

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

NOTICE OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL February 19, 2018

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

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

Visitors: Samantha Gillespie, Anika Ruiz, Nash Mattice, Rikki Ruiz, David Sowders, Brooke Curley

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:00. He stated welcome to the monthly Town council meeting, we do have a quorum. On behalf of this council, God bless our men and women in the armed forces especially those in dire need of safety, our first responders, our fire and police, and our border patrol agents throughout the country.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Clifford.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

A. Smoke Free Parks – Graham County Stars

We are Graham County Stars, an anti tobacco coalition that is here to discuss the dangers of secondhand smoke at our parks. Exposure to second hand smoke doesn't occur only at home and work, but sadly in our community parks as well. There is no such thing as safe exposure to second hand smoke. Our goal is to make all Graham County Parks smoke free. Mayor Rivera stated that we have no smoking signs posted at our parks and we applaud you for what you are doing.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the January 15, 2018 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 to approve the consent agenda and was

seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2018/2019 Budget discussion.

Mr. Hinton stated that the one of the big ticket items is a new garbage truck. The mechanics are recommending the one with the highest cost. It's a little bigger truck than the one we currently have which would save us a few trips to the dump. I am bringing this up before the end of the year because it takes a long time to build them and if we get started now we could get delivery on it in July. Vice Mayor Allen asked if it is worth spending the money to put a new side loader on the one we have. Mr. Hinton answered no. Councilman Larson asked about the price, it is \$282,963. The rate increase has cut the loss in sanitation by two thirds, but we're still upside down. The other thing in the budget is there are two work trucks in there and we will probably go ahead and order those fairly soon as well. We also have a police car in there.

I believe I sent you an estimate on the lights for the ball fields. Heath and I were surprised at what it would cost for someone to come in and install the lights. It was \$500,000 and the materials are \$320,000. We are working on grants to put in through the Diamondbacks and the United Way. Council needs to look at whether or not we want to proceed with this or not. Councilman Rapier asked how much we are asking for. Mr. Hinton stated the United Way grant the maximum you can get is \$100,000. Mr. Brown stated that the Diamondbacks grant deadline is July and they decide on that in December. They usually build one complete a year. Sometimes they build one from scratch and sometimes they will take an existing complex and fix it up. As far as I know, there is no price limit. Mr. Hinton said the southwest field needs some poles added. The lighting there is bad and we have tried a few different things and that can be remedied but the power lines will be above ground. Vice Mayor Allen stated that maybe we upgrade the smallest field and wait to see if we get one of the grants and worry about the rest the following budget year. Councilman Rapier stated maybe in the work session can we have a few different options like Vice Mayor Allen just stated. We need to decide what our budget is for this project. Councilman Bryce stated I don't think we should spend \$500,000 on lighting for the fields. Vice Mayor Allen and Councilman Rapier both agreed.

The other project that we lightly discussed was to build an auxiliary gym at the high school which we would be able to use for our little league sports. We are looking at putting up a metal building. Councilman Rapier asked if that's what the school wants, because if anyone's concerned with aesthetics, then they won't want that. Councilman Rapier stated that I have a hang up with us not owning the building. Mayor Rivera agreed with that. If we are going to put that much money in, we should own the building. Vice Mayor Allen stated that I need to know what the schools take is before I have an opinion on this. Mr. Hinton stated that we are saving not having to build bathrooms, locker rooms, a parking lot, and there are already three existing walls there, which will save us a lot of money, and the school will handle the O&M. Councilman Rapier stated that maybe we need to talk to the college or look at some other options and address

some other things other than gym space. Mayor Rivera stated that we need some numbers and to have a separate meeting for this discussion. Mr. Hinton stated that we need to know what direction you want to go before we can come up with numbers for you. Mayor Rivera said that when we talked before about building an activity center the school was going to give us the property. Maybe we need to look at that again. Vice Mayor Allen stated that spending the six million dollars on an activity center didn't bother me. What bothered me was that the way the school viewed the partnership of that building. Councilman Bryce said that maybe Willcox's new gym is something more like what we need to look at. It's a metal building that looks like someone has took some time in designing it.

Vice Mayor Allen stated that I'm not a garbage truck guy, so I feel like if this is the one that staff is recommending then we should get them what they want. Councilman Rapier stated with what you know and the trips back and forth to the landfill, can you tell what the difference would be in purchasing the more expensive trucks. Mr. Hinton stated that it would probably pay for itself within two years because of all the expenses that it is taking for repairs on the old truck. The two big things are it reduces the cost of repairs and it keeps us with one truck and one driver. Councilman Rapier stated that if staff is recommending this and we can see the need then I think we should go ahead with this. Councilman Griffin made the motion to go ahead and order the 2019 garbage truck for \$282,963.90 and was seconded by Councilman Rapier. Motion carries unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Dump Truck purchase.

Mr. Hinton stated that our dump trucks are getting well used and we need to add to our fleet. I recommend taking the low bid. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Allen to accept the low bid of \$46,850.00 on the 2013 International 4300 and was seconded by Councilman Rapier. Motion carries unanimously.

B. Blade rebuild/replacement options.

Mr. Hinton stated at this point I recommend to get it rebuilt. We will spend about \$80,000 to \$90,000 to get that done. Empire will take it to Tucson and will look at everything. This is a big maintenance item so I wanted to bring it up.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Hinton stated that I sent out some information last week about the billing anomaly that we had. This should all be taken care of by the end of this month. I am proposing we lower our Power Cost adjustor from 0.01 down to 0.0025 . Councilman Rapier asked if someone broke down the bill, did the math. and showed something wasn't right and came in and asked for us to show them how we fixed their bill, could we do that? Mr. Hinton answered yes; we are keeping track of that. Councilman Bryce stated that the problem is that it doesn't add up

for each person individually. You're going to universally apply the PPCA until the surplus is gone, but each individual customer isn't affected equally because you are applying it across the board. Mr. Hinton stated that everyone will be compensated, or more than compensated, because we are keeping it so low. Councilman Rapier stated wouldn't it have been better if we said we made a mistake and give that back to each person individually. Vice Mayor Allen stated that one way would have been to line item that. Mr. Hinton stated that it would be hard to do with the billing we have. Councilman Rapier stated that for the sake of transparency shouldn't we have figured out each person's bill separately. Councilman Bryce said I agree with that. With society changing, they know we're going to mess up, and we know we're going to mess up, and so we should've said we messed up and this is how we're going to fix it. Mr. Hinton said we did talk about it at a council meeting. Councilman Bryce said we did and whoever reads the minutes for this, which is very few people, will know that, but we didn't tell individual customers and we should have. Mayor Rivera said moving forward we will correct everything if we mess up. Mr. Hinton stated we did correct everything. Mayor Rivera said yes we're correcting it, but we should've said we messed up and this is how we're fixing it. Vice Mayor Allen said that being said, it will all be done at the end of the month. Mr. Hinton answered yes, and they will be over compensated.

We have everything on Hoopes done but the striping. If the weather cooperates then we will get that done as well as the rest of Town that needs it. Mayor Rivera asked if we are going to landscape the portion of dirt between the walking path and Hoopes and Mr. Hinton stated that I hadn't planned on it. We have all the rebar for the box culverts which we will start on tomorrow. It will make Reay Lane hard to get through the next little while. After that we're going to start on the sidewalks. Mr. Campbell's house has sold and they are going to put in an optometry office there, so we will accommodate them with curbs and sidewalks to help out. Mayor Rivera asked when they are going to open and Mr. Brown answered that they said June. The sump pump we installed worked great. Hopefully now we'll be able to save the grass at Cota Park. We are working on putting in another water stand in at the pump house, which will be just for Town use only. Mayor Rivera asked about the progress on Dr. Carter's meat packing plant. Mr. Payne answered that they are working on the flooring now and are doing several pours. Mr. Hinton stated that it is just taking some time as there is a lot of work to do.

Mayor Rivera asked if we have an ordinance about no smoking, and Mr. Hinton stated that yes we do. Mayor Rivera then asked if we could put that ordinance number up so people will know that we're serious. Mr. Hinton stated I suppose we can. Every year at the ball fields we have an officer that has to go out and corral someone who is smoking and Tye and Brandon do a good job at telling people they can't smoke there. We had issue at the skate park and it didn't take us long to get that across to them by having an officer come out and tell them they couldn't do that. Mayor Rivera stated these young people gave their presentation and we would like to give them something to show them some success, maybe something with the ordinance number for no smoking on them. Mr. Hinton said he would send them the ordinance. It is on our park rules as well.

B. Fire Department Report.

We were called by Search & Rescue yesterday to go help with a rescue up by Point of Pines. By the time we had a crew almost there they were able to get a DPS helicopter there which had been previously grounded. We had our elections. I was re-elected as Chief and my assistant is Steve Curtis. The captains are Jay Larson, Josh Curtis, Van Green, and Ryan Allen. Our secretary is Larry Kerrigan. Training officers are Don Lancaster, Curtis Whittle, and Ray Bejarano. Hopefully within the next week or so, we'll have our new fire truck in service. We're just waiting on some new fittings. Mr. Hinton asked Chief Payne if he had heard something about building a new training center. Chief Payne said that actually it would be a burn building that we would put in out at the training center, and they may want us to put some money towards that. It is in the planning stage right now and they're looking at ideas. It would be a three story building that you could build actual fires inside. Mr. Hinton stated that would make it a much safer training environment and is a really good idea. Councilman Griffin stated thank you. Some of those firemen are unsung heroes that have been on there for many years. Mayor Rivera said please tell our firefighters thank you. We also want Mr. Chris Allen to know how much we appreciate his years of service so please thank him on our behalf.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods stated that we are part of the 1043 program and the Department of Defense picked us to go through an inspection. They were here for about fifteen minutes and said that we were good. We just picked up four light stations and a generator that will be a back up in an emergency for town hall. Detective Carter and Officer Ellsworth just did the training on the program for e-tickets and the county is working with ADOT to get things finalized. Mayor Rivera stated to thank our police officers.

D. Council Reports.

Mayor Rivera stated that he will be attending a SEAGO meeting in Bisbee this Friday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02 (A)(1)(7) the Council may go into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property and to consult with the Town Attorney for legal advice.

Mr. Hinton stated that he would like himself, Mr. Brown, Mr. Clifford, and Ms. Mortensen to stay for executive session. Vice Mayor Allen made the motion to go into executive session at 7:51 and was seconded by Councilman Rapier. Motion carries unanimously.

A. Decision on the purchase of property.

Regular meeting resumed at 8:26. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Allen to direct staff specifically Mr. Hinton and Town Attorney Mr. Clifford to proceed with the purchase of the Red Lamp property for 1.2 million dollars and was seconded by Councilman Larson. Motion carries unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilman Griffin to adjourn council meeting and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen at 8:30 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.