

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

### NOTICE OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL May 10, 2016

Council members present: Mayor Bob Rivera, Vice Mayor Aaron Allen, Councilman Wayne Griffin, Councilman Ken Larson, Councilman Ryan Rapier, Councilwoman Joy Martin, Councilman Don Innes

Staff present: Town manager Terry Hinton, Town Engineer Heath Brown, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, Fire Chief Mike Payne, Town Attorney Matt Clifford, Deputy Clerk Michelle Mortensen

Visitors: John Howard, Alma Flores

1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:00 p.m. and he noted that a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Larson.

3. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

A. Liquor License for Safford Mt. Graham Golf Course (Series 5).

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Action Item

A. Approve minutes of the April 18, 2016 regular Council Meeting.

B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.

C. Police Monthly Report.

D. Approval of Invoices.

E. **Financial Reports.**

**Councilwoman Martin voted to approve the consent agenda and was seconded by Councilman Griffin. Motion carries unanimously.**

5. **OLD BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action

6. **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action

A. Mt. Graham Golf Course Liquor License approval/disapproval.

This is the same kind of license they had before. Councilman Griffin asked what a series 5 license included; the answer was hard liquor and beer. Councilwoman Martin moved to approve the Mt. Graham Golf Course liquor license and it was seconded by Councilman Rapier. Motion carries unanimously.

7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

A. Town Manager's Report:

Concession stand is about 2 weeks out with the ramp and one more pour to do and a little finishing work inside. Mayor Rivera asked about the tables outside the concession stand, answer was we planted trees to help with shade eventually. From there we are headed to work on the drain line on Allred Lane before monsoon season hits and then to the skate park. We also need to do some box culverts on 12<sup>th</sup> St. and Reay Ln. and the shade structure at the Daley Estates Park. Heath stated that he thinks the skate park will take about 3 months. The CDBG grant is for the rubber at Daley Estates, 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., and Reay Lane Park. Councilwoman Martin asked how long to put up the shade structure, answer was it will take 3-4 weeks to complete. I haven't been able to meet with Mr. Martin yet on the park at Quail Ridge but I am rather confident that he'll go along with it. Councilman Innes asked about parking at Quail Ridge, Terry stated that it would be an issue but most people will walk. Vice Mayor Allen mentioned the County is working on the walking path down Golf Course.

- B. Fire Department Report. We had 3 people who just completed Firefighter classes. We are looking at replacing two different trucks a brush truck and then a pumper which is our second option. Build time is about ten months to a year for the trucks.
- C. Police Department Report. We were at Dump the Drugs at Home Depot. At the checkpoint at Home Depot we replaced 36 car seats. At May Day we inspected 5 and replaced 1 so we have some leftover. Terry also mentioned that if we pull someone over who doesn't have one we will give them one here at Town Hall and help have it installed instead of writing them a ticket. DUI task force will be busy with graduation, prom, and everything else going on.

## **11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Safe House – Councilwoman Martin there's a meeting next week.
- B. Chamber of Commerce – John Howard we had a meeting today to try to get a budget in place. We will start interviewing director next week.
- C. SEAGO – There is a meeting in Pima this Friday.

## **12. PRELIMINARY 2016/2017 BUDGET.**

Our sales tax has taken a little bit of a rebound. Which is real close to what we budgeted. We had planned to have to spend some of our fund balance on parks and that rebounded as well, so we might not have to touch that. The budget highlight memo includes merit increase and base adjustment raise. I added 5% to liability and worker's comp. You can see where the ARS went up slightly. The one that's a wild card is the health insurance. I budgeted the expected but I expect that to be under what was budgeted noticeably because we are self funded. They are working on a plan to go to more traditional style plan with a deductible and co-pay. We are trying to make it a July 1 renewal which would make it easier to budget for. The information is off to the attorney general's office on the budget override. We can't do anything else until after June 2 when I give the names of who's running for council to the guy doing the packet.

You have a picture of a proposed recreational area. We should be able to do the fields and the pad this budget year. The activity center however is an ambitious project but we have an architect that is working on a conceptual drawing. This would include basketball courts, volleyball court, indoor walking path, wellness center, classrooms, walking path, a concession stand, and a general lobby. Councilwoman Martin asked about charging to get in. Terry stated once we get the wellness center and walking

path in we would have to do a membership type thing. Maintaining it would be the issue that we don't have a handle on yet. This is a long term project which will happen in a series of events. We will make a path where we can connect the skate park, park, and ball fields that would be able to walk around.

Councilwoman Martin asked about the lake, and Terry said that is still something that's on the radar. Councilman Rapier wanted to throw out there to incorporate an indoor racquetball court into the plan; Councilman Innes said they should be underground.

I added 5% to the counties services because they haven't given us prices yet. The chief's car is up for replacement. Grant wise we are asking for a truck for Stonegarden which we think we should be able to get. Public safety rate increased. We are going to pay our obligation up front instead of having to pay the interest. Councilman Griffin asked and this is our obligated pension. Fire department, we talked about replacing engine 4 and possible 5. The district will possibly pay for engine 4. We formed a new board which is being proactive.

Streets we will be doing the roundabout in Daley Estates and re-constructing Hoopes Ave. Looking at the streets, we will probably suggest a five year plan to build sidewalks. There are also a few short streets that need to be overlaid, and we will continue with our fog sealing. We also need to fix the bridge over on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. Councilman Innes asked if there was any kind of plan to put a walking path from Home Depot down 8<sup>th</sup> St. to 1<sup>st</sup> because it is so busy. Terry mentioned that Heath had thought about trying to get the canal to let us do a walking path along the canal. Heath said 8<sup>th</sup> St. would be a great idea.

Terry stated that maybe we will look at a splash pad out in Daley Estates which would be about \$250,000. That's a project that's down the road. I have \$20,000 for park improvement which would be for Quail Ridge. Mr. Ragland requested \$2000 more for the Boys and Girls Club which is in there but that is a council decision. We have been talking with Safford as part of a committee to share the management on the golf course. We are still working on flooring for the pro shop, restaurant, and bar. We have the liquor license which is making that more urgent. City of Safford signed a contract with OB Sports to maintain the course. We have been asked to give \$60,000 to pay for electric at the golf course.

The Co-op has everything they need to file paperwork with the corporation commission but they have to wait for the election. Mayor Rivera asked if we are subsidizing sanitation, answer was yes. Mayor Rivera wants to know what it would take to break even; Terry said it would probably be double the rate. Councilman Griffin said maybe if we start thinking about a rec center maybe we need to look at annexation so we can get more state shared revenue. Answer was it will be good but we would have more expense as well. In the electric, the additional customers will help us with fixed costs and our base costs will go down. Councilwoman Martin asked about health memberships for firefighters, answer was we are still looking at it. Library is in the budget but Councilwoman Martin said she hasn't seen anything come home from school and Councilman Innes mentioned that Matt Petersen said the ball kind of dropped after he left.

Motion to approve preliminary budget for 2016/2017 made by Councilman Innes and was seconded by Councilman Griffin. Motion carries unanimously.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Innes and seconded by Councilwoman Martin at 7:41. Motion passed.