

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
November 16, 2015**

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

Absent:

Visitors: David Sowders, JR Maner and Kalli Maner

AGENDA

Mayor Rivera welcomed everyone calling meeting to order at 7:00pm stating there was a quorum. Mayor Rivera said on behalf of this Council would like to pray that God Bless the Men and Women in the armed forces, our first responders police and fire the Town of Thatcher and United States of America. Chief Woods introduced our new Police Officer J R Maner and his wife Kalli Maner. Chief said this was his first day at work coming from the Graham County Sheriff Department. We would like to welcome him.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Councilman Ryan Rapier

Roll Call.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Action Item

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

Councilman Griffin made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Council 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. **RESOLUTION NO. 644-2015:** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ARIZONA MUTUAL AID COMPACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF THATCHER ("TOWN") AND THOSE PARTICIPATING PUBLIC AGENCIES AND

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE COMPACT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST.

Terry said the first time we signed this agreement with the State of Arizona was in 2011 this is a revision allowing everyone within the State that has signed it can give or receive assistance. This agreement clearly states that each agency is responsible for their own employees and volunteers. This is for public agencies.

Councilman Rapier made the motion to approve Resolution No. 644-2015. Councilwomen Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed

B. Town Goal Discussion.

Terry was asked to report on what had been accomplished this year. The street overlay projects will begin which will include the Reay Lane, Stadium, 3rd Ave and a piece of 1st Ave. Other projects were 1st Ave Park, City Hall front area, working on concession stand, EAC sidewalks on College Ave., Skateboard Park, shade at Daley Estates Park. Next budget street reconstruct of Hoopes Ave and a round a about the intersection by Daley Stop Store. Councilman Rapier brought up Church Street and putting the power lines underground. Terry explained the costs of putting the lines underground and explained that the Town could not pay for the homeowners connections from our side up to their homes. A lot of panel upgrading and lines will have to be done for some homeowners. They could go into an Improvement District which would require 51% of the homeowners agreeing. I believe when we looked at this before the cost for each owner would be around \$5000. It is private land and the Town can not legally pay for anything on private land. The Towns portion of going underground will be about \$400,000. A survey being sent to the home owners was suggested to see how they feel about paying that extra cost and then they would talk more about if it will be done. Councilman Rapier also asked about the Community Center do we need one, do we want to partner with the school, what do we want? Terry said the last talk we had with school was they were going to give us the land for use of class rooms. We were going to have a athletic facility along with class rooms for crafts ,classes and meetings. Councilman Rapier asked the cost and the answer was about 4 million and phrase in other things like a Little Theatre later. Terry said it is really in the preliminary stage nothing has been decided. Councilman Rapier said my goal is to make sure that three years down the road we are not in the same place as we are tonight. It was agreed that the communication with the school should start again. If nothing happens with the school we will look at our own land or making a purchase. Councilman Rapier said the other item is growth in Thatcher and how we can become more attractive as a town to retail. Maybe purchase more land for future growth we have a very nice facility at the Splash Pad, Ball Park, Skate Park we need to keep go. There is land across from the Ball Park ,if the land became available do we want to purchase? What options can we look at? Terry said retail usually comes based on roof tops or how many people we have. Terry said in the past we have improved road ways like stop light opening at Wal Wart, the Bauer road so if there is development we would be prepared. Looking at different pieces of land is something that Council can look at. We have changed some of our zoning so that growth will be able to come. Councilwomen Martin ask about creating a Thatcher Soccer League. It was bought up that we don't have enough fields at this point and do we have enough kids interested. The idea of asking the Town of Pima if we could join them and using some of our fields or joining the Ayso was talked

about. Terry was asked to check with both parties and see if they would be interested in Thatcher joining them. Councilman Martin also said she would like to see more social media like having the meeting posted on face book, and having the Council Meeting recorded or video. The questions brought up were, will anyone watch it, the reason for a public meeting is for interaction, if just a recording no need, when lived in Gilbert I did watch the meeting, if people don't have time to come in will they watch it. Councilwomen Martin said she would check into the different options. Councilman Griffin said our long term goal of sidewalks to be on every street needs to be looked at again. Some streets don't even have one sidewalk. Councilman Innes asked about if the lake idea is still being thought about and a swimming pool. Terry said yes I think the lake would be a good place for swimming and the swimming pool would be part of the Community Center.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report.

Terry said there will be more improvement on the 1st Ave Park but we just put on light shields. Our sales tax revenue is down 8%. I believe some of it is because Freeport stock and copper is down people are spending less. I think we will still meet our projected budget. We are working on the concession stand.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne said all air packets and parts are in and are in service. We donated twelve of our old air packs to the Town of Duncan and four to Graham County Electric. We had a live fire training exercise at the Safford Training Center. Tomorrow a company called Bullex that have simulators are going to give a demonstration at the house on 8th and Church. The light parade will be Dec 5th in Safford , Santa in the Park will be Dec. 12th. We have a driving drill on Dec 15th.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods over the month we have been working with the schools with lock down drills. We will be over at the Elementary school this week talking with staff. We received our approval letter from GOHS grants that was \$ 20,925.00 includes two radar units for patrol cars and we received \$4200.00 for the 100 Club for rifle purchase. We will have DUI patrols out during the holidays.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Safe House- Councilwomen Martin said they had a community event called Color the Night Purple to get more awareness out to public. Thanks to our fire department for putting the large flag up and helping.

B. Chamber of Commerce – Councilman Rapier they are moving in the direction of getting a new board and director. The meeting we had was not well attended. Until we get the question answered from the business people, what do they want to see from the Chamber we will not know what direction to go.

C. SEAGO- Mayor Rivera said he has a meeting in Nogales this Friday.

D. Training Report- None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Innes made motion to adjourn meeting with a second by Councilman Griffin vote was unanimous meeting adjourn at 9:20pm.

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

Lona Duncan, Town Clerk