

**NOTICE OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
June 19, 2017**

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

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

Visitors: Bart Carter, Bryce Carter, Steve Carter, Johnny Howard, David Cluff, Mason Cluff, Allisen Lines, Matt Petersen, Curb & Becky Kerber, Brayden Rapier, Logan Davis, Dennis Griffin.

1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:00. He stated God bless our men and women in the armed forces, our first responders, and our police and fire.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Griffin

**3. PUBLIC HEARING:**

- A. 2017/2018 Budget.

No discussion

- B. Zoning Change Request – Rezone South/East corner of Reay Lane and Frye Mesa Road to I-2 from I-1

Bart Carter stood and stated thank you for allowing us to be here tonight. We had a public meeting where we answered a lot of questions. We had a lot of supporters, and four or five detractors. We then had the planning and zoning meeting where we had a roomful of supporters. I have a presentation that I would show you if you'd like. We would ask that you pass this.

**4. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Mayor Rivera asked the scouts to stand and state why they were here tonight. Mason Cluff stood and said he was here for the communications merit badge. Brayden Rapier and Logan Davis stood and stated that they were here for the same badge.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve minutes of the May 15, 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 accept the consent agenda by Councilman Griffin and seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Rezoning request decision.  
Motion was made by Vice Mayor Allen to accept the rezone of the southeast corner of Reay Lane Frye Mesa Road from I-1 to I-2 and was seconded by Councilman Larson. Motion carries unanimously.
- B. **RESOLUTION NO. 654-2017:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-18 OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA.

Mr. Hinton stated there is quite a bit in that verbiage there. One would be the rate structure for garbage, sewer, and electric. It is in the tentative budget process. In your packet was the summary of the rate study done by KR Saline. Our proposed rates are a reduction to every customer, not just those from the Co-op. Everyone will be at the same rate. Overall customers will see a 4.4% decrease of the overall rates. Councilman Griffin stated that he likes that we went to a standardized rate. Mr. Hinton said the budget includes the \$3.00 increase for both garbage and sewer. Our revenue comes from sales tax, and state shared revenue as we don't collect property tax. Mayor Rivera stated that he supported this. Some of the HURF funds will carry over from this year to next because the paving won't happen until the next budget year. Councilman Griffin stated that if we approve the resolution that all the proposed recommendations by staff will be included. Terry stated yes, unless you modify it. Councilman Griffin made the motion to accept Resolution 654-2017 in the amount of \$16,009,861. Vice Mayor Allen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **RESOLUTION NO. 655-2017:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND MANAGER TO EXECUTE FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, IGA'S WITH GRAHAM COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR DISPATCHING SERVICES, ANIMAL CONTROL SHELTER SERVICES, ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES AND WIDE AREA NETWORK COMMUNICATION SERVICES.

Mr. Hinton stated that these are the common ones that we do every year. Graham County handles the dispatching and communications for us and the animal control fees are for the animal shelter. Motion was made to approve Resolution 655-2017 made by Councilman Rapiere and seconded by Councilman Griffin. Motion carries unanimously.

- B. **RESOLUTION NO. 656-2017:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, STATING THE SALARY EQUIVALENCY AND THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED POSITIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS.

Mr. Hinton stated that we have to do this every year to establish workman's comp rates. The dollar amount is set by the entry level officer every year. Motion was made to approve Resolution 656-2017 by Councilman Griffin and was seconded by Councilman Larson. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. **RESOLUTION NO. 657-2017:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, STATING THE PROCEDURES FOR PURCHASING FROM THE MAYOR AND ANY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Hinton stated that this is a resolution we pass every year. This tells staff that any amount of a single transaction that exceeds \$300 has to be bid out and any aggregate spending over \$1000 has to be bid out as well. Motion was made to approve Resolution 657-2017 by Vice Mayor Allen and was seconded by Councilman Bryce. Motion carries unanimously.

- E. **RESOLUTION NO. 653-2017:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, ADOPTING THE TOWN OF THATCHER FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE.

Mr. Hinton stated that the last time the fees were looked at was back in 2006. Due to the changes in electric we thought it would be a good time to raise some of the fees. The sewer and garbage rates have been updated and the electric charges reflect what was in the budget. Motion was made to accept Resolution 653-2017 by Councilman Rapier and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

- D. **RESOLUTION NO. 658-2017:** 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. 181-2017 - "WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 150 UNIFORM BUILDING CODES AND CHAPTER 153 THE TOWN OF THATCHER ZONING ORDINANCE.

Mr. Hinton stated that the Town, City of Safford, and County have been working on this for some time to have a uniform building code with a few exceptions. This resolution is to make the documents a public record so we don't have to publish it all. Motion was made by Councilman Griffin to accept Resolution 658-2017 and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

- E. **ORDINANCE NO.181-2017:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, RELATING TO THE TOWN CODE; AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE TOWN CODE TO UPDATE THE UNIFORM CODES BY ADOPTING MORE RECENT EDITIONS OF THE CODES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION.

Mr. Hinton stated that this goes back to the last discussion. We have been on the 2009 codes and we propose to move to the 2015 codes. This should last us at least six years. Councilman Bryce asked if we have liability from removing certain safety aspects from that code and adopting it. Mr. Hinton stated that if we follow our code I think we'll be alright; this has been studied for quite some time with people from the County as well as City of Safford. Councilman Bryce asked if these modifications are being adopted by other Towns, Mr. Hinton and Mr. Brown answered yes. Councilman Rapier made the motion to pass Ordinance 181-2017 and was seconded by Councilman Larson. Motion carries unanimously.

- F. Town Manager Evaluation.

Mayor Rivera stated that every year we do an evaluation on the Town Manager to let him know how good of a job he is doing. Mr. Hinton overall scored an average a 4.2 which is good. We thank you for keeping us in the black. When we have the reports on our audit the auditors tell us that we are the model, which is a tribute to Terry's forte in money management and taking care of the budget. Councilman Griffin stated that the things we evaluate him the lowest on is communication and I think that is a two way street. Councilman Bryce stated it seems that the council wants a plan executed so I think we as a council need to come up with a plan. Mr. Hinton stated that we take most of our direction

from the budget discussion but need the council's input. Mayor Rivera stated that he thinks we need a vision. Councilman Bryce recommended a work session. Councilman Rapier made the motion to allow Mr. Hinton to work for the Town under contract for another year and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously. Councilman Griffin made the motion to approve merit increase of 2.5% and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Councilman Bryce stated that he is concerned about the increases and thinks that at some time the council needs to look at this. Mr. Hinton stated that the League of Cities and Towns does a comparison on a yearly basis regarding salaries and we stay within those boundaries. Motion carries unanimously. Mayor Rivera stated Mr. Hinton thank you for the hard work you do.

## **8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

### **A. Town Manager's Report:**

Mr. Hinton stated the foremost thing is the roundabout which is going very well. This week we should be through with the travel lane and then we should move on to the center. We have about six more weeks on the roundabout and then on to sidewalks and curbs. The guys are doing a great job pouring cement in the heat. The benches are in for the walking path, we just need to have time to get them put in. Mr. Hinton went to a fire meeting this morning and the people in charge believe that everything is under control. I did inform them about the damage to our watershed. Since the last fire, we have had issues with the reservoir. We did change the path for the water in the wash to hopefully help with that. I am giving you some information on a P-Card which would replace some of the credit card use, which is sponsored by the League. Councilman Innes has resigned from the Council. This was his last official month and we will be advertising for letters of interest for those wanting to fulfill the remainder of his term. Councilman Griffin stated that Councilman Innes has been on the Council for 19 years and expressed his appreciation for his time serving the community. Mayor Rivera asked about the recycling. Mr. Hinton stated that it has slowed down a little bit, but is going about as planned. We also are going to have to pay back the police officers for the Parker-Hall lawsuit for PSPRS. The suggestion was made to pay it back within a year.

### **C. Fire Department Report.**

Chief Payne stated that we are still testing hose and have some rope rescue coming up. Fire meeting is coming up in September and we have ten officers signed up so far.

### **D. Police Department Report.**

Chief Woods stated that there are public meetings every night for general information on the fire. We have been asked to help with security on the road blocks if needed where the mountain is blocked off. They have an incident command center set up over at the elementary and middle schools. This week we should be able to pick up our Stonegarden truck.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **A. Safe House**

Councilman Bryce said he has nothing to report.

B. Chamber of Commerce

Johnny Howard stated that in August we will have the Rural Policy Forum over at the college which will be bringing in a lot of people. The drug coalition needs people to help and I will help drop some information off on that.

C. SEAGO

Mayor Rivera stated there is nothing new to report.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Rapier and seconded by Vice Mayor Allen at 7:43.

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/special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher held on this 19th day of June 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