

**NOTICE OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
January 27, 2020**

Councilmembers present: Mayor Rivera, Vice Mayor Allen, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Bryce, Councilman Rapier, 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, Assistant Public Works Director Tommy Nicholas, Engineer Tech Gary Allred, Office Andy Rodger

Visitors: Keith Dennis, Ward Weaver, John Howard, David Sowders, Don Riddle, M'Lee & Kenny Goodman, Valerie Michaud, Mitchell & Heather Goodman, Stacy Morris, Kara Calloway, Alysia McBride, Brad & Jessica Smith, Dave Largen, Steven Cluff, Jodi Cluff, Josh & Amber Halverson, Wesley Word

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Rivera at 6:30. He stated that we do have a quorum. He said God bless our men and women in the armed forces, our police and fire, our first responders, border patrol, ICE and all who protect the Town of Thatcher.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Welker.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. CDBG Presentation by SEAGO and CDBG Project Selection/Discussion

Mr. Keith Dennis came from SEAGO to facilitate the part of the public hearing process for the CDBG money. He explained that CDBG is a community development block grant that is funded by housing and urban development, money approved by Congress. The point of CDBG is to provide funds to benefit low to moderate income environments throughout the nation. There are three main types of CDBG, one of which is regional accounts, which is why we are here. The second is a competitive, state special projects account for projects that are shovel ready. The last one is a colonias grant which is for areas along the U.S./Mexico border.

Public participation is what brings us here tonight and you know what your community needs are, better than I do. Whatever projects are being considered must be brought up at this meeting tonight. CDBG funds can be used for public works, housing rehabilitation, facilities, public services, economic development, or can be designated to a non-profit. Thatcher will receive approximately \$240,470 this year. No match is required unless needed for the budget.

Mr. Brown asked the audience for ideas. Some ideas that were brought by the audience were Jim McGee pickleball courts, Jessica Smith mentioned a homeless shelter. Josh Halverson seconded the need for a homeless shelter. Mr. Brown stated that street projects are great. Mr. Dennis mentioned that the whole Town is not qualified so it would have to be somewhere in the census block. Street projects could be done in Daley Estates and the older part of Town. Mr. Palmer stated that we need any ideas. Councilman Bryce mentioned addressing storm water and flooding issues. Mayor Rivera mentioned paving the parking lot at the ball fields. Mr. Brown mentioned donating funds to the non-profits. Mr. Palmer listed many options: drainage improvements, main drainage corridors to the river, sidewalks & street improvements from Quail Ridge to 8th Street, sidewalks and street improvements on 8th Street from 1st Avenue to 20th Avenue, Daley Estates drainage including low water crossings, High School Avenue improvements and drainage, drainage, in Daley Estates, ADA accessible improvements in parks, multi-use paths, Red Lamp improvements, highway beautification, affordable housing adjacent to the College, sewer CCTV or repairs, improve ADA in the old portion of the Town including sidewalks, improve highway crossing for schools, purchase blighted property, buy land for new housing, donate to substance abuse coalition or to other non-profit organizations. Councilman Smith mentioned sidewalks around the school and Councilman Rapier mentioned better lighting. Chief Woods mentioned a safer loading and unloading zone in front of the cafeteria at the school.

- B. Zoning Change Request – Parcel #104-28-087, located at 3050 W. Spencer Lane in Thatcher. The current zoning of this parcel is a mix of R1-43 (residential, 1-acre minimum lot size) and R1-8 (residential, 8,000 sf minimum lot size). The applicant is requesting that the entire parcel be zoned R1-8 or R1-10 (residential, 10,000 sf minimum lot size).

Mayor Rivera turned time over to Mr. Clifford. Mr. Clifford explained that there shouldn't be a decision made at this time. This needs to go back to Planning & Zoning due to a conflict of interest. Motion was made by Councilwoman Howard and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen to table this request and have it go back to Planning and Zoning. Motion carries unanimously.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Largen stated that he lived at the Revival Apartments. The immediate concern for me is that my car sits low and there are several drop offs with the construction on Church Street. My car is bottoming out as I come in and out of the Church Street Storage. This is ripping my car apart and the front-end alignment is torn apart. Another issue I would like to address is the drug problem that we have here. Why can't we do something about it? Hopefully we can do something about these issues.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the December 16, 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 Councilman Rapier and seconded by Councilwoman Smith to approve the consent agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. ORDINANCE NO. 185-2020: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP FOR THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA PURSUANT ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.3 REZONING REQUESTS AND ZONING TEXT AMENDMENTS, OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER ZONING ORDINANCE BY CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION FOR 0.35 ACRES LOCATED AT 3050 W. SPENCER LANE IN THATCHER, WEST PORTION OF PARCEL #104-28-087 FROM "R1-43" TO "R1-8". (CASE #Z 20-01).

Mayor Rivera mentioned that we tabled this to go back to Planning and Zoning.

B. THE HONORABLE SCHOOL CHOICE PROCLAMATION

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A. Town Manager's Report
 - Public Works Projects – Maintenance, Recreation Complex, Church Street
 - Office/Service Window Change
 - Garbage Truck Rebuild
 - Paving Project Status
 - Census Status
 - Town Council Meeting Schedule for February 2020
 - 2019 Success's

- 2nd Quarter Budget Update

Mr. Brown mentioned that under maintenance, we did some sewer taps, filled potholes, sweeping and got the roads back into shape. We were away from the complex for about a month. Our goal is to plant grass this summer. On Church Street they will be paving between College and High School tomorrow and then will move on to the roundabout which will take 3-4 weeks. Mr. Palmer explained that this should be completed by the end of March. We took our newest garbage truck, and had it rebuilt, and we are using that now. We are getting ready to advertise our paving bid in conjunction with the College.

The Mayor mentioned that it is important to mention our successes. Mr. Brown went over the highlights from 2019 which included many projects on Church Street, paving, culverts, sidewalks, employee handbook.

Under budget highlights, Mr. Brown stated that we have collected more sales tax for the year than we expected. We are a little short on the state sales tax, but I think we'll be right on schedule. Building permits are ahead of schedule this year. HURF funding is doing well. We did get extra money that will be spent on Church Street.

The one thing I am watching closely is the amount of money that we are spending on electricity. Councilwoman Howard asked if we can get a report on all our facilities and buildings and the status of any needed repairs and HVAC to present during our budget work session. Mr. Brown mentioned that he didn't know of any issues with any of our buildings, but that he would work on that.

B. Fire Department Report

- Training - House Burn
- Elections - Jan. 28
- Hose Testing
- Annual Appreciation Dinner – Branding Iron – Feb. 14

Chief Payne stated that we have been given another house to burn and will use it for training from now until we burn it. We look forward to that. We have elections tomorrow night for our officers. I don't foresee a whole lot of changes. We will be doing hose testing the next few months. Mayor Rivera mentioned please thank our volunteers.

C. Police Department Report

- Training
- Community / Traffic Control / Enforcement
- Alice Training
- Mock Crime Scene Class

Chief Woods explained that we will be doing our firearms training tomorrow to get that out of the way for the year. We sent Officer Maner to a defensive

tactics school to help keep our guys safer. We have another class coming up that we are sending five officers to. We are going to be doing ALICE training for office staff which will include a few hours of online training as well as practical exercises. We will be doing traffic control while they are doing the Roundabout to help with the congestion. Mayor Rivera stated please thank our officers.

D. Council Reports

Mayor Rivera mentioned that Mr. Brown, Ms. Mortensen, and I went to the PSPRS meeting last week in Phoenix. The ones that I went to were about the local boards and it was a good conference. The local boards have a lot of responsibility. Mr. Brown mentioned that the ones I attended were on the investments and what they are doing. Ms. Mortensen stated that she attended classes on finance, reporting and on cancer and insurance for those retiring.

Vice Mayor Allen received an appointment to sit on the Supreme Court Character and Fitness Committee. I am one of the three public members in the state that gets to decide who carries a law license in the state. This appointment is for the next five years.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUORUM'S

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made at 8:28 to adjourn by Councilman Rapier and seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Motion carries unanimously.