

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
September 13, 2021**

Councilmembers present: Mayor Bryce, Vice Mayor Smith, Councilman Vining, Councilman Welker

Councilmembers absent: Councilman Carlton, Councilwoman Howard (arrived at 6:34pm)

Staff present: Town Manager Heath Brown, Town Attorney Matt Clifford, and Administrative Assistant Rachel Nicholas

Visitors: none

**AGENDA**

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Bryce at 6:32 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Rapier

The purpose of this meeting is to award the contract for Preliminary Architectural Services for a potential recreation center to Architekton for \$31,900.

Mr. Brown briefly summarized the selection of Architekton as the Town's primary consultant. After the initial proposal from Architekton was reviewed, the Town felt that the initial proposal was not in line with what the council had in mind. A second meeting was held with Architekton and Mr. Palmer, Mr. Brown, and Councilman Rapier to revisit what the ideas and plans that were more in line with the Town's vision for a recreation center. Architekton was extremely flexible and willing to work with the Town at our speed. The decision was made to move forward with gathering the public's opinion and find out what they would like in a rec center and to express what the Town's thoughts are on this project. This information will also help us get an idea of what a project like this is going to cost to build and to operate. The proposal we are discussing tonight consists of preparing for the public meeting and also looking at our area and the demographics, collecting data such as how many people would use a rec center, medium average income and how much could the public spend. This information would help us to determine how much we could bring and the cost to operate the center.

Mr. Rapier explains that this meeting is a vital piece in moving forward with the idea of a rec center. This information will help us get an idea of what the public wants and if it is sustainable in our area. Even if the project does not move forward at this time, the information that is gathered during this meeting will help any future discussion of a rec center. This company can provide expertise and insight with this market analysis.

Mayor Bryce states that the purpose of this meeting is to set up a public meeting

on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the EAC Activity Center and begin to get the word out to the community through radio and digital media. Discussion is made about the date of the 27<sup>th</sup>, is it too soon and what are the pros and cons for scheduling it so fast or would it be best to postpone the meeting for a few more weeks. Mr. Brown states that the main reason for scheduling the meeting so quickly is so that we can use the information gathered from the public to present a plan to the United Way organization with the intent to acquire grants for the recreation project. Discussion continues about pushing the initial meeting date for later than Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Howard asks who is the main target audience? Councilman Rapier states that the target audience is the residents of Graham County. Councilwoman Howard suggest using the Salsa Fest to help promote the meeting and get the word out to a wide spectrum of Graham County residents, all of which will be found at the Salsa Fest, which is the weekend before the tentative meeting date of the 27<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Welker expresses his concern about moving to fast with this meeting and not getting the word out to the community which will hurt the attendance which will then affect the data that is gathered. Discussion continues about the importance of having this information gathered in time to present to United Way and is it worth rushing the meeting to even present what little information will be gathered. Mayor Bryce does not have reservations about the time frame, based on how information is spread using social media, radio and word of mouth, he feels the two-week prep period for a meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> is sufficient.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Smith to approve the award of contract to Preliminary Architectural Services for a potential recreation center to Architekton for \$31,900 and seconded by Councilman Rapier. Motion carries unanimously

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02 (A)(1)(7) the Council may go into Executive Session for discussion and to consult with the Town Attorney for legal advice on the following matters: Action Items

Motion is made to go into executive session by Councilman Rapier and seconded by Vice Mayor Smith at 7:17 pm. Motion is made to go back into regular meeting at 8:02 pm by Councilman Rapier and seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Motion carries unanimously

1. Potential Red Lamp Prospect

Motion is made to go back into regular meeting at 8:02 pm by Councilman Rapier and seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Motion carries unanimously

Motion was made by Councilman Welker for the town manager to follow the direction given by the council during executive session. Seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilwomen Smith at 8:04pm. Motion carries unanimously.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heath Brown, Town Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Bryce, Mayor

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher held on this 13th day of September. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Nicholas, Admin Assistant