

**NOTICE OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
February 20, 2017**

Councilmembers present: Mayor Rivera, Vice Mayor Allen, Councilman Griffin, Councilman Rapier, Councilman Larson, Councilman Bryce

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

Visitors: Congressman O'Halleran, Blanca, Grant Richardson, Jeff Richardson

**AGENDA**

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:00. We want to welcome everyone to our monthly meeting. He stated we do have a quorum. I also would like to welcome our special guest, Congressman O'Halleran. On behalf of this council I'd like to thank our armed forces, first responders, police, and fire.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Congressman O'Halleran

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

A. Congressman Tom O'Halleran

Congressman O'Halleran stated thanks for having me here. I got elected back in November and wanted to give you an update of what we've been doing. I just want to let you know that you will see a lot of me. We will have some video conferencing centers around the district so if you need to talk to me you'll be able to do that on a consistent basis. The thrust of our whole process is jobs for rural Arizona and the infrastructure bill is going to be a big part of that. Councilman Rapier thanked Congressman O'Halleran for coming to our area, he asked about an infrastructure bill, Congressman answered that everybody in Congress wants a bill, but with the amount of money that would be it still won't get us to where we need to be long term. The working families are still struggling. The other way to do it would be paying for it upfront but I don't see that happening. Mayor Rivera stated that his concern is the healthcare for veterans. Congressman stated that I visited every veteran's hospital in the state and talked to their leadership and looked at their programs. So I am doing research on this, but we can only do as much as the amount of money as is given. We need to find a way to let them know that their healthcare will be taken care of. Mayor Rivera also asked about medicare and the affordable care act. Congressman stated that I don't believe medicare should be touched, no changes should be made. Those people aren't in a position to come up with extra money. The affordable care act, if we do away with it, there needs to be something else in place that is comprehensive. We need to deal with prescription drugs appropriately, know how to fix the relationship between providers and the plan. Mayor Rivera thanked Congressman O'Halleran for coming, noting that he was the first Congressman to come address this council.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve minutes of the January 16, 2017 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

Motion was made to approve consent agenda by Councilman Griffin and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. EAC right of way purchase agreement.

Mr. Hinton stated that the agreement was made with the consent of Mr. Clifford and EAC's attorney. Mr. Brown and I have looked at it and see no reason why you shouldn't pass this. Councilman Griffin asked about the transferring of the right of way, and Mr. Hinton stated that the college wants this signed before they will agree to that. Councilman Griffin asked if we are just approving the addendum to the agreement and the answer by Mr. Hinton was yes. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Allen to approve the right of way purchase agreement and was seconded by Councilman Rapier. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Town Manager's Report:

We are making good progress on the roundabout. All the drain lines have been put in and we have now started on the second corner. We have put in some street lights and the Co-op will be bringing the conduit for us to put in. Our agreement on the transfer with the Coop on electric is moving along, and in the next three weeks the new metering equipment will be put in. I have begun working on the budget and we will be having an employee meeting this week to see what their needs are. Mr. Brown, Tommy, and I are looking at the roads to decide which ones we are going to recommend for our projects this next year. Councilman Allen asked if we had ever looked at purchasing a milling machine, Mr. Hinton said we had a demonstration last week, however they are very expensive. We are going to be doing this on Hoopes Ave. Vice Mayor Allen stated that I believe if we could purchase one of these that our streets may be in

better shape. Mr. Brown stated the one we looked at was one year old. Mr. Hinton said, one thing we'll need to discuss when we get to the budget, is the Public Safety retirement, which we have been paying up front. This saves us a full year's interest on that amount. July 1, we'll have enough in the budget to pay that all off if you want to, so council needs to be thinking about that. We have different options in paying that off. On the Cota townhomes, Mr. Brown has finished the estimates to complete the infrastructure and replat, and we are looking at \$417,000 plus the purchase price. I have been contacted by a private investor that is going to come talk to Mr. Brown and I about purchasing the land and making the project happen. Mayor Rivera asked about recycle cans, Mr. Brown stated they are ordered.

B. Fire Department Report.

We've ordered the fire truck and hopefully we'll have that paid off this week. The fire district is paying for that. On April 1 and 2 we have a joint drill with search and rescue, the mine, Pima Fire, Clifton, and Cochise that we are going to do at Frye Mesa.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods stated that we talked at the Narkin training and Lance Lines will be doing our training for our officers. Our goal is to have everyone trained this week. It is a nasal spray that we can refill. It's supposed to be very effective and is very important here in our area with delayed response time. We also hosted a lethal instruction school last week, that we got a few spots for our officers in doing so. In addition to that we have completed our firearms training.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Safe House

Nothing new to report.

B. Chamber of Commerce

Nothing new to report.

C. SEAGO

Mayor Rivera stated that he was going to a SEAGO meeting this Friday in Tombstone.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Rapier and seconded by Vice Mayor Allen at 7:06. Motion carries unanimously.

APPROVED:

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Michelle Mortensen, Deputy Clerk

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Robert Rivera, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher held on this 20th day of February 2017. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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Michelle Mortensen, Deputy Clerk