

## **UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

### **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL**

**June 21, 2021**

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

Councilmembers absent: Councilman Carlton

Staff present: Town Manger Heath Brown, Town Attorney Matt Clifford, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, Fire Chief Mike Payne, Deputy Clerk Michelle Mortensen, Tommy Nicholas, Gary Allred

Visitors: Tonka Curtis, Veta Estrada, Bettie Sorensen, John Howard, Lance Henrie, Melanie Tluczek, Vance Bryce, David Bell

### **AGENDA**

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Bryce at 6:31. He stated that we do have a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Mayor Smith.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

A. Shadow Lane Annexation

#### **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Vance Bryce stood and stated that he is the executive director of the Graham County Chamber. Gila Valley Leadership applications are now available if anyone is interested. We have the Limelight program which is a grant program from the Chamber. This is a grant we received from the governor's office to help with marketing for local businesses. We also have a new County tourism program, and we will be back to give you more information on that.

#### **PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

None

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A. Town Manager Evaluation.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Smith to enter executive session and seconded by Councilman Rapier at 7:14. Motion was made to go back into regular session by Councilman Rapier and was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith.

Motion was made for Town Manager to follow council's guidance by Councilman Rapier and was seconded by Councilman Vining.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve minutes of the May 17, 2021 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 Howard and was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith to approve the consent agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **RESOLUTION 693-2021:** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2021/22 BUDGET

Mr. Brown stated that the proposed final budget is the same as the preliminary except I included the GADA loan and the RFQ for architectural services. I put \$50,000 in the budget, but I am not sure what the amount will be. Motion was made by Councilman Rapier to approve Resolution 693-2021 and was approved by Councilwoman Howard. Motion carries unanimously.

- B. Award of Contract for Restroom Construction at Recreation Complex

Mr. Brown explained that we only received two bids and Ron Cox Builders was \$134,000 and Elements Construction was \$154,000. Staff recommends approving the Ron Cox Builders bid. Mayor Bryce asked about the sewer and Mr. Brown stated that everything is already stubbed out and the contractor will make the final connections. Motion was made by Councilwoman Howard to award the bid for restroom construction to Ron Cox Builders by Councilwoman Howard and seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

- C. Cemetery Committee Chairman Report – Veta Estrada

Veta stood and stated that we just wanted to introduce ourselves. I am the chair and Bettie Sorensen is the vice chair. The other members include Tonka and Eric Curtis, Susan Hancock, Annetta Smith, and Kameron Carlsen along with Councilman Vining and Rachel Nicholas. We hope to provide information to help you make decisions. There are two things we want to mention tonight. There are regulations and guidelines for the cemetery that are outdated that we are working on trying to update and we will be bringing that to you in the next few months for your consideration. We also would like to have an item on the website of historical facts submitted by the community regarding the cemetery which would give the people a little more possession and have some pride in the cemetery. Those are two things that we are doing, and we will be bringing them to you periodically. We are excited and hope to be some type of assistance to you.

D. Acceptance of Gila River Trail Easement

Mr. Brown explained that there has been a lot of work since this was presented to you previously. The landowners in Safford are ready to start signing over the easements to the City of Safford. The reason we are doing this now is because Freeport owns land in both Thatcher and Safford. This is the Town authorizing the acceptance of the easement. This means that once the trail is complete that we will maintain it and police it. I recommend that we accept this easement. Mayor Bryce asked if the contract had been reviewed. Mr. Clifford stated that he reviewed it and there is only one question as to who is going to oversee it as far as maintaining and policing it.

Melanie from Gila Valley Watershed explained that we have been working with the City of Safford to accept the trail easements on the Safford side with the idea that they will be working with the County and Gila Valley Watershed in coordination to provide the operation of maintenance. There was not as much information given to the council as there should have been and they questioned the trail easements. This Friday I am meeting with them in a special work session and hope to resolve all the issues. Graham County is in support of this project and they put a line item in their budget if we can raise the rest of the money to get this built then they will contribute that. Mayor Bryce stated that it looks like City of Safford did not allocate any money for this in their 2021-22 budget. Melanie answered yes, but there is still an opportunity. Motion was made by Councilman Rapier to approve the acceptance of the Gila River Trail easements and was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

E. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Activities

Vice Mayor Smith stated that we are going to start the parade at 8:00 followed by a flag raising and pancake breakfast at the ball fields. We are going to have a jumping castle and blow-up water slide and the fire trucks will be doing a spray down.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

### A. Town Manager's Report

- Public Works Projects – Recreation Complex, Pickle Ball Courts, Lighting Control, Reay Ln Sewer Main  
Mr. Brown stated that we have been working on the second mechanical room and they are going to pour that in the morning. Then they will start on the walls. We have our two new employees Grayson Kay and Dallon Ajeman. In a week or two we will be splitting the crews so one will stay there and the other one will be working on the sewer line down Reay Lane. We really do not have to have that done until we have houses done there. Once the mechanical room is done, we have the fences and nets so we will be finishing the pickleball courts.
- Valley Telecom Fiber Optic  
This project is going to be huge for the Town. We have had a few bumps in the road, but we are in contact with the contractor and Valley Telecom.
- New Employees – Grayson Kay & Dallon Ajeman
- Recreation Center RFQ – 28 Inquiries to date  
We have a pre-proposal meeting on Wednesday. I am happy with the number of architectural firms that are interested.
- Mechanic Shop Software  
We are trying to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with our mechanic shop. This software will track maintenance, repairs, and mileage. We are gathering information from the vehicles to get this ready.
- Vietnam Moving Wall  
We had so much good feedback on this.
- World of Concrete Training  
I spoke with all the guys and they were very grateful for the information they received. Mr. Nicholas stated that it was amazing. We went to over 50 hours of classes and had a lot of hands-on training. Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Nicholas went to a lot of supervisory classes.
- Subdivisions  
Quail Ridge is well under construction and we have been watching the progress since we will eventually take over the roads.
- Financial Summary  
We normally have spent around \$500,000 and this month we spend around a million. We spent \$250,000 for the PSPRS payment, the GADA loan payment, and then there was a lot of money that hit from the parks all at once.

### B. Fire Department Report

Chief Payne mentioned that we have had two gas calls and an extrication at a car wreck. We have been busy helping Safford and Pima with some

house fires. Fire school is coming up and we have a lot of guys interested in going. We get a lot of training in those few days. That will be our next big thing.

C. Police Department Report

Chief Woods stated that we participated in a sex offender compliance last month with the U.S. Marshall's. It was an educational deal to help them understand and make sure that they are in compliance with their requirements. We were asked by the County to help do some roadblocks with the Pinnacle Fire down in the Klondyke area. We had Gary Gray from Pima Police Department did some CPR training for our officers. We also replaced Detective Curtis and promoted Officer Thatcher to Detective. Officer Orr will replace her in the rotation so we will be back to full staff.

D. Council Reports

Councilman Rapier explained that we have RFQ's and are moving forward as a committee to get an idea of what the rec center will look like, how we can fund this project, and how we can make a partnership with different entities work. There are a few of us that will be traveling to look at design in Ephraim, Utah; Richfield, Utah; Fruita, Colorado where we will be meeting with three different rec centers. The city in Richfield Utah is one of the only towns that is in partnership with a College. The facility in Fruita was even willing to send over the financials for this. They are similar in size to ours and they are bringing in 1.2 million dollars a year. We will be looking at what things can go into a facility, what will be beneficial, and what will and will not work well. Then we can start working on the RFQ to get some conceptual renderings to see how to proceed. Mayor Bryce stated that this is a vital amenity for our community.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUORUM'S**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Bryce asked if there was anyone opposed to adjourning the meeting. With none said, meeting adjourned at 8:22.