

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
August 24, 2015**

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

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

Absent: Wayne Griffin

Visitors: Laura Rogers, Mayor Chris Gibbs, Joe Goodman, David Sowders, Brian McBride, Michael McBride,

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order. Mayor Rivera said God Bless the men and women in the armed forces the first responders fire and police God Bless Town of Thatcher and the United States of America.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Councilwomen Joy Martin

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

A. Transportation Advisory Counsel and Transit Feasibility Study – Laura Rogers

Laura Rogers stood and said the Transportation Advisory Counsel has had public meeting which included Safford, Thatcher and Pima. A lot of work has been done to get to this point and as a result have determined with the feasibility study there is a need for public transportation. So that is why we are here tonight to see if you want to go on to Phase 2. The five governing bodies who are the financial stability for this project are City of Safford, Graham County, Town of Thatcher, Town of Pima and Eastern Arizona College. Presently for transportation we have San Carlos Tribe who makes 3 round trips a day, Greyhound will be coming back after Oct 1st going from El Paso to Phoenix making a number of stops. Specialized transportation is dial a ride from SEACAP which helps elderly and people with disabilities, there is the Blake Foundation, Safe House and wellness and SEABHS who help their clients. It is estimated that in Graham County there are about 8300 low income people without vehicles or licenses, we have 3500 college students and 420 without vehicles, older adults 4500, persons with disabilities 4700. So yes we have a need for public transportation. Rural communities grow 11% faster than those who do not have public transportation. Other positive things will be more retail spending, education and job training, health care, and the transportation system itself will provide jobs. The Counsel decided that the Community service route plus dial a ride would be the best plan. The route would be the fixed route from Solomon to Pima and the dial a ride for those out of the fixed route. The fixed route will be operated by a single bus plus the dial a ride. The cost for dial a ride is usually 2 dollars one way, the fixed ride will be 1 dollar. The main bus will have 3 trips a day. Vice Mayor Allen asked out of the 8300 numbers and the 4500 of the older population how many of those have Medicare and Medicaid. I think we are talking about another

subsidized layer of government. We are just adding more tax dollars to the other citizens. Councilwomen Martin said I can't see elderly people walking to get a ride, Laura said that is why the dial a ride is available. A number of questions were asked one was the cost to our town. Laura said it is based on population the estimated total cost would be \$109,000.00 and our part would be \$21,800 for the first year and then would go up each year because of more usage, routes, adding buses, maintenance, management cost to run the buses etc. The first year is cash and the years after can have in-kind which is maintenance, administration etc. The grant pays 80% you (or the group) pay 20%. Graham County and EAC have not heard the presentation yet, Town of Pima and City of Safford have agreed to go on to phase two. All five entities have to agree before it can go on to phrase two which is to gather more information and better figures.

B. Recycling program discussion.

Terry said that Safford has already decided to recycle and their residents will get blue cans soon. Terry we have talked with the same contractor that City of Safford has contracted with and I think we should see how it works for Safford. There is a \$3.00 container fee each month and the bin fee of \$6.25 which will be keep at the landfill and taken to Phoenix when full. There could be a fee if the items are not put in the bins correctly. They will credit us per ton for what is taken. Mayor Gibbs said we are not thinking it will cover the \$3.00 charge. We need to do something to expand the life of the land fill. It will cost anywhere from 15 to 17 million dollars to get a new one. Plastic takes up a lot of space we have a study that says 45% being dumped is recyclables. Terry said the person over the Friedman Recycling Company could not come to this meeting I don't think it would hurt us to wait and see how Safford's contract works out. Mayor Gibbs said the contract is for 1 year. Mt Graham is getting out of recycling because it doesn't pay for itself. Terry said trash is only department that doesn't break even.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the July 20, 2015 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion, consideration and possible action

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Transit program decision.

Councilman Innes made the motion to approve moving on to Phase Two of the Transit Program. Councilman Rapier seconded the motion. The vote was 2 nays Vice Mayor

Allen and Councilwomen Martin and 4 ayes Mayor Rivera, Councilman Innes, Larson and Rapier. Motion passed

- B. Recycling program discussion.

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report.

Terry said the Community Park on 1st Ave should be finished this week with the play ground equipment and benches in then they will start on the Town Hall project again. The concession stand will be next in line it has been torn out. On the 19th of next month there will be a one day girl's softball tournament. These are local high school girls some of the teams playing will be Tucson, Benson, Willcox, and Morenci. They will be using two of our fields. We had some flood repairs on Riverwalk with a cement notched ditch put the water in some front yards so we will fix that. I gave you a picture of a roundabout out at the intersection by the Daley Stop for next year's budget hoping to maybe get ADOT Safety money. On Sept. 10th there will be a public meeting about the skate park. The designers will be here to look at the site and the public meeting will be for input. Councilman Rapier asked about lighting for walking path? Terry said we are still looking but most of the areas don't have power lines. Heath said the cost for solar would be about 15 thousand a light.

- B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said that three firemen going to Fire School for rope rescue so we got with search and rescue and the mine to learn how to do that type of rescue they have enjoyed learning about it. The State Fire School is the 2nd week in September we have 11 guys going. We will be testing the hose on each truck a yearly requirement.

- C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods said school is back in session so we are seeing more traffic. There was an accident with a school bus on 8th Street so the County Sheriff department did the investigation. Last month there was a fund raiser for the Substance Abuse Collations held at the Safeway shopping center we took the DUI Van and did some public education. There will be a Labor Day DUI detail. As far as training last month Edwards and Gin who is the legal advisor for us and City of Safford came down and did an 8 hour legal update which included new case laws, domestic violence, per suit driving, search and secure. Sergeant West's leadership program is almost complete he will graduate on September 3rd. We received the body armor and the rifle plates 50% of that purchase was donated by the 100 Club of Arizona. The Stone Garden grant approved us for 4 infra reds that mount on a spot light to search for people by body heat it is used in an area where there is no light. Mayor Rivera asked how the body camera's are doing. Last week we had our first citizen complaint and were able to disprove the allegation because of the body camera. They are great other than a minor in convince of turning off and on, we really like them. Mayor Rivera said also when you write the letter of thank you to the 100 Club we as Council would like to sign it to show appreciation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Safe House- Councilwomen Martin we participated in a strategic planning and we meet in a couple of weeks we will review and go over that.
- B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Innes said he has not attended a meeting yet but Kurt Palmer is the new director.
- C. SEAGO –Mayor River said we have a business meeting this Friday in Clifton at 10:00am if anyone is interested.
- D. Training Report- Councilman Larson said he went to a class where they talked about what communities can do to restore and clean up messy area. Councilwomen Martin attended a class called, Can Small Towns be Cool. Talked about what other towns have done to encourage business to come using local talents, creating meet and greets for local business, ways to involve high school kids and college kids, encourage neighborhood Town Hall meetings in different areas finding out what they need. Councilman Innes I attended one on crowd funding trying to bring input to entrepreneurship bringing innovative ideas into the community. Mayor Rivera said he attended one on legalizing marijuana and all the problems it has brought from the process they have to go through to open the shops to having to use only cash and the bank won't take your money. The shops are against the Federal Law so it has caused a lot of issues. Vice Mayor Allen one class was on how you engage the entrepreneur. They spent some time with City of Safford talking about how to give incubators to local innovator a chance to test drive for a fee in an incubator situation with an entrepreneur and let them mentor them for new ideas to start up a company etc. The conference seemed to be about making more out of our towns whether to make it cool or more business. Councilman Rapier I attended the class on Entrepreneurs. The towns that are starting to succeed have a plan or vision as to where they want to go. I think as a Council we need to set down and decide where we want to be in 5 years what do we want to see happen in our town. We have accomplished some great things and we need to keep doing that. Mayor Rivera asked Terry to look at dates they could meet and have a work session.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Innes made the motion to adjourn meeting with a second from Vice Mayor Allen. The meeting adjourned at 9:11pm

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 24th day of August, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk