

Unapproved Minutes
MINUTES OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
April 20, 2015

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

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

Visitors: Matt Bingham, Ted Prina, Royce Hunt, Shirley Turner Chaplin, Sam Crandall, Scout Troop # 5091

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, God Bless our first responders the police and fire, God Bless the Town of Thatcher and the United States of America.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Councilman Innes

Roll Call.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Liquor License for Giant Store 632

None

B. Liquor License for Giant Store 902

None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

Mayor Rivera welcomed the Scout Troop and asked them to introduce themselves. Sam Crandall (leader) said they were Troop # 5091 working on Citizenship, Gavin Bryce, Brick Skouelson , Aaron Hatch, Ammon Hatch, Nathan Troyer. Mayor said if you have questions please ask.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

A. SEACUS presentation – Royce Hunt

Ms. Hunt said they would like Council to know who we are and what we do. Seacus was founded in 1978 because of the need after the flood. In the 80's we became ARCH's and then in 1992 we became Seacus. We work under four pillars 1) We actively seek for opportunities to keep our active senior people active. 2) Support our care giving family one way is have our people go in the home and give them a 3 to 5 hours block a week so they can step away for a while, educate, home repairs etc. 3) We advocate for senior's we have a lot of

people at home and the valley has a lot of predators so we work with the police in keeping them safe and not taken advantage of, we advocate for them for services like Medicare, counseling to family members. 4) We go directly in the home for services like light housekeeping, personal care, shopping, food prep and meals on wheels. We deliver 85 meals in Graham County. Our funding source is Seago which is 51%, we have a contract with Arizona Long Term Care, private pay and local donators and grant funds. With budget cuts we are not able to meet the needs of everyone in the valley. Mayor Rivera said a large portion of our dues to Seago goes to Seacus I appreciate Ms. Hunt explaining what they do us our citizens.

B. SE Arizona Memory Disease Support Services – Frank Granberg

Frank Granberg said this is the newest business in Thatcher we started March 5, 2015 and are office is located at 2910 W Hwy 70. We are unfunded at this point and applying for our 501C application tomorrow. We formed primarily to ease the problem caused by Dementia a fatal disease which is the 4th leading cause of death. The life span is 9 years but with medication and the right care at home they live 15 to 20 years. It is costing families to care for them 215 billion dollars. We are the helping hands for Seacus who help families with Alzheimer and Dementia. We want to help those families with education, information, help along with making our communities aware of the problem. In the last decade the number of deaths to heart disease and cancer is down by 40% and Alzheimer's is up 67%. We are here to help the community. Mayor Rivera asked how many staff members and Mr. Granberg said they have a Board of nine members from Graham and Greenlee County. We partner with Seacus and an Alzheimer Support Group who have activities at the Main Street Cafe' for caregivers and the patient. Thank you for giving me this time.

C. ACFGV – Ted Prina

Ted Prina stood and said he was here to talk about the endowment fund for Arizona Community Foundation of the Gila Valley who help support Seacus and Alzheimer Association. We have four major community funds which take care of our Non Profit Organization which are City of Safford fund, Graham County fund, Greenlee County fund and the Town of Thatcher fund. The Town of Thatcher started giving money to the Foundation in 2001. Since 1997 we have given 340 thousand dollars in grants to nonprofit organizations through these funds. We are a local advisory board it is all local money. The Thatcher fund started with 20 thousand the value of fund now is over 80 thousand and as to date have given 27 thousand in grants. Each year Town of Thatcher gives 5000. I have an uncle who recently passed away his Estate gave 1.8 million to scholarship money to Thatcher, Pima and Ft Thomas schools. It is given through matching funds as soon as the school put up the 25 thousand then the scholarship fund will give them 25 thousand so a total of 50,000 will be available for those students. We would encourage people to give back to the community. Shirley Chaplin was introduced as being with the Foundation since 1997 she explained how she loves being able to help the elderly and young people through these nonprofit organizations. I like helping people and volunteering. The Arizona Community Foundation gives to these nonprofit organizations.

- A. Approve minutes of the March 23, 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 consent agenda. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action.

- A. 2015/2016 Tentative Budget.

Terry said we have worked on this for several months. The only change is in the electric utility being more due to if Council chooses to take over the electric line which would happen in January 2016. The expenditure limitation may not let us do that until we address that issue. We can look at two options a permanent base adjustment or a Home Rule option. The Home Rule option allows the Council to set the budget each year however after four years you have to have an election. The permanent base is what we have now and would have to raise the limit with only one time to raise the limit. I need to see what the earliest time we could have an election. I will know more in about 2 weeks when we have meet with Graham County and consultants. The consultants will then come and explain everything to see what Council would like to do. As far as the budget goes only a few more dollars were given to Hurf funds. Staff would like this to be the tentative budget which means we can go down but not up in budget figures. Terry said that if we take the added electrical lines that will increase the budget by 9% instead of the decrease by 2% which we had looked at before.

Councilman Griffin made motion to approve the 2015-2016 Tentative Budget. Councilman Innes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Decision on Giant Store 632 Liquor License.

Terry explained this is a change of ownership and name.

Councilwomen Martin made motion to approve Liquor License for Giant Store 632. Councilman Rapier seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

- B. Decision on Giant Store 902 Liquor License.

Councilwomen Martin made motion to approve Liquor License for Giant Store

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

C. 2013/2014 Audit.

Matt Bingham said he is with the certified public accounting firm of Colby and Powell LLC and would like to thank Council for the opportunity of completing the audit this year. I would also like to congratulate Council on the financial condition of the Town. As of June 2014 the town had 12 million dollars in cash available and increased the net position of over a million dollars. Not a lot of towns are in that position. As part of our audit we issued four reports or letters. The first is the audit of the financial statements. In that report we give opinion units. The opinion units are general fund, electrical funds, grant funds, sewer fund etc. There is a clean opinion on all those units. The audit reports states our responsibilities and your responsibilities. We use two set of standard generally accepted and government standards. These are the standards used by any certified public accountant in the State of Arizona. There are two new accounting pronouncements one went into effect June 2014 GASB 65. On your financial statement it shows a deferred inflow of recourses. They aren't liability or assets it unavailable revenue. What happen is if you didn't receive the revenue within 60 of June 30th then it becomes unavailable revenue. The other change will take effect June 2015 called GASB 68 and is related to pension liability. Up until this year pension liabilities have been there but not on the. Now you will need to show the liabilities for Public Safety, Elected Official and Arizona State Retirement. Terry said the big hit will be Public Safety Retirement of 3.36 million dollars. I have talked to the Chairman of Committee who has been working this and Matt Clifford we think rather than pay by the month we pay all in June save us interest. The Arizona Retirement and Elected Officials are in better condition. Mr. Bingham said in that letter we also report deficiency on internal control. These are things you don't have to change. We gave you three internal control findings one has been there for years we have talked about it before the other was payroll liabilities. That is related to your software Caselle so before we left we got Caselle on the phone so that should be good next year. The final one was on capital assess this came about when the town would receive infrastructure, streets, sidewalks but it was hard to show in our financial reports. We talked with Heath on how he can report those so we can pick that kind of thing up. Mayor Rivera asked how would you grade us to other communities are size. Matt said I use you as the good example. You are at the top of list we audit about 17 municipalities. Mayor Rivera thanked Matt for coming.

D. **RESOLUTION 627-2015:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, PERTAINING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN ARIZONA'S 2016 HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN.

Terry said we need this Resolution in order to get the Grant that Chief Woods has submitted.

Councilman Innes made motion to approve Resolution 627-2015. Vice Mayor Allen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

- E. **RESOLUTION NO. 628-2015:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO AMEND AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ARIZONA FOR CHURCH STREET WIDENING.

Terry explained the original budget on the Church Street project was 174 thousand for right a way acquisition. They changed that figure to 500 thousand. There were funds within Seago that needed to be obligated so they are giving us an extra 300 plus thousand dollars. Heath said there is a lot of legal work that is required I was going to do it in house but with this I won't so it will be cleaner. Vice Mayor Allen asked when it says street widening will people lose their yards. Terry said no. Heath said widening of the street mean the pavement will go up to the sidewalk. Terry said the foot print will remain the same as it is now. The power poles will be inside of the sidewalk.

Councilwomen Martin made motion to approve Resolution No 628-2015. Councilman Rapier seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report:

The splash pad ready for grass, two of the field are mulched. We should have water by Wednesday and the grass will be here for Tuesday. We worked Friday and maybe again this Friday. There will be no practice on the fields for three weeks until the grass is established. We have hauled in dirt for the infields and we have a fence to put back up on the south side. The storage containers are there for storage of baseball equipment and park equipment and enough space for a small office. The first game will be May 26th. It will be hard for the teams to find a place to practice. We are also going to relamp all the lights before the season starts. We are planning to bring the concession stand down to ground level when we start working on it after the ball season. It will be 40x15 with two restrooms and the concession stand. After we finish with the ball fields we plan on going to Daley Estates Park and put up the shade structure. Councilman Innes we talked about turning that retention area into a lake is that still a possible? Terry said yes it is. Councilman Innes asked if there are plans for another splash pad at Daley Estates. Terry said yes but we have rubber flooring at the Reay Lane Park and the Neighbor Parks that will be done first. Councilwomen Martin asked about the multi use rec center with Thatcher

Schools. Terry said we had a meeting with their architect and they gave us the higher end cost and we are looking for less. We will have another committee meeting in two weeks and present all of that information. Councilman Innes said he talked with Preston about the new Jr. High School Library, he said it had fallen on the back burner. Preston said he would get a group together and get it started again probably start up in the summer. Terry said the weight room was being opened by Coach Jefferies and his last day will be April 23rd.

B. Fire Department Report.

March 28th we had a practice burn on the PLS building it went very well. Safford and Pima also attended. Tomorrow we will be doing fit testing for the air packets. The Ladder Truck was tested last week and there will be pump testing in the next 2 weeks. Dump the Drugs Day is this Saturday at Home Depot and they asked for the Ladder Truck to be there. The good news is ISO classification came back and we moved from Class 4 to Class 3 which is an increase. It says a lot about our fireman and our Council for giving us the help and equipment to make it work. The District was moved from a 8E to a 3Y, that is areas that don't have hydrants. When they gave us a Class 3 rating then it says that we should have the equipment and man power to take care of the fires in those areas. This should be published next month so if your insurance goes by the ISO rating the rates should go down. Mayor Rivera asked Chief Payne to congratulate all firemen.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods the United Way Grant body cameras are in and we are trained. The Az Post completed our training audit we are all good there. Our detectives were able to work with the Drug Task Force on the theft of a welder on trailer costing about 5 thousand dollars. Through that search warrant we were able to recover the welder and 42.3 grams of Meth, 4,971.00 in cash, a gram of marijuana , 2 stolen ATV's , 14 guns 3 were stolen. We have officers participating in the DUI Task Force on the Cinco de Mayo week end. Tomorrow Chandler PD and the FBI will be in Safford doing a child abduction response training. We will also at the Dump the Drugs this Saturday at Home Depot. The Special Olympics will be May 1st at Safford Fire Department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Safe House- Councilwomen Martin the meeting will be later this week.
- B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Innes said they will meet tomorrow at noon. I am only invited to meetings once a quarter. Councilman Rapiet said the Chamber let their CEO go and they also lost bed tax money so they are in disarray at the moment.
- C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera had nothing to report.
- D. Training Report. Heath said in 2 weeks he will attend the annual Arizona Floodplain Management training. Mayor Rivera also said in a couple of weeks Council will be receive the manager's evaluation which you will need to complete and return them back to me. It will be from June 2014 to May 2015. Councilman Innes said the

Relay for Life will be the first week-end of May. My grandson is a cancer survivor and they have the theme around him this year and he gets to talk. He is only five so we will see how that goes.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Innes made motion to adjourn meeting with a second from Vice Mayor Allen. Meeting adjourned at 8: 42pm.

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 20th day of April, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk