

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
September 21, 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, Chief Mike Payne Fire Department, Lona Duncan Town Clerk

Absent: None

Visitors: Gary Scott, Gerald Schmidt, Barbara Stailey, Walter Stradling, Isaac Jensen, Parker Hinch, Caeson Hinch, Clayton Allred, Jarod Reidhead, Craig and Jana Bloomfield

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone calling the meeting to order at 7:02pm stating there was a quorum. Mayor Rivera said God Bless the men and women in the armed forces, first responders' fire and police. Mayor Rivera asked the Boy Scout troops to stand and introduced themselves, Caden, Parker, Caeson, Clayton, Isaac, Jarod.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Vice Mayor Aaron Allen

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Anyone wishing to address the Council on an issue not on the agenda is allowed to speak at this time. Comments are limited to 5 minutes and the Council may only direct staff to study the matter, respond to criticism or schedule the matter for a future meeting.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the August 17, 2015 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report
- D. Approval of Invoices
- E. Financial Reports

Councilman Rapier made the motion to approve the 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. Electric Rate Study

Terry said that Council had requested a rate study in order to have more than one rate in order so they could pay for what they used instead of everyone paying the same when one group may be subsidizing another group. Right now

we have one rate for residential, commercial, schools, churches. Most coops have different rates. Graham County Electric and City of Safford have different rates. Councilman Griffin asked so is this for the cost of service or rate amount. Terry said it is the cost of service it cost more to service some than others. This would be a way of not having to increase the rate charge. Vice Mayor Allen asked if there was another way to get the same information maybe by looking at a community our size? Terry said maybe but I also received information on a class back in Georgia that I could attend and maybe get the same information.

Councilman Griffin made the motion to table the decision on the rate study until we get more information. Vice Mayor Allen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

B. Bid award for 2015/2016 Street Paving Projects

Terry said the bid amounts show CKC Construction being the low bid of 367,767.50. This is overlay for Stadium Ave, 3rd Ave, 2nd Street & Reay Lane. This does not include the striping we think we can do it ourselves. Councilwoman Martin asked if the chip sealing of Church Street was included. Terry said no that will start Oct 10th but is not part of this bid. Heath said about 75,000.00 of this bid is for fog sealing.

Vice Mayor Allen made the motion to approve the low bid from CKC Construction of 367,767.50. Councilman Rapier seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

C. Church Street reconstruction project.

We have inquiry from Council as to whether we can have some roundabouts on Church Street. The one we are thinking that would be possible is 3rd Ave. We are at the point in the design process to where we need to make that decision. Councilwomen Martin asked if we could wait until after the Wednesday Public Meeting so more people and neighbors could look at it and ask questions since we told them at the meeting a few months ago that we were not going to do them. Mayor Rivera said I thought there were some concerns about the traffic control on Church and this would slow it down. Terry said this would not affect anyone like the first plan was. Vice Mayor Allen said the more people that don't like it will go around it and we will have less traffic there. The neighbors that live there will get used to it. Chief Woods said since the meeting that Councilwomen mentioned we have completed studies that show the speed is not as bad as originally indicated and the crash studies show a hand full of accidents in a ten year period. Mayor Rivera asked how much a roundabout would cost. Heath said about 150 thousand more and in this case because of a change order which would involve an engineer another 25 thousand.

Councilwomen Martin made the motion to leave Church Street projection the way it is. There was no second.

Councilman Innes made motion to table the decision on the change to have a roundabout on Church Street and 3rd Ave. until the next meeting. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report.

Terry said the 1st Ave Park is almost complete an Eagle Scout project will be planting the trees and scrubs. The town street crew will move to Town Hall and put in pavers, wall, trees and benches. After that they will start on the concession stand. Then staff is expecting to go to skate park next. There was a public meeting for the skate park it was well attended we talked to designers. Then they will work on shade at Daley Estate Park. Any of these can change if you would like. During Christmas break we will work on the sidewalk between College Ave and Church Street between the nursing home. The college has given us five feet to move that back in. Then during the summer we are putting a drain in by middle school to catch the water coming from new school, gym, parking lot to go into the lower areas of the football field. A reminder that on Wednesday at 6:30pm in the General Service building there is a Water Conservation Ordinance joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors, Safford, Pima, Thatcher Councils.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne was called out after meeting started. No report

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods said they were going to community events this Saturday from 10 to 2 will be the National Take Back Day for prescription drugs. Then on Oct 6th the Fire Department will have their Open House and we will have the DUI Van an officer and the cop cars for the kids. On Oct 24th the City of Safford is putting together a Community Organized Resource Event and asked us to bring the DUI Van and answer questions the public might have. Our detectives have being working with the Drug Task Force and this month they had three search warrants and today they seized 217 adult marijuana plants. They also worked with US Marshall in Operation Southern Star on an annual warrant round up. They made 19 arrests in Graham County. Information on grants from GOHs we will receive 22 thousand dollars for overtime and money to buy two radars for our cars.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Safe House- Councilwoman Martin said the meeting is tomorrow.
- B. Chamber of Commerce- Councilman Innes had nothing to report
- C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera had nothing to report.
- D. Training Report- none

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Innes made motion to adjourn meeting. Vice Mayor Allen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 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 this 21st day of September, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk