

**NOTICE OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
December 17, 2018**

Council Present: Mayor Rivera, Vice Mayor Allen, Councilman Larson, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Rapier

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

Visitors: John & Jenny Howard, David Sowders, Judge & Mrs. Petersen, Darla Dodge, David Ramirez, Carlos Montano, Dawn Wood, Rebecca Taylor, Lance Henrie, Carma King

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:02. He stated there is a quorum. He said God bless our men and women in the armed forces especially during this Christmas time while they are protecting us, as it is time for families to be together. God bless our First Responders, our police, our fire, our EMT, s, our border patrol, and custom agents who are also protecting us.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Ken Larson.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY Elected COUNCIL:

Judge Petersen swore in Jenny Howard and then swore in Ryan Rapier and Heston Welker.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR:

Mayor Rivera asked for nominations for Mayor. Councilman Rapier nominated Mayor Rivera and that was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. There were no other nominations. Motion for Mayor Rivera to serve as Mayor carries unanimously. Councilman Rapier nominated Aaron Allen to serve as Vice Mayor which was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. No other nominations were made. Motion for Vice Mayor Allen to continue being Vice Mayor carries unanimously.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Ramirez stated that I live in Quail Ridge and my daughter lives off of 1st Avenue and Highway 70. I think that we need a street light on the Highway at 1st Avenue. Mayor Rivera stated that we had discussed that with ADOT years ago. Mr. Brown mentioned that we can bring that up to ADOT again.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

- A. Christmas Lighting Contest Awards.

Mayor Rivera stated that in our busy world, we don't often take time to . The grand prize winner is David Ramirez, the 1st place winner is Daniel McDowell, the 2nd place winner is Carlos Montano, and the 3rd place winner is Luis Enriquez. Honorable mention goes to Patty Ellerman, Darla Dodge, Dawn Wood, Rebecca Taylor, and Chad Rolfe.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve Minutes of the November 19, 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 Vice Mayor Allen to approve the consent agenda and was seconded by Councilman Rapier. Motion carries unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Award of Consultant Services for Thatcher General Plan Update & US 70 Beautification Concept.

Mr. Brown stated our General Plan should be updated every ten years and it has been ten years. We reviewed the three bids and liked the Planning Center's bid even though they were the highest price. We negotiated the price so that we could do the General Plan as well as the Beautification Concept for \$75,000, so that is staff's recommendation. Motion was made by Councilman Rapier to award the bid to the Planning Center for the Thatcher General Plan Update & US 70 Beautification Concept and was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. A PROCLAMATION OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER DESIGNATING JANUARY 20-26 AS SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Brown stated that the Church Street water main is back underway and it should be done the end of January. Centurylink is also on site. We have gotten all the funding for the Church Street Project. The sidewalk on Stadium Avenue is looking really good so far. It is taking a little longer because we are running a water line for some landscaping. Vice Mayor Allen asked where is the water coming from. Mr. Brown answered that we are just teeing off of the water at Town Hall. We will be taking a field trip to the Mesa Amphitheater to look at the design and get a tour.

The paving package is out and we will have that ready for you in January. We have one more occupant in Red Lamp and we will let them stay thru Christmas. I have gotten some comparisons to the Sherman property. I looked at 4 different properties that have sold, the John Hunt property, the land where the Beehive House is, Red Lamp, and also the land where Tractor Supply is. The most comparable property is the Beehive property that went for \$89,000 an acre. Mayor Rivera stated that I would like to see this brought back up again at our next meeting.

I received a visit from our Court Clerk, Merri Aden and they are having a hard time keeping up with the work load. I am going to talk to Mr. Skeet and also the Town of Pima to see what their thoughts are but wanted to put it on your radar. I had an anonymous letter sent with an idea that I actually love. It is lighting the tree at the College. I had our electric guys look at that, and in order to do that we would have to put the power underground in that stretch. Councilman Rapier asked where that stretch would be. Mr. Brown explained that it would be from Stadium Avenue to College Avenue.

B. Fire Department Report.

Chief Payne stated that we participated in the funeral for Paul Richardson last week. We have three openings on the fire department right now. Coming up on February 11th we have a new ISO rating coming out. One of the things they look at is our pump testing and we will be having that done in January. They also look at the water system which is 1/3 of our rating. Right now we are a Class 3. We also have over 17,000 feet of hose that we need to inspect. Mayor Rivera stated please thank our fireman.

C. Police Department Report.

Chief Woods stated that during December we have the DUI Task Force which our agency is hosting during Christmas. Vice Mayor Allen asked what hosting means. Chief Woods explained that we are responsible for the briefing before the detail and handle the planning and pick the area. Mayor Rivera asked about getting warrants for DUI's and Chief Woods explained that now we can do e-warrants. We had some officers go to the elementary school to do bike safety. Sergeant West has been over at the

high school the last month teaching some constitutional items in the government classes. We will also be sending him to training next month to debrief first responders with PTSD. We also have our new police car in Phoenix being built, so hopefully we will have that back next month. We did a speed study on 1st Ave. after a complaint that we received about speeding. We put a box that measures a vehicles speed in two separate locations and left it there a week at a time. In the report we received, it stated that the average speed for 85% of the people is 39 mph where the posted speed is 35 mph, and the other location was 41 mph. Mayor Rivera asked if it picked up both lanes of traffic and Chief Woods answered yes that it did. It also gives us times so that we can see if we need to ramp up patrol during certain times. Mayor Rivera stated please thank all of our officers.

D. Council Reports.

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilwoman Smith to adjourn council meeting at 6:54 and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously.