

NOTICE OF A WORK SESSION OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL

April 9, 2018

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

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

Visitors: Matt Petersen

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 7:01. He welcomed everyone and stated that there was a quorum.
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Matt Petersen.
3. Town long term direction discussion.

Mr. Hinton stated that at our last meeting several of you mentioned the need to have a work session. Mayor Rivera agreed and said I went to the website to get the minutes from our last work session. I think we all walked out of here on September 11, 2017 with a direction of what park design we wanted. Mr. Hinton said our crew is getting ready to move everything out of the lay down yard with some of it going to auction, disposing of some of the material, and some of it will be moved out by our burn pit. After we get that done and leveled we will probably start with the amphitheater first even before we do the soccer fields. Randy asked how much we have earmarked for that? Mr. Hinton stated that we have \$100,000. Councilman Rapier asked, so we wouldn't be able to start on the soccer fields? Mr. Hinton said we should be able to have a pretty good start with that amount. Mayor Rivera said we discussed the sprinklers a few months ago, when does that fall in? Mr. Hinton stated probably not until next budget year. Councilman Rapier asked what we will be doing for the seating at the amphitheater? Mr. Hinton answered that we will make a hill with grass. Mr. Brown stated that I don't even know how big the amphitheater is yet. I didn't know that Mr. Hinton was looking to start that before the soccer fields.

Councilman Rapier stated that we did decide since then to purchase Red Lamp. We are going to own a piece of land where I'm hoping we will be able to bring in some retail. I think we should worry about our main corridor to beautify and to entice and make it more appealing. I don't see that as a short term thing, but more of a long term project, but maybe we should start working on the design. Mr. Brown stated that I think we need to have a plan for the whole thing to know what we are looking at. You will have to hire a landscape architect and it will take three to six months to get a design ready.

Mr. Hinton stated that we have to update our general plan and we were thinking that Red Lamp would be a part of that. Once we take over we will start cleaning it up, but we need to decide what we want to do with the property. Mr. Hinton stated that both the park and the corridor can be done in phases.

Vice Mayor Allen stated maybe we should set aside a block of time to pour sidewalks, like

from July to September and do however much we can in that amount of time. Then we move on to the next project. Councilman Bryce stated that the soccer fields are more of a priority than the amphitheater. Mr. Hinton stated that I believe we can do the amphitheater with guys other than those from Tommy's crew which will make it possible to start on that.

Vice Mayor Allen asked how much trouble we are going to have with ADOT on the sidewalks. Mr. Hinton stated that we have a contract to maintain the sidewalks and I think it will be easier than you think. From what I am hearing, maybe I need to budget some more money in order to be able to do an RFP study for the main corridor. Vice Mayor Allen stated that I would love to be able to throw out some things to the public of the things that we're going to be working on. Mr. Hinton stated that maybe the end of the summer we move off the sidewalks and start on the park. Councilman Rapier asked what is Phase One of the park? Mayor Rivera stated the amphitheater and the soccer fields. Mr. Brown stated that if we put in the soccer fields, we're going to need a bathroom. Councilman Rapier asked if it is feasible to have a flat spot for the soccer fields this next budget year. Mr. Hinton stated by July 1 we will have it cleaned up. So come fall we will be able to start moving dirt. Vice Mayor Allen said I think the amphitheater needs to wait until we can put some more time into that. Mr. Brown stated that I think the amphitheater needs to be bigger than what they put into the drawing.

Mayor Rivera said so we should have a design by the fall for the general plan update? Mr. Brown stated it should be done by Christmas.

Mr. Hinton stated on a side note, we should be ready to go out to bid on the Church Street project by the first of the year. Mr. Brown is working with the utility companies and is in the process of getting everything ready. We are having some signs put up that will inform the people that Church Street will be under construction for about a year.

Councilman Rapier asked about the gym. Mr. Hinton stated that with everything else we have going on, we would have to borrow that money. Councilman Rapier stated that I think we need to talk to both the school and the college to be on the same page on what we are looking at. Mr. Hinton said maybe we need to have the mayor, the superintendent, and the president of the college, form some kind of a committee. Mr. Hinton attested that there is a need for a gym, but I think this is something that we will have to put off for now.

4. Budget Discussion.

Mr. Hinton stated that I don't have anything new to add. I do have our intergovernmental figures so our revenues are pretty close to what they were last year. The \$75,000 is in there for the general plan update and we will add some for the corridor update. There is money for two public works vehicles, and one police car. We also have the money in there for the garbage truck. Mayor Rivera asked if there was an increase in the garbage truck budget. Mr. Hinton stated that I did raise it to the amount of the truck that council approved. Mayor Rivera stated that City of Safford is giving their employees a \$300 bonus and I would like to see us do the same thing. Councilman Rapier agreed. Councilman Welker said he agreed with Councilman Rapier, and Councilman Larson agreed as well.

Councilman Rapier said I have two things I would like to see added to our budget if that is possible. One is a new logo and slogan for the Town. Mr. Hinton stated that we probably have enough budgeted in our professional services. The second is that I would like to

see where we need to put in new street lights or repair those that need it. I would like to see us go around and look at those kinds of things every year like we do when we go out and identify the roads that need to be paved every year. I would like to see us be proactive with this.

Chief Payne stated that maybe not this year, but next year we need to budget for an extra set of extrication tools. Councilman Bryce asked if the decrease in general fund is due to the Red Lamp purchase, and Mr. Hinton answered yes. Chief Woods stated that we would love to be able to have a school resource officer. Mayor Rivera asked if we have already given notice to the residents of Red Lamp. Mr. Hinton stated that we can't do that until July 2. We have copies of the Landlord Tenant Act and will give those to the owners of the trailers.

5. Adjournment.

Mayor Rivera adjourned the meeting at 8:30.

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 work session of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher held on this 9th day of April, 2018. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Michelle Mortensen, Deputy Clerk