

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL May 21, 2018

Councilmembers present: Mayor Rivera, Councilman Larson, Councilman Rapier, Councilman Bryce, Councilman Welker, Councilwoman Smith

Councilmembers absent: Vice Mayor Allen

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

Visitors: Mick Ruiz, James Bryce, Nette Griffin, Wayne Griffin, Shari Elkins, Jan Napier, Eddy Carlton

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:01 by Mayor Rivera
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Wayne Griffin.
3. **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Jan Napier thanked the council for letting them use the ball fields to raise money for the House of Hope. We were able to raise \$4200 to go towards that. When we were finished some of those people asked them to do the same thing next year in the same place.

Mick Ruiz came from the Boys and Girls Club of the Gila Valley. He stated that we are looking to places where we can find some financial support. We are trying to find means and ways to maintain our financial status. We are here to see if you are willing to give an annual donation of \$15-20,000 to help us out. We enroll 22 kids from Thatcher and our biggest constraint is transportation. We will be serving over 100 kids throughout the summer. Please let me know if you would like some more information.

Nette Griffin and Shari Elkins came representing First things First. Nette stated this group was formed by a group of Arizona voters who were concerned about early childhood and the state of education in Arizona. They put an initiative on the ballot to create tobacco revenue and 100% of those revenues go to support early childhood which passed and has been back on the ballot two times since because the state would like to do other things with those dollars, but the voters recognize the importance of early education. As a result of this initiative First Things First was created. We realize that the needs of Graham and Greenlee are different than those of Maricopa County. We have some great strategies that we hope to fund, we offer grants to programs in Graham and Greenlee County that

are researched based that are doing work out on the ground. We also have a helpline that anyone in the state can call to ask questions about early childhood, parent kits, we offer scholarships to working parents for quality childcare, and we also offer scholarships to adults in the early childhood field, and lastly we give money to the library to help fund the programs that they offer. Shari said that we are trying to partner with people within the communities to help fund some of these programs. One that we fund is a program called Reach Out and Read. This is a literacy strategy so every child who gets their well child check with Dr. Keith gets a book. This helps those children to expand their library and get books in the home. This is one of the programs that we may have to do away with because of the decline in revenue. We are asking that you help us by contributing \$1000.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the April 16, 2018 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Approve minutes of the April 18, 2018 Special Council Meeting.
- C. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- D. Police Monthly Report.
- E. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

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

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Wayne Griffin Recognition

Mayor Rivera thanked Wayne Griffin for all his years of service.

- B. 2018/19 Budget Discussion

Mr. Brown stated that we approved the preliminary budget last month. There was an item that should have been on there but wasn't and that is a police vehicle. I just wanted to let you know that I will be adding that. One item that I think is appropriate to discuss here and that is a vehicle for the Town staff. One thought would be to buy Detective Carter a truck and use his car for Town staff. Mr. Brown stated that I would recommend waiting till the end of this budget year and as long as our expenditure limitation is alright then we should buy it this year. This is on the agenda, but I wanted to bring it up here because of the budget discussion.

Since we are discussing the budget, this is the time to decide if we want to give money to First Things First or to the Boys and Girls Club. Councilman Rapier asked

how much we give to the Boys and Girls Club now. Mr. Brown answered \$2000. Councilman Bryce asked if we spend the whole \$5,000 on summer library. Mr. Brown answered no. Mayor Rivera suggested that they take \$1,000 of that money budgeted for the summer library to go to First Things First. Mayor Rivera suggested that this year we stick with giving The Boys and Girls Club the \$2,000 that is budgeted.

Councilman Rapier asked about the amount that is in the budget for street lights. I would like to increase that amount from \$7,500 to \$15,000. I believe that we need to do this the same way that we handle the streets and change out so many every year. Mr. Brown stated that an average price for a street light is about \$2500. Councilman Rapier also asked if we have a list made of the areas that are most in need for lights. Mr. Brown stated that Chief Woods has gone out and made a list of those that he believes are the most in need. Mayor Rivera asked if it was the council's wish to move ahead with putting \$15,000 into street lights and the answer was yes.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. IGA with Graham County for Election Services.

Mr. Brown stated that he didn't realize that he needed a Resolution for the IGA's and all four of them had that issue. Mayor Rivera suggested that we table this until next month.

- B. IGA with Graham County for Dispatching & Common Services.

- C. IGA with Graham County for Animal Shelter.

- D. IGA with Graham County for Animal Control Services.

- E. Appointment of Cory Sanders as Pro-Temp Judge.

Mr. Brown stated Mr. Sanders has to be approved so that if a substitute judge is needed then we can bring him in. Motion was made by Councilman Rapier and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to appoint Cory Sanders as Pro-Temp Judge. Motion carries unanimously.

- F. Appointment of Merri Aden as Civil Traffic Hearing Officer.

Mr. Brown said that this is something which is done annually which gives her authority to take care of civil matters without having to go before the judge. Councilman Rapier made the motion to appoint Merri Aden as Civil Traffic Hearing Officer of the Gila Valley Consolidated Municipal Court. Motion was seconded by Councilman Larson. Motion carries unanimously.

- G. Approval of Bond Schedule for Gila Valley Consolidated Municipal Court.

Mr. Brown stated that when the courts joined together each municipality had their own fees so this is a new fee scale. Motion was made to approve the bond schedule for the Gila Valley Consolidated Municipal Court by Councilman Welker and seconded by Councilman Bryce. Motion carries unanimously.

H. New Vehicle for Town Hall Staff.

Mr. Brown recommended that we buy a new pickup for Detective Carter and use his vehicle for staff. If you agree with the purchase then you can go ahead and approve this and we can wait until we get May's numbers to make sure that we are not going to go over our expenditure limitation. Mayor Rivera stated that I think we need to go ahead with staff's recommendation. Chief Woods stated that he doesn't have enough room in his car as he is in charge of training and things out at the shooting range. Councilman Welker asked if we would have possession of it this budget year. Chief Woods stated no. Councilman Welker stated that we would have to have possession of the vehicle this fiscal year to have it go towards this year's budget. Mr. Brown stated that it sounds like you want it pushed into the next budget year.

I. Interim Manager Compensation.

Mayor Rivera asked for approval and support to come to an agreement with Mr. Brown to come up with compensation on his salary. Motion was made by Councilman Rapier to give Mayor Rivera the authority to negotiate with Mr. Brown a salary to be paid during the interim and was seconded by Councilman Welker.

10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Brown stated that as far as public works, we pulled off the culvert and moved over to the driveway at the eye clinic which should be done this week and then we'll move back to the culverts which should take about five weeks. Next we would like to move over to 20th to put in a culvert there which would solve our issues. From there we will move onto curbs and sidewalk on College Ave. We should be there about 4-7 weeks and after that we will be doing some more sidewalks. Councilwoman Smith asked about putting in sidewalks in by the schools from First Street to the primary school. We have sidewalks on one side of the street and not the other. Mr. Brown stated that I am open to what you want to do, but we have sidewalks on one side of the street and not the other and we have lots of streets with no sidewalks at all. Councilman Rapier stated that you are going to know better than us what the needs are. Mr. Brown stated that if something changes you can let me know.

Once we get to fall, then we will start on the soccer fields. I will let you know that

there is a lot of design involved and I'm not really able to put much time into that right now. Councilman Rapier asked if we needed to could we hire someone local to work on this. Mr. Brown said maybe. We have taken control of Red Lamp and gave the renters until July 1 and the owners of the trailers we gave six months. We will slowly start cleaning up, trimming trees, and doing what we can. We're starting to get a lot of inquiries as to what we are going to do with the land there so you need to be thinking about that. Councilman Bryce asked if we have to and Mr. Clifford answered .

Down at the treatment plant, when the solar was put in half the power went into the grid and the rest went into the aerators and we started burning up aerators, so we disconnected them from the solar grid. We have a bid from Sun Pumps to tie it all into the grid. It will cost about \$12,000 but will pay for itself within a year.

Mondays are really busy on the trash route and has been working nine hours and barely getting the rest done during the week so we have added a driver on Monday and Thursday for two hours to help out. We are on schedule for summer library and that information has been posted.

Mayor Rivera asked if we have any issues with the recycling bins. Mr. Brown stated no and asked Ms. Mortensen if she had heard anything and she answered no. Mayor Rivera asked if we are still cleaning up the lay down yard. Mr. Brown answered that we have been staying busy with lots of other projects. We really won't start on that until Tommy's crew shows up there.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne stated that we had a drill the other night where we brought in a helicopter over the stake center and then did rope training afterwards. Several people from different organizations were there and contributed.

C. Police Department Report

Chief Woods stated that we had some officers participate in the Torch Run and also the Tip-A-Cop which helps Special Olympics. With school winding down, I am told that this may be the last year of driver's ed at Thatcher High School, so we went and provided some DUI education. We hosted our first class with other officers around the county on active shooter situations over at Mark Allen Dorm. I have heard lots of positive comments and believe that this will be a huge resource to the officers in the area. We have been really proactive with providing our officers with equipment and training. By equipment I mean rifles, helmets, vests to stop ammo. We have gotten grants for most of the equipment. Mayor Rivera told Chief Woods to thank our officers.

D. Council Reports.

We hosted our SEAGO meeting at the College this last Friday and had a good turnout.

Councilman Rapier stated that I have someone working on the Town logo and we should have that back next week.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilman Rapier to adjourn and was seconded by Councilwoman Smith at 7:48. Motion carries unanimously.