

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

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

Councilmen Absent: Councilman Rapier, Councilman Innes

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

Staff Absent: Matt Clifford

Visitors: Matt Bingham, David Sowders, Danny Hardesty, Brooke Curley

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 by Mayor Rivera. He stated God bless our armed forces, our first responders, police, and fire. He stated that there was a quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike Payne.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. P & Z Ordinance update.

There was no one present to say anything for or against the P & Z Ordinance update.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Danny Hardesty stated that he is here on behalf of the disenfranchised people of Graham County and was recently cited for possession of marijuana and he feels like he is getting discriminated against before he is poor and disabled. There is unfair treatment going on in this community. We need treatment facilities and legal aid to help the people manage their disabilities.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the February 20, 2017 regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

Motion was made by Councilman Griffin and seconded by Vice Mayor Allen to

approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2016 Audit.

Matt Bingham stated that I represent Colby & Powell, and we have done the audit the last several years. There are multiple units that we give our opinion on. The Town is responsible for the internal controls for the preparation of the financial statements and our part is giving our opinion on the statements. We establish our opinion based on certain sets of standards. The Town has received a clean opinion. There are two findings, which were the health insurance and the trial balance. Terry stated that he has made spreadsheets that should take care of fixing the insurance part of that and the trial balance has already been fixed. Now we are moving on to the accounting side of the audit. The pension liabilities have increased for the PSPRS, Terry stated that we have no control over that increase. Net position on the financial statement is a good indicator on how it's changing from year to year. Matt stated that we do 15-20 audits a year and so I have put a spreadsheet together with a few towns to show you the differences. The Town is the only one with a positive unrestricted balance, and they have the most money in the bank. Terry stated that we have spent more this year than in the past, but the ball fields, splash park, skate park, and the park over on 1st Ave is all out on the ground. The public safety liability was doubled, but it paid down our liability and kept our contribution rates lower.

B. **RESOLUTION NO. 635-2017:** A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, DECLARING AS A PUBLIC RECORD THAT CERTAIN DOCUMENT FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK AND ENTITLED ORDINANCE NO. 180-2017 - "EXHIBIT A" WHICH AMENDS SECTION 1.9 AND SECTION 7.2 OF CHAPTER 153 THE TOWN OF THATCHER ZONING ORDINANCE.

Mr. Hinton stated that we have several changes that needed to be made. The judge and the Town attorney felt like there was something left out of the penalty on the P&Z code to be more lenient, and Mr. Brown had a few other changes that needed to be made. This resolution makes it according to state law that we only have to publish these changes and not the whole town code. Motion was made by Councilman Griffin and seconded by Vice Mayor Allen to approve Resolution 635-2016. Motion passed unanimously.

C. **ORDINANCE NO. 180-2017:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE THATCHER TOWN CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 1.9 PARAGRAPH B, SECTION 7.2 PARAGRAPHS A, B, D AND E AND ADOPTING BY REFERENCE PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §9-802, THESE AMENDMENTS WHICH ARE FULLY DESCRIBED IN "EXHIBIT A" ATTACHED HERETO.

Mr. Hinton stated that this is where the changes actually are. Councilman Griffin asked if this is consistent with other municipal code about penalty and dollar amount, and Mr. Hinton answered yes, it is in our town code. Councilman Griffin stated that basically we are becoming consistent with state statute and town code, Mr. Hinton answered yes. Councilman Bryce asked what the issue was with drive thru's. Mr. Brown stated that the way the code was written in C1 they are not allowed so we are making them legal and conforming with those that already exist. Motion was made by Councilman Griffin to approve Ordinance 180-2017 and seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

- D. **RESOLUTION NO. 652-2017:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, PERTAINING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN ARIZONA'S 2018 HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN.

Mr. Hinton stated that this allows Chief Woods the ability to apply for grants. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Allen and seconded by Councilman Larson to approve Resolution 652-2017. Motion carries unanimously.

10. BUDGET WORK SESSION:

Mr. Hinton stated that there is money budgeted for raises and cost of living allowances. I did allow for a small increase for state revenues, and left everything else the same. I increased the budget by 15% for insurance and the liability insurance as well. Our workmen's comp, the best it can be is .66 and ours is .70 so that is working well for us right now. I have budgeted one new pickup for our streets department. Vice Mayor Allen asked if it is possible to get what it would look like percentage wise over the next few years and Mr. Hinton stated that Public Safety won't give us those figures because they don't know what they are. Looking at the streets, Mr. Brown and I and we are looking at paving the three blocks on 2nd St., Church St. down to Highway 70, at Reay Lane and 12th St. we are going to put in a box culvert and also one at Quail Ridge. Another project will be the canals the one 1st St. and in Little Tulsa. That is more in the County, but they are going to provide the materials and we are going to do the work. The other project would be to straighten out 8th St., which would allow us to facilitate the lake, soccer fields, and ramadas a little easier. In conjunction with the budget, the sewer is in the black, but when you put in the past expenditures and depreciation it never has been. I have looked at some different numbers to see what it would do if we raised the rates. To make them generate money the garbage would take \$40 more a month and the sewer \$14. I am not advocating any of these. Mayor Hinton stated that he believes we need to consider an increment. I expect the fund balance to increase this year. Mayor Rivera asked about the life of the sewer pond. Mr. Brown stated that right now we are at less than 50% capacity. Councilman Bryce asked about our solar customers, are we only crediting the electric and not the sewer and garbage based on the solar usage. Mr. Hinton stated that he will have to check on that, we may have to look at changing the policy on what we are currently doing.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Hinton stated that it's pretty much a repeat of last month. We are moving along with the roundabout but there is still a lot of work left to do. I have gotten quite a bit of information back on a lake where the lay down yard. I am working with Game & Fish

on making this an urban lake where they will stock the lake and also have found where we can apply for some grants to help with the costs on this. The Co-op transfer is moving along, and I think July 1 is going to be the date. I am also working on a process to allow us to be able to take credit card payments. There is no advantage other than convenience to the customer so we are gathering information at this time. Mayor Rivera asked about the recycling bins, Mr. Hinton stated that we have them and need to put them together and get the signs on them. Probably will be two to three weeks until everything is ready.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne stated that March 21 we are going out to dispatch with all of our guys so they can see how that process works. On April 1 & 2 we are going to Frye Mesa working with search and rescue, Pima Fire, and Morenci Fire to practice. We meet with the sales guy on our fire truck next week to make sure everything is correct before they start building it.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods said thank you for approving that resolution, we just finished working on those grants for DUI, Stonegarden, some car seats, and a DUI vehicle, so we'll see how much money we get. This year all of our bullet proof vests need to be replaced, so we are working on quotes for that. Ten of our eleven officers are trained on Narcam, and we are waiting for the supply to come in. Mayor Rivera wanted to thank Officer Ellsworth for helping open a car door at Home Depot yesterday with a small child locked inside.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made at 7:39 by Councilman Bryce to adjourn council meeting and was seconded by Councilman Larson. Motion carries unanimously.

APPROVED:

Michelle Mortensen, Deputy 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 20th day of March 2017. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Michelle Mortensen, Deputy Clerk