

**NOTICE OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
April 17, 2017**

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

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

Absent: Matt Clifford

Visitors: Brooke Curley

1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:00 p.m., he stated that we have a quorum. On behalf of this council God bless our first responders, police and fire.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Innes

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Action Item

A. Approve minutes of the March 20, 2017 regular Council Meeting.

B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.

C. Police Monthly Report.

D. Approval of Invoices.

E. Financial Reports.

Motion made by Councilman Griffin and seconded by Councilman Larson to approve the consent agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

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

A. IGA between the Town of Thatcher and the City of Phoenix.

Mr. Hinton stated that the City of Phoenix is a self collecting City for TPT tax. They have their own app that takes all the reporting the Dept of Revenue does and makes sense out of it. It gives information that we aren't getting now. It costs \$995 to get started and less than that per year. It is difficult to tie together what we receive vs. what we collect and this looks like it should help. Motion made by Councilman Rapier to approve the IGA between the Town of Thatcher and the City of Phoenix and seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

10. **BUDGET WORK SESSION:**

Mr. Hinton stated that not a lot has changed with the budget. The budget he's proposing shows about \$80,000 coming out of fund balance. Something that we might want to look at under Mayor and Council is the donations. The foundation has a program now that they will charge you 5% and they vet all the people that we are considering donating to. Mr. Hinton stated that this is not something we have to do, just something that is available if we need it.

General insurance is the council's portion. Councilman Griffin asked why we are giving the chamber lodging tax. Councilman Rapier stated that it is there to help run the chamber. Mr. Hinton stated that City of Safford has done that for years. Mr. Hinton stated that we still have \$60,000 in the budget for the golf course to help pay for utilities. If they started to make a lot more money that is something that we could re-negotiate. Mayor Rivera asked if we were going to put benches out on the walking path, Mr. Hinton said anything is possible. Councilman Griffin asked about lighting on the path, Mr. Hinton stated that there is no power out along the path which would make it expensive. Mr. Bryce asked if there was money earmarked for the town lake. Mr. Hinton answered yes \$20,000. Mr. Bryce asked if that was going to be enough and Mr. Hinton answered no, we would ask for grants and it would overlap two budget years. We are hoping to start some dirt work by the end of the summer but that might be optimistic.

Mayor Rivera stated that he would like to talk about sanitation again. Mr. Hinton stated that a \$2.50-\$3.00 increase would increase our cash flow. Our goal is to make each enterprise self sufficient eventually. Councilman Allen stated that he didn't want to raise it all at once. Mr. Bryce asked if it is hurting us to subsidize, are there other services that we can provide that others can't. Councilman Rapier stated that if we make an increase people are going to be looking at their bill and mad because their bill went up after we just told them we weren't going to increase their rates. Mr. Hinton stated you have two things to look at, whether you increase it all at once or every few years. Mayor Rivera asked what the council's consensus is on a \$6 increase. Councilman Bryce stated he thinks it needs to go up. Councilman Griffin stated maybe we should do \$4 for sanitation \$2 for sanitation. Councilman Rapier stated that he didn't want to slip this by people, but he didn't think that a lot of people would notice the increase.

Councilman Griffin asked about the new electric customers, and Mr. Hinton stated that he is going to make those that are habitual late payers put down a deposit. Councilman Rapier asked if after we take over the electric we can look at some of those areas that might need street lights and Mr. Hinton answered yes. Mr. Bryce asked about raises. Everyone will get 3.5% cost of living increase, and there is a merit increase allowance for 2.5%. Councilman Rapier asked if we are going to need more employees. Mr. Hinton answered yes. Once we add the soccer fields we are going to possibly need someone else, and at some point another police officer. The council over the years has been very conservative and frugal over the years and so we are in good shape.

11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Hinton stated that work continues on the roundabout. Although, it's confusing it is starting to take shape. This week they are working on the islands on the west side of Golf Course. We have talked about paving Hoopes this year, but will probably bid that out with the next job. Mr. Brown is working on getting bids ready for the CDBG project at the parks. We are waiting on the last owner on Church Street for the right of way for that project. We had a meeting with the Co-op today and by tomorrow they should have the nine stations set up to be tested. We are looking at swapping on June 28th or 29th. I talked to our consultant and he is going to work on the rate structure for the electric. I am confident that our new customers will see at least a 5% savings with no rate increase for our current customers. Vice Mayor Allen asked about recycling bins, he had heard that they had been pretty full. Mr. Hinton stated that we can add more cans if need be. They are going to be emptied on Wednesday. Mr. Brown stated that the college has asked for six recycle bins. They just gave us those locations today, so they will be out tomorrow.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne stated that they did the rope rescue at Frye Mesa April 1st and 2nd which went

really well. On the 4th they did mayday training and on the 11th they did tinder training. We have air pack testing coming up and also Dump the Drugs on April 29th.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods stated that last week they helped with Skills Day for high school students. Last week we had some officers at the high school helping with driving and using the DUI goggles. On Cinco de Mayo we will have the DUI task force out. Besides Dump the Drugs coming up we also have a mock accident at the college which all high school students will be invited to.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Safe House – Councilman Bryce is still working with them to be a part of the board.
- B. Chamber of Commerce – Councilman Rapier stated, we had a busy month. We had a golf tournament and wine festival and are hoping that will grow. There is a meeting tomorrow.
- C. SEAGO – Mayor Rivera stated that we will have a meeting in May.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:48 by Councilman Innes and seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. 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 17th day of April 2017. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Michelle Mortensen, Deputy Clerk