

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
October 15, 2018**

Council Present: Mayor Rivera, Councilman Larson, Councilman Bryce, Councilman Rapier, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Welker

Council Absent: Vice Mayor Allen

Staff Present: Town Manger Heath Brown, Town Attorney Matt Clifford, Town Engineer Tom Palmer, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, Fire Chief Mike Payne, Deputy Clerk Michelle Mortensen, Street Supervisor Tommy Nicholas, Engineer Tech Gary Allred, Town Magistrate Ned Rhodes

Visitors: Ward Weaver, Jenny Howard, Esther Romero, Scott Lee, Jon Johnson, David Sowders, Mike Spafford, Cindy Spafford

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:00. I would like to welcome everyone to our monthly meeting. For those of you who are here for the rezone, it has been pulled. He stated that we do have a quorum and God bless our men and women in the armed forces, our border patrol, our first responders, fire and police, and our custom agents.
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Palmer
3. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

None
4. **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Cindy Spafford stated she lives on Pheasant Lane and we are here because we are concerned about the drainage behind our homes. My rain gauge measured four inches. We are concerned about the culvert that runs under the road and where it passes behind our house. If that culvert got overwhelmed again it would either come across the road or the gully behind me will continue to widen and eventually undermine my block wall. Mayor Rivera stated that we do have plans to put in a bigger box culvert. Mr. Brown stated that it is our goal to have that in before next monsoon season. Mrs. Spafford asked if that would address the gully as well. Mr. Brown explained that there is some material that we can put down there that won't erode.

Scott Lee stated that I have been involved in the rezone issue of Tom Palmer. Thank you for the job that you do. The process we have recently been through has been very instructive and eye opening to the process. It has been a refresher for the angst for the things that you

have to deal with. I believe that we live in the greatest nation. The process that we go through is what we just went through, and I believe is the American dream. I just want to express my appreciation for what you do even though we might be on different sides of the argument.

5. PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the September 17, 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 Rapier and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to approve the consent agenda.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

None

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **RESOLUTION NO. 675-2018:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA APPOINTING NED RHODES AS TOWN MAGISTRATE.

Mr. Brown explained that Judge Rhodes is up for re-appointment. He has done a good job and we would like to re-appoint him. Judge Rhodes stated that it has been a huge undertaking in merging the courts this last year. The ladies in the office have done a fantastic job and there is a lot of work that goes on there. I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to serve in this position. Motion was made by Councilman Larson to approve Resolution 675-2018 to appoint Ned Rhodes as Town Magistrate. This was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

- B. **RESOLUTION NUMBER 676-2018:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, TO SUPPORT THE 2020 CENSUS, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE, AND TO ENCOURAGE EVERY PERSON TO BE COUNTED

Mr. Brown explained that this is a resolution to enter into a committee with Graham County, City of Safford, and the Town of Pima. This will be different than those in the past, as there will be no paper involved. The main purpose of this committee is to

educate people and get outreach in place to let people know that this is the only way that they will be counted. Councilman Larson asked how people are going to be aware that they need to get online to do this. Mr. Brown stated that the committee will put out flyers in the mail with the information. We will also try to make appearances at different events with booths and there will also be information at all the Towns and the County. Councilman Rapier asked if there was any talk about going door to door with an iPad. Mr. Brown answered yes, that there is talk of someone going door to door. Motion was made by Councilman Rapier to approve Resolution 676-2018 and was seconded by Councilman Larson. Motion carries unanimously

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Brown stated that Phil Curtis is going to be Evan Bustamante's partner now. On the Church Street Project, the water main is lagging and there are some issues with the contractor and the conflicts with the existing utilities. I have spoken with Mr. Skeet and offered our help and support if we can do anything. The power is all relocated and Cable One and Centurylink will be coming in to move their stuff to our poles so we can get those old poles moved. SEAGO has been in contact with other cogs and they have agreed to loan us the money, so they are working on the timing. Mr. Vertrees thinks that we should have everything ready by the end of the month. Mr. Palmer is working on the design for the sidewalk over on Stadium Avenue. He has also been surveying and getting the design ready for the soccer fields. There have been some culverts that we have discovered during this water main upgrade that I am not comfortable with leaving in place under our new road. So sometime between now and when the Church Street contractors start we need to go in and replace the irrigation piping so that we don't have issues with settling or collapsing after we get the new road in.

We are putting together the bid package for our annual street project. Mayor Rivera asked about the intersection at 20th Avenue and Highway 70, has ADOT told us what they are going to do? Mr. Brown stated that ADOT did respond but he would follow up again to see what they wanted to do. We have a new contractor working on Red Lamp and he should be moving the rest of those out starting next week. Scott Cleland is doing a little economic development reaching out and talking to drum up developers on Red Lamp. Councilwoman Smith asked when they have to be out if it was the beginning of November. Mr. Brown answered the middle of November. We are going to get started on our general plan.

Chris Cook has indicated that he would like to retire from the little league basketball. Kyle and Kari Hull are willing to take that over as well and are very excited and organized. We are going to raise those fees from \$15 to \$40. As part of the Tom Palmer rezone, we saw that there was a big gap between single family residential and multi-family residential. It goes from nothing but single family homes to large scale apartments. Other towns have a gap zone that allows

duplexes and single family homes. It might be something for us to think about, having another option. Mr. Brown mentioned that if that is something you might be interested in, then we can start working on something. Councilwoman Smith asked if we would create a whole new zone for duplexes and single family homes. Mr. Brown answered yes. Councilman Bryce and Councilwoman Smith stated that they thought that was a good idea.

B. Fire Department Report

Chief Payne stated that two Saturday's ago we burned Chris Allen's house and I think it helped to boost our morale. Mayor Rivera asked if Safford and Pima were invited. Chief Payne stated that we usually do, but didn't this time. We just had our open house and because we didn't get flyers out to the school we probably had about 300 less people. Coming up, we have been asked to participate in Chris Mack's funeral. We will take the ladder truck out there with the flag to the cemetery. We do have another house to burn coming up on the 27th. Mayor Rivera stated please thank our fire fighters.

C. Police Department Report

We have had some possible changes for the routes for the homecoming parade for both the high school and college. We have Halloween coming up, so Search and Rescue will be helping us out at Quail Ridge, and we will be putting up some light towers as well. The Easter Seals and the Blake Foundation are putting on an event at the Reay Lane Park on November 8 to honor veterans and first responders. They are asking for veterans and first responders to be there if they are available. We received our detective's pick up and our patrol vehicle should be here soon, but I don't expect to have it on the road before December. We finally have the AZ Tracks program semi-operating in our police vehicles. Mayor Rivera stated please thank our police officers, we appreciate you.

D. Council Reports

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilman Rapier and seconded by Councilwoman Smith at 6:38.