

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
October 18, 2021**

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

Staff present: Town Manger Heath Brown, Town Attorney Matt Clifford, Town Engineer Tom Palmer, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, and Deputy Clerk Annie Reidhead

Staff absent/excused: Fire Chief Mike Payne, Engineer Tech Gary Allred

Visitors: Kim Smith (EA Courier), David Bell (EA Courier), John Howard, Terry Bryant

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:30 by Mayor Bryce and he stated that this a public meeting of the Thatcher Town Council. He stated that we do have a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Deputy Clerk.

PUBLIC HEARING:

None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

None

CONSENT AGENDA: Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the September 20, 2021, Regular Council Meeting
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report
- C. Police Monthly Report
- D. Approval of Invoices
- E. Financial Reports

Vice Mayor made a motion to approve the consent agenda and was seconded by Councilwoman Howard. Motion carries unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **RESOLUTION NO. 694-2021.** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, URGING THE ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO KEEP RURAL ARIZONA TOGETHER BY CONSIDERING AND ADOPTING THE PROPOSED BASE CONCEPT DISTRICT MAP AS PROVIDED.

Town Manager Brown explained that the information for this resolution was brought to the Town by an organization urging towns within our region to participate in bringing district boundaries closer and getting bigger cities, for example Sierra Vista out of these boundaries. The resolution is also a way for the Town to express our desire for our district to resemble one of the maps included.

Terry Bryant representing his nephew Jesse Bryant addressed the council. They have been working with Sylvia Allen out of Globe, Arizona communicating with towns in the southeast Arizona region. They are on a mission to redistrict in support of rural districts to combine counties to benefit rural Arizona. They would like to bring this information to the state legislature congressional district.

Mayor Bryce addressed the resolution as to be a means of the rural five counties being grouped together with the same common interest to keep counties rural instead of grouping with cities and to not lose our voices. Town Manager explained that if the Town adopted the resolution, it would be an opportunity to support these rural counties. Also addressed that the resolution was written to support the first map proposed with the resolution. Councilman Carlton made motion to approve Resolution 694-2021 and was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

- B. Shadow Lane Electric Service Area Purchase

Town Manager addressed the council as to Shadow Lane being officially annexed. We are already collecting trash for these residents.

The discussion is to purchase the electric service area from Graham County Coop for this annexation. The purchase does not come automatically and there is a process that would need to occur with the Coop which consists of a 3-year waiting period. We would first have to officially notify the Coop of the purchase and secondly must negotiate a price with the Coop. The current guidelines for purchase of electric are based on the Coop's 5 years of profit. Town Manager would like the council's direction to notify the Coop of the purchase with purchase price to come, to start the 3-year waiting period.

The purchase price would be researched and negotiated and would be brought to council for approval.

Town Manager stated that the Town would make a profit on selling

electricity to the new customers/residents. The customers/residents would benefit by receiving Thatcher electric rates which are lower than the Coop's electric rates.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Howard that Town Manager approaches Graham County Coop with notice and intent to purchase the electric infrastructure for Shadow Lane. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rapier. Motion carries unanimously.

10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report

- Public Works Projects

 - Recreation Complex (Pathway)

 - Pouring on the east side of the complex, the 10' pathway from the skatepark into the complex has begun. Pouring will continue until it connects to 8th Street.

 - Reay Lane Sewer Main

 - Over 2,000' of pipe has been installed on Reay Lane. Currently work is being done on the five manholes. We will continue to cross Reay Lane to the west side. Soon we will be closing Reay Lane from Ballpark Road to Church Street to do the trenching, approximated time of closure is 2-3 weeks.

 - Sewer Repairs

 - Valley Telecom hit three different sewer lines during the boring process.

- Thatcher High School Ball Field Assistance

 - Project is complete and the school is happy with the outcome.

- Pickle Ball Courts at Thatcher High School

 - The potential of converting the old basketball courts to pickle ball courts is being discussed with Thatcher High School. Town Manager would like to address the council on our crew members working on this project during nonscheduled working hours, for example Fridays. The crew members would accrue comp time for the work. The estimate is 150-man hours for our crew members multiplied by 1.5 for the comp time. The Town would be providing the concrete for surfacing and the nets. The school would provide fencing and lighting. The school would use the courts for P.E. classes and would also keep the courts open to the public.

 - Council recommended an IGA be proposed to the school for this potential project. The IGA to potentially include the school giving the Town the land and the Town would install the lighting now and be reimbursed by the school later. Council requested this item be an agenda item on the upcoming work session meeting.

- Electric Department Update

 - We have completed our portion of the electric for the new Quail Ridge phases.

- Town Hall Generator

 - Approximate arrival time is estimated at a week

- Recreation Complex Open House
In person and online responses were a huge success. The architect firm expressed that they had never seen a turnout of this size.
- Monthly Financial Summary
Revenue steady
- Police Department
None
- Fire Department
None, Fire Chief Payne absent

B. Council Reports

Mayor would like staff to begin a log of projects that we assist Thatcher Schools with to help with future discussions.

Councilwoman Howard asked about Halloween at Quail Ridge. Will it be Saturday or Sunday? The census is that the Town will post the date of Saturday the 30th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Rapier and was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. All in favor of adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

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 regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher held on this 18th day of October. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Annie Reidhead, Deputy Clerk