation like someone being hired to work on development. Their goal is to get more base jobs industry not retail. They feel if you get the jobs available then retail will come on its own. Councilman Rapier asked about the concession stand and if it would be in the budget. Terry said that is not a big thing we are already working on getting ideas and cost. It might be taken out of that 40 thousand park budget. Heath said for a new structure and we do the work 15 thousand. Terry said that will be done next year.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

A. Proclamation "Purple Heart Country"

Mayor Rivera said he was invited by the Board of Director along with Safford and Pima. There is an organization called the Purple Heart asking for support from all of us. Mayor Rivera read the proclamation. Mayor Rivera said the County had 2 people at the meeting who had received the Purple Heart. I mentioned my Uncle who was killed two months before World War II ended. The Purple Heart and cast flag along with letter from the President was given to me. I display that flag on special days especially on Feb 21st the day he was killed. I know that many of us have people who were killed in wars and we should honor them.

B. Proclamation "Fair Housing Month"

Mayor Rivera said we The Town of Thatcher are declaring the month of March to be Fair Housing Month.

C. Bid Award for Fire Department Air Packs

Terry said we received two bids. MSA is \$238,144.00 and Avon \$232,895.60. The MSA bid is more however the department took both packs and worn and tested the Air Packets. After the evaluation the Fire Department would recommend MSA. The MSA straps are in the same area of the packets they currently use, it is more comfortable has an adjustable lumbar pad and it is 4 lbs lighter. The mask fits better and you have a better view to the ground. The MSA pack has a speaker that is clearer and easier to communicate. Councilwomen Martin so are we going to pay the balance. Terry said they had a meeting with Jackson Heights District and they are going to pay the balance after the Grant money is used.

Councilman Rapier made motion to approve bid award of 238,144.00 from MSA. Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed.

D. **RESOLUTION NO. 626-2015:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE SEMPRA POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT.

Terry said in 2011 Council voted to become a member of SPPA. We went into a contract with Sempra to purchase power from the Mesquite generating station that they owned. Sempra has chosen to sell their interest in the power plant to ArcLight Capital Partners, LLC. It comes down to us allowing Sempra to transfer our purchase power agreement to ArcLight who will be the owner of the Mesquite Generating Station. Terry said it won't change the cost of power to Thatcher.

Vice Mayor Allen made motion to approve Resolution No 626-2015 authorizing execution of various documents related to the signing of the Sempa Power Purchase Agreement. Councilwomen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous - Motion passed

E. Cell Tower Lease Amendments.

Terry said AT&T has proposed to ad Verizon to the cell tower on 8th Ave and canal. For them to be able to do that they will need 516 more square ft. The monthly fee is now \$950 and will add \$450 a month to that fee. Attorney Clifford has looked at the agreement.

Councilwomen Martin made motion to approve cell tower lease amendment. Councilman Rapier seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

F. Bid Award for Splash Park/Ball Field grass.

Terry said we received four bids. The low bid was Southwest Sod of \$42,049.70 and then Curtis Landscape of \$42,195.97. One is a Casa Grande business and the other a Safford business. Councilwomen Martin asked if we were obligated to the low bid. Terry said it is to the best bid. Mayor Rivera said I believe the best would be Curtis Landscape they are here if we need anything. Town crew will install the grass.

Councilwomen Martin made motion to approve the bid of \$42,195.97 from Curtis Landscape & Irrigation, Inc. Councilman Larson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Motion passed

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report.

Terry said you might want to look at Porter Lane to Riverwalk it turned out real nice. We poured the pads for pump house today. Tomorrow morning we will be crossing the road with the water line at Reay Lane and Ball Park. We hope to install sprinklers next Monday. The contractor has most of the pipe underground. We won't lay the sod until we know we can water it. Terry said the Splash Pad is being turned on and getting the chemical balanced so I believe it will be open next Monday for kids to play in the water. The times open will be the same as last year 8:00am and off at 8:00pm Monday through Saturday. We have 2 crews working on the weeds. Gary will be going out and checking residents and sending clean up letters. We are in the process of street light in the Eagle Meadows Subdivision. The poles are on order and only one person left to talk with about the 2 locations we chose to place them because there is power there.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne we had a drill with FMI where we had to send up a fire truck. They had a mock drill where a loaded truck wrecked and hit an acid line which broke and had acid spraying all over. This Saturday we will burn the PLS building which Safford and Pima will help. Then May 16th the Jorgenson house will be done. We purchased a simulator that takes pictures of any building in the community and put smoke or fire in the picture even showing the change the wind direction to give us the understanding of how to make calls and what precision to place our equipment.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods said our detectives along with other officers from the Task Force served a search warrant and seized 48 grams of meth. They were also involved in assisting Willcox PD and Cochise County on stolen property and weapons transferring which were brought to the valley. Several thousand dollars of stolen items were recovered. We had a car hit a pedestrian on 8th Street which received head injuries. We finished our annual fire arms qualification. Sergeant West will be going to basic supervision training at Az Post. We will be attending our body cam training next Tuesday. We submitted a grant to GOHS for 30 thousand for DUI overtime and radars. This Saturday the Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition and the Sadd group will be hosting a program here at the Reay Lane

Park on the dangers of drugs and alcohol. It is target is the age group of Junior High kids. It starts at 5:30 to 7:00 and after presentation they will have a movie in the park. Council asked Chief Woods question about the body camera , who can delete, what can be deleted , is it going to put burden on the Officers when are they used. Chief Wood said it is a work in progress but policy is pretty standard. I think it protects us from liability.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Safe House – Councilwomen Martin couple of fund raisers one being the Golf Tournament in York Valley. It is \$50 a person and you do not have to have team the will place you. That will include lunch it is on Saturday April 4th. There will be a Circus in the Bashes’ parking lot on April 17th there will be two shows that night. The tickets are \$10 adults and \$6 per kids. Proceeds go to the Safe House.
- B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Rapier said he attended and there was nothing to report.
- C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera said he could not attend the last meeting. Mayor said he received an invitation to the Canyon Vista Medical Center opening on April 10th in Sierra Vista from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. If any of you would like to attend contact Lona to RSVP. Heath said he attended a SEAGO meeting and we received an additional 350 thousand for the special transportation funds to help pay for right away cost for the Church Street project. Money can be used for consultant fees, designing, and right way cost. A total of 950 thousand dollars.
- D. Training Report - None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Griffin made motion to adjourn meeting with a second from Vice Mayor Allen. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

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 this 23rd day of March, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk