

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL

July 15, 2019

Councilmembers present: Mayor Rivera, Vice Mayor Allen, Councilman Bryce, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Rapier, Councilwoman Howard, Councilman Welker

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

Staff absent: Town Engineer Tom Palmer

Visitors: Ward Weaver, David Sowders, Vance Bryce, Lance Henrie

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:30 p.m. He stated that we do have a quorum. On behalf of this council, God bless our men and women in the armed forces especially those in harm's way, first responders, fire and police, border patrol, ICE, Marshall's and anyone else in the line of fire.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Clifford.

PUBLIC HEARING:

None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Ward Weaver stated that last month you passed an ordinance 184-2019 but you didn't give any explanation on it. Councilman Rapier stated that the ordinance was for the R-2 zoning. We did have a discussion about it. Mr. Weaver explained that he knew what it was about because he had been at the previous council and planning and zoning meetings, but didn't think that we had given an explanation on it. Councilman Rapier explained that if he wanted more information he could refer to the council agenda.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approve minutes of the June 20, 2019 Regular Council Meeting & the July

3, 2019 Special Council Meeting.
Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
Police Monthly Report.
Approval of Invoices.
Financial Reports.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Town of Thatcher - Public Safety Personnel Retirement System - Pension Funding Policy

Mr. Brown mentioned that the State of Arizona requires us to outline how we are going to pay back our unfunded liability. We bought software that is going to analyze how we can pay this back so we will have a better idea for our future budget sessions on how we want to proceed. Mayor Rivera asked if this is the policy that staff recommends. Mr. Brown said yes. Councilwoman Smith stated so what happens in thirty years when we pay this off. Mr. Brown explained that basically every year we are paying the back log. Councilman Welker explained that this an actuarial accrued. Councilwoman Howard stated that if we decide to pay more towards the end of the year then we can look at the amortization. Mr. Brown answered yes, that is what this software will do. Motion was made by Councilman Welker to accept the public safety funding policy. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Howard. Motion carries unanimously.

Utility Rate Increase – Monthly Sewer and Garbage Fees

Mr. Brown explained that this is the item we discussed during our budget workshop. The landfill fees are increasing by 18% and we have always been slightly in the red, so we discussed a \$3 residential increase and I applied the same to the commercial. This would generate around \$72,000 which would allow us to cover those landfill fees and also start to build that fund for next time we need to buy a garbage truck. Our sewer fees have been a little better, but it doesn't allow for any planning or expansion so we looked at increasing those rates by \$2.00. That would allow us to slowly

build money in our sewer fund as well. We want to camera our sewer system and we are bound to find problems. That would make it a \$5.00 increase overall to residential customers. Mayor Rivera stated that we do need to start planning for the future. Motion was made by Councilman Rapier to increase the garbage rates by \$3.00 and \$2.00 for the sewer and other charges as outlined. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Councilman Bryce asked when this is going to begin. It was decided to make the rates effective September 1. Motion carries unanimously.

Board of Adjustment Member Replacement

Mr. Brown stated that the Board of Adjustments has been made up of two councilmember's, two planning and zoning members, and three other members. We need to replace Ken Larson. Motion was made by Councilman Rapier to nominate Vice Mayor Allen to be on the Board of Adjustments and was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Brown stated that we have finally awarded the Church Street Project and they are going to start on August 8. We have a pretty solid end date in sight. We are moving a lot of dirt at the recreation complex. It could take several months to do the dirt work. We may want to bring in more equipment to move dirt a little faster as we get into this. We completed the sewer at 12th Street. Wes Miner is working on the cemetery now, working on the drip lines and putting in trees. I have had some interest in Red Lamp from two different people. We need to figure out how we are going to dispose of this property legally. Mr. Clifford mentioned that you can do an RFP.

We had a meeting with the County, Pima, and NRCS and there are some funds that we are going to apply for to see if we get for our draining issues. We would like to get plans in place that would relieve our canals. Evan Bustamante has retired so we are going to advertise for his position and we had also discussed someone to spray weeds. Mayor Rivera asked about 20th Avenue and the Highway. Mr. Brown stated that he had gotten Bill Harmon to admit that there was a problem and that he would keep talking to him.

Mayor Rivera mentioned that we will be at League of Cities and Towns next meeting so it was discussed that we will move the meeting to the 26th.

B. Fire Department Report

Chief Payne asked what the feedback was on the 4th of July. Councilwoman Smith mentioned she had heard lots of positive things. Vice Mayor Allen stated that the fireman spraying the kids was a big hit. Mr. Payne went on to report that we are going to be doing a natural gas and electrical emergencies training and dinner in Pima this week. We also have some rope rescue scheduled that we will be working on with Search and Rescue. We have had quite a few brush fires lately so we want to encourage everyone to be careful. Mayor Rivera stated please thank our fire fighters.

C. Police Department Report

Chief Woods stated that this month we are sending Officer Ellsworth to training for the grant that GOHS gave us funding for. On the 20th we have Pioneer Day and then school is right around the corner. We also will be sending a few officers to the training down in Pima for gas and electrical emergencies. Mayor Rivera stated thank you and thank our officers for doing a great job.

D. Council Reports

Vice Mayor Allen stated that the 4th of July celebration went very well. Councilwoman Howard helped us to be better organized and put on a better breakfast. I think pushing the start time back an hour helped. We did present a flag to Barbara Stailey in a flag box which was nice. The fire department did a great job and the police department did a great job as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Allen at 7:16 and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to go into executive session.

Executive session ended at 8:10.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Allen to adjourn at 8:10 and was seconded by Councilman Rapier.