

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
October 21, 2019**

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

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

Visitors: Lance Henrie, Ward Weaver, Vance Bryce, Bri Morris

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:32. He stated that we do have a quorum. On behalf of this council I would ask our Heavenly Father to watch over those in the armed forces, especially those in harms way, our first responders, police and fire, EMT's, border patrol, custom agents, Marshalls, and everyone who protects us.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Clifford.

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Rivera, Vice Mayor Allen, Councilman Rapier, Councilman Bryce, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Welker, Councilwoman Howard.

PUBLIC HEARING:

None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Vance Bryce, executive director Chamber of Commerce invited the council to their annual membership meeting. He mentioned that they are rolling out new by-laws, voting on new members, and there will be a lot of information given. Some of the highlights are that we have a programmer working on a voice app for our members, like asking Alexa and Siri what different business' hours, our new website, and our new Gila Valley App.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the September 23, 2019 Council Work Session.
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
- C. Police Monthly Report.
- D. Approval of Invoices.
- E. Financial Reports.

Motion: Action: Approve, Moved by Councilwoman Smith, Seconded by Councilman Bryce.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Town of Thatcher Employee Handbook Update
Mr. Brown explained that we did not have the revisions back from the Employer's Council for the handbook but will get it out to Council as soon as we get it for review.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report
Mr. Brown stated that we have relocated all the power at the recreational complex. We also got the water service installed. We still have a ways to go but it is starting to take shape. We have about another month to go on the earth work. Church Street is going well, but I'll let Mr. Palmer tell you about that. Mr. Palmer mentioned that Hatch is the general contractor and Lusk is the one that is the concrete sub. It goes a lot quicker when they can use the curbing machine. They are entirely done with the first block up to 1st Avenue and Hatch will come in within the next two weeks and start getting the road ready and the base. They will start in two weeks with the curbing machine on the north side between 1st& 3rd Avenues now that we have sidewalk that is usable, so we can push pedestrians to the south. I am optimistic that we will still hit our February deadline. Councilwoman Smith asked if the asphalt will go all the way to the sidewalk and Mr. Palmer stated that it will be to the curb. Vice Mayor Allen asked what the plan is for working around the College. Are they going to do that during Christmas when everyone is gone? Mr. Palmer replied that they think they might get to that before the break. Mayor Rivera said we would like to thank our residents for being so patient.

We have a General Plan Meeting Thursday and we will also have a meeting to go

over the Highway Beautification Plan. The broadband grant that Councilwoman Smith brought up at the last meeting is being worked on. I don't know exactly what our role will be, but they may have an idea of how to help us with the cause. We also had a request from Hughes Network Systems and they want a letter from us to help support them. EAC is going to go ahead and get the EAC theme street signs ordered and then we will help get those installed.

The last thing I have is that the Mayor and I attended a Mayor/Manager meeting with Pima, Safford, and the County. We discussed the water situation and the three Mayors signed a letter to the Tribal Council encouraging them to seek alternative solutions and meet with us. Mr. Skeet talked about the Veteran's Day event that the Lion's Club is doing. We have six different flags with the donation that council approved that we will have there. What we discussed the most was sales tax sharing which the Mayor of Pima brought up. They are becoming more and more a bedroom community, so they are interested in some type of sales tax sharing. They really want 2% of Walmart, but we discussed lots of different ideas. One idea would be if any new businesses come in we share a percentage of that. One idea would be a flat line sales tax number, and then if the next year our sales tax increases then we take a percentage of that and share it with Pima. I don't know if this is going anywhere, but I assume at some point you as a council will be hearing from their council. Mayor Rivera stated that we left it up to the Manger's to discuss some options.

B. Fire Department Report

Chief Payne mentioned that we just had our open house a few weeks ago and it was the most people that we have ever had. It is good to give people some education on what we do and to help recruit. We were given a house down in Central that we are going to be doing some training on. Councilwoman Howard asked if you have ever set up a booth at any events to try to recruit fireman. Chief Payne stated that we do at the Dump the Drugs event at Home Depot. Mayor Rivera stated please on behalf of this council thank our fire fighters.

C. Police Department Report

Chief Woods stated that I did want to let you know that we received our new police car from the GOHS grant. If you notice, it is black, but that is all that we could find with our time frame. We also are signing all the grant paperwork for the upcoming year. With Halloween coming up we will be bringing out the light towers at Quail Ridge. Search and Rescue usually helps with that, but we aren't sure what will happen yet. Other than that we had a few bad traffic accidents last month with one knocking out power and a bad motorcycle accident as well. Mayor Rivera asked if we have heard anything on a school resource officer yet. Chief Woods mentioned that we should be hearing something soon, but there were a lot more applicants then they had thought. Vice Mayor Allen asked if we could get some more solar powered flashing lights on 1st Street. Councilman Bryce

stated that they could be brighter. Vice Mayor Allen also mentioned that we may need some on Church Street as well. Mayor Rivera stated thank you and please thank our officers.

D. Council Reports

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUORUM'S

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Action: Adjourn, Moved by Vice Mayor Allen, Seconded by Councilwoman Smith at 7:15. Motion carries unanimously.