

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
August 26, 2019**

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

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

Visitors: Lance Henrie, Ward Weaver, David Sowders, John Howard

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:30. He welcomed everyone to our monthly meeting and stated that there was a quorum. He stated on behalf of this council, God bless the men and women in the armed forces, our first responders, fire and police, our border patrol, ICE, and everyone involved in protecting our great nation.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilwoman Smith.

PUBLIC HEARING:

None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Councilman Rapier and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to go into executive session at 7:15. Motion carries unanimously.

- A. Purchase & disposal of real property.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the July 15, 2019 Regular Council Meeting.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.

- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Smith to approve the consent agenda and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

None

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Porter Lane Storm water Improvements

Mr. Brown explained that I, Tom, and councilwoman Howard met with Lance Layton regarding this. The ultimate goal is to get storm water to the river. At the end of Porter lane and the end of Cota there is a lot of water that accumulates. This last storm the ditch was overflowing onto the Montano property. We have met with the Daley's and Lance Layton and have a plan where we could put in an open channel. Mr. Palmer has come up with a pretty good plan to come up with all the easements and everything that we would need. I would like to get council's permission to start the conversation to see what compensation they would like to obtain the land we need. Vice Mayor Allen asked why we want to pond the water vs letting it go to the river. Mr. Palmer explained that there is a field at the north end of porter lane there is a field that is kind of river bottom. We can't dump water there without owning it. So by acquiring some land we can control how to get the water to the river best. The long term goal is to drain at Reay lane, porter lane, first, and the big Walmart drain, so every half a mile. As the town develops all we have to do is get it into one of those. Right now we have the drains at both ends of town, but nothing in the middle. Mayor Rivera stated that i think this is a good idea to help drain the canals.

- B. Revision No. 11 to Contract No. 87-BCA-10105, as amended, between the Town of Thatcher and Arizona and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)

Mr. Brown explained that every year our consultant explains to WAPA how much power we need to WAPA and they tell us what they will give us. This is our annual contract to readjust those power purchase amounts. Motion was made by Councilman Rapier to approve Contract No. 87-BCA-10105 with Western Area Power and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

- C. Thatcher Recreation Complex – Schedule Discussion

Mr. Brown explained that we would like to put up a map of our new recreation complex. I want to see if we have included everything that we want it too and the phasing. Mayor Rivera asked what staff's recommendation is. Mr. Brown stated that we want to see the project completed, but we have a lot of other projects as well such as the highway beautification project and curbs and sidewalks. Vice Mayor Allen suggested that we get enough done that the area solid enough so that if we have to go onto another project that this doesn't deteriorate or slough backwards.

Mr. Brown suggested that we do the soccer fields, parking lots, dog park, the restroom/concession building and a few gazebos while we are here. The next phases would be the walking path, disc golf, playground, bocce ball courts, pickle ball courts, and then the amphitheatre. Councilman Howard asked if Mr. Brown could put together a work plan for the entire project with costs and constraints and pre-requisites for what needs to be done before what and bring it to our work session. Councilman Rapier stated that he would like to see us put a deadline on when the project should be finished. Councilwoman Howard stated that I don't think we should put a deadline on it and Vice Mayor Allen agreed with that. Councilwoman Howard also mentioned that we might be able to get some funding through grants so we could contract part of that out. Councilman Rapier stated that we do have the option for bonding as well.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Brown stated that the contractor on Church Street has removed the entire sidewalk on the south side of Church and he will get all of that curb and sidewalk poured before he moves to the north side. The concrete crew is going to show up in about a week. They have been really good to work with and we are really happy with them.

It looks like we are about half way done with the dirt work at the rec complex. We have met with the Planning Center and they have given us a site proposal for Red Lamp. They are going to give us several versions so we can fine tune that.

Mr. Brown asked when they would like to have the work session. It was decided that we would do that on September 23. Mayor Rivera asked what was going on with our website and Mr. Brown said that we signed a contract with a new company who seems to put out a better product with better usability and features.

B. Fire Department Report

Chief Payne explained that they had rope training for a few days up at Frye Mesa

with the mine. We also performed some extrication work at the junkyard and our new equipment works really well. We have 16 people going to fire school this year. We will have them report on what they learned to the others. Mayor Rivera stated please thank our fire fighters for their service.

C. Police Department Report

Chief Woods mentioned that they would have some officers at the active shooter training that will be held at the Lee Little Theater over at EAC. It is hosted by the EMS community and is for them and how they would interact with others in an active shooter situation. Officer West and I did a presentation at EAC to the athletes on youth alcohol. We also did a presentation on ALICE training out at the federal prison which is civilian response to active shooting. Officer Ellsworth and Dan Martin went over to a TRAX training which is for our e-ticket software. Right now the County hosts this software and they are trying to get the state to host this.

We just purchased tasers and everyone has a good taser now. Our detectives just participated in online child predator investigations that we helped with last month. The detectives were posing as children and I was amazed at the adults that were trying to meet up with these children. It was a very good operation and several arrests were made. Our detectives also helped with the bodies that were found over the weekend. Mayor Rivera told Chief Woods to thank the officers for all they do

D. Council Reports

Councilman Bryce stated that he attended a meeting at the League Conference about funding and how municipalities are funding their projects, and that is through bonding. I think as we go forward we need to think about involving the community in paying for some of these facilities that are enjoyed by all.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. by Councilman Rapier and seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously.