

**NOTICE OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
July 20, 2020**

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

Councilmembers absent: Councilman Welker

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

Visitors: Johnny Howard, Eddy Carlton, Brandon Homer, Ainsley Allen, Horatio Skeete, Brooke Curley

AGENDA

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Eddy Carlton.

Roll Call.

PUBLIC HEARING:

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

John Howard stood and gave an update on the House of Hope. He thanked Heath for all the work he did and sent the bid out to the local contractors. We just received another \$100,000 from the United Way. We are also going to get some funding from the state so it should be facilitated for the next three to four years. Mayor Rivera thanked him and Jenny for all the work they have done.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve minutes of the June 15, 2020 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 was seconded by Councilwoman Smith to approve the consent agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COVID-19 Pandemic Proclamation

Mr. Brown explained that the County and all the local cities have authored this Proclamation. The main focuses are that we follow the CDC guidelines and that we suggest mask wearing. Motion was made by Councilwoman Smith and was seconded by Councilman Rapier to approve the COVID-19 Pandemic Proclamation. Motion passes unanimously.

B. First Amendment to Amended and Restated Agreement between the Town of Thatcher and the City of Safford for Delivery of Potable Water Service to Town of Thatcher Residents.

Mr. Brown mentioned that we discussed this a few months ago. The Co-op is taking over the water for Central. The reason this affects us is because the Co-op will take over part of Thatcher on Palmer Lane. Mayor Rivera asked if the rates are the same for both City of Safford Water and the Co-op. Mr. Skeete stood and stated that the cost of water is about the same for City of Safford as it is at the Co-op. Motion was made by Councilman Rapier to accept the first amendment to amended and restated agreement between the Town of thatcher and the City of Safford for delivery of potable water and was seconded by Vice Mayor Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

C. Planning and Zoning Commission Appointments and Recognition

Mr. Brown stated that we have three positions available on the planning and zoning commission as the three current commission members have chosen to retire at the end of their term. Mayor Rivera mentioned that we have four letters of interest. Mr. Palmer stood and mentioned that we have Brandon Homer, Wayne Layton, Billy Orr, and Eric Wright who are all great candidates. Brandon has a background in real estate, Wayne has a background in finance and farming, and then both Billy and Eric are both engineers. Mayor Rivera stated that I suggest that we put Brandon Homer on there with his background in real estate and insurance. Several councilmembers agreed. Councilman Bryce made the motion to appoint Mr. Homer, Mr. Layton, and Mr. Orr to the planning and zoning commission and was seconded by Councilwoman Howard. Motion carries unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report

- Public Works Projects – Roundabout Landscaping, Recreation Complex

Mr. Brown stated that the landscaping is done at the roundabout and it turned out really nice. We have the hydro seeding done at the recreation complex. We hope it keeps going as well as it is. We will be back at the rec complex full-time next Monday. We are finishing up conduits for lighting, water, and electric. Next, we will start installing streetlights along Reay Lane and 8th Street. Once that is complete, we will start putting in the walking paths and then we will move to the trees and planters for the whole complex. This will take the next three months.

- Financial Summary

Mr. Brown explained that I came up with two different spreadsheets. One is a year end summary which compares last year to this year. It also includes a five-year trend. One of the highlights would be how much more we collected then spent this year. The second one is a comparison for the last twelve months.

- Census Status

Councilwoman Smith stated that we did an event on Saturday at the College where we had a few people complete the census. Thatcher is at 63.2% completion.

- AZCares Funds

Mr. Brown mentioned that our application is in and we are waiting on feedback from them. Mayor Rivera asked where that money can be spent. Mr. Brown mentioned that we will be spending it on the police payroll.

- United Way

Mr. Brown stated that the director from the United Way and his assistant came to visit me. They also would like the Town to consider helping them raise funds. City of Safford does an event and the proceeds go to the United Way. They love our rec complex and would love to work with the Town on this. Councilman Rapier asked if they might be willing to help us with a study on feasibility for a rec center as well as helping us with disc golf. We did discuss a rec center. With Freeport involved, it is not so far-fetched.

- HURF Funds – Paving Project

Our HURF funds must be used for transportation. Last year they

gave every town a bonus amount and we knew we were going to be short on our Church Street project. We came up in the black on that about \$75,000. Switching to this year, I would like to get your ok to spend that extra money from last year, this year. I would like to do this in the fall and move ahead and bid the paving project soon. Mr. Palmer mentioned that some of the areas that we are looking at paving would be finishing out Church Street to Reay Lane, College Avenue, Railroad Street, High School north of Church Street to the Highway, and Angle Drive. Mayor Rivera asked about the intersection at 8th Street and First Avenue. Mr. Brown stated that they did have a lot of the water problems there.

Mr. Brown also stated that Becky Nutt called him and asked what she could help us with, and he mentioned that we need more transportation funding. The U.S. 70 through Thatcher is terrible.

Vice Mayor Allen asked about the responses on the CDBG grant on High School Ave. Mr. Brown stated that we have all but six homes. Mr. Palmer stated that Keith Dennis who is working us through the process told us we were good to go and when he went to HUD, they told him that we had to survey just that street. We have gotten about 85% respondents. Our low mod is such that we still meet the 51+.

Councilwoman Smith stated that the walking path on Reay Lane is dark and I was wondering if we could get some solar lights in to help with that. Mr. Brown stated that we could probably put some in our streetlight budget.

B. Fire Department Report

- Calendar / Events

Chief Payne stated that we do not have much going on until the end of September. We have a mobile home that we will get for training down Reay Lane. Until then we will be testing hose and normal things. Mayor Rivera stated please thank our fireman, they put their lives on the line and we appreciate them.

C. Police Department Report

- Safety Equipment Grant

We are refreshing our body cams to start the new five-year contract. We also received a settlement from Wells Fargo, so our share is about \$16,000 to purchase safety equipment. We will be getting some rifle plates and ballistic helmets.

- Substance Abuse Coalition Event

We had dump the drugs on Saturday and had a good turnout.

- Hand Sanitizer

We received another shipment of hand sanitizer, so if you know of any organizations or churches who needs some, please let us know.

- Interview Room

Our interview room is now operational so I would like to thank our city crews for their help with that. Mayor Rivera stated please thank our officers.

D. Council Reports

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUORUM'S

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilwoman Smith and seconded by Vice Mayor Allen at 7:47 to adjourn council meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

APPROVED:

Michelle Mortensen, Deputy Clerk

Bob Rivera, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher held on this 20th day of July. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Michelle Mortensen, Deputy Clerk