

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
December 20, 2021**

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

Councilmembers absent: Vice Mayor Smith

Staff present: Town Manger Heath Brown, Town Engineer Tom Palmer, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, Fire Chief Mike Payne, Engineer Tech Gary Allred, and Utilities Supervisor Rachel Nicholas

Staff members absent: Town Attorney Matt Clifford

Visitors: Kylee (last name unknown), Karen & Jeff Martin, John Howard, Mary Hatcher and Brian Lee

**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 Councilmember Welker

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

A. General Plan Update. Opened to the public, no comments were made.

**OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

No Comments

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

Christmas Lighting Contest Awards were presented to the selected winners and honorable mentions. Those in attendance were presented a cash prize.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Action Item

- A. Approve Minutes of the November 15, 2021 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report
- C. Police Monthly Report
- D. Approval of Invoices
- E. Financial Reports

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Councilmember Howard. Motion carries unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Resolution 697-2021: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA, ADOPTING THE TOWN OF THATCHER GENERAL PLAN UPDATE, A GENERAL PLAN FOR MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PURSUANT TO ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, A.R.S. §9-461 ET. SEQ., ESTABLISHING PLANNING GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES; AND CONSIDERING EACH OF THE PLAN ELEMENTS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

AS WELL AS OTHERS DETERMINED ESSENTIAL BY THE TOWN

Mr. Brown explained that this was the end of the process to update the general plan as required by the state. The general plan has been reviewed and the staff approves and recommends the adoption of the new general plan.

Motion was made by Councilmember Howard to adopt Resolution 697-2021 and seconded by Councilmember Rapier. Motion carries unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action

**A. Resolution 695-2021:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, PERTAINING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN ARIZONA'S 2022 HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN.

Mr. Brown deferred to Chief Woods to explain the Highway Safety Plan. Chief Woods explained that this resolution authorizes the department to apply and receive grants.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rapier to approve Resolution 695-2021 and seconded by Councilmember Howard. Motion carries unanimously.

**B. Resolution 696-2021:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER AMENDING THE POLICY AND REGULATIONS FOR THE THATCHER MUNICIPAL CEMETERY AND ESTABLISHING FEES.

Mr. Brown stated that last month the cemetery committee presented a revised resolution to the council for review. The current resolution was extremely outdated and in need of an update and we very much appreciate the committee revising the resolution. After a review of the new and old resolutions by staff, we have decided to keep all of the suggested updates except for three changes which we have adjusted and will now present to the council for approval. The three things that were changed are as follows:

1. Not include the price of curbing in the cost of a cemetery plot.
2. Raise the price of a cemetery plot to \$400.00 instead of the proposed \$750.00, this cost will not include the price of curbing.
3. The Town may install curbing at the owner's expense, at current market value, depending on staff availability.

Those are the differences in the proposed resolution presented by the cemetery committee. Councilmember Howard asked if there would be a guide to help those wishing to pour their own curbs, to keep consistency. Mr. Brown said that question was discussed. There are a lot of opinions on how the curbing should be done but the staff's recommendation is that variety in curbing would be allowed.

Mayor Bryce expressed his concern that the previous price of \$750.00 was a little out of the price range for the citizens of the town and agreed that the lower price was more appropriate. He also appreciated that review of the staff and all the work done by the cemetery committee to update the cemetery resolution.

Motion to approve Resolution 696-2021 was made by Councilmember Carlton and seconded by Councilmember Howard. Motion carries unanimously.

**B. Witt O'Brien Proposal for COVID-19 and Federal Assistance Programs Support – (ARPA Funds)**

Mr. Brown expressed his concern with the reporting requirements for ARPA funds and the list of requirements for approved projects is very extensive. We don't have anyone on staff that has the time or the expertise to handle all of the many details that the government is requiring. The League of Cities and Towns sent an email with the contacts for two firms that deal specifically with ARPA funds. He reached out to both firms and Witt O'Brien was very responsive. The firm would be paid at an hourly rate and would be available to us as questions arise about ARPA. Mr. Brown also said that the consulting firm could be paid with ARPA funds. Approval is requested to sign a commitment letter with the Witt O'Brien firm with a not to exceed amount at \$24,900. Councilmember Welker and Mayor Bryce both agreed this would be a good option, to have an expert available to the Town to help with the ARPA funds.

Councilmember Welker motioned to engage the Witt O'Brien firm as a consultant and was seconded by Councilmember Rapiere. Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Memorandum of Understanding with Midstate Energy, a Veregy Company, to Develop a Facility & Infrastructure Improvement Program**

Mr. Brown explained that the Veregy Company approached the town and offered to analyze the Town's infrastructure in an effort to help save money in regard to energy consumption. There was no commitment with Veregy to buy anything, but it might be worth it to see the final report they comprise about the Town's energy consumption. Mr. Brown is requesting a motion for a memorandum of understanding with Veregy Company.

Councilmember Rapiere motions to adopt a memorandum of understanding with Midstate Energy, a Veregy Company with the Town of Thatcher as outlined by staff and was seconded by Councilmember Carlton. Motion passes unanimously.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**A. Town Manager's Report**

- **Public Works Projects – Recreation Complex, Reay Ln Sewer Main, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Drainage, High School Avenue Project, etc.**

The restrooms are slowly being constructed, currently waiting on materials. Reay Ln Sewer is complete, has been pressure tested and manholes have been grouted. The construction of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave storm drain has been started. 700 feet of pipe has been put in so far and we are currently waiting for the delivery of the remaining pipe. The High School Ave construction has started. The length of the project is 1500 ft and the streets crew has already installed 500 ft. This is the conduit that will hold multiple utilities.

- **PSPRS Information & Update**

A few scenarios have been presented as we move forward. Of the 3 scenarios all are good news and can be discussed at length later.

- **Fund Balance Investment Strategies – Moreton Asset Mngmt.**

Meetings have been attended with Moreton Asset Mngmt, strategies have been discussed for investing strategies vs LGIP

- **Monthly Financial Summary**
- **Police Department**
- **Fire Department**
- **Mayor Bryce**

Mayor Bryce mentioned the meeting with Congressman O'Halleran and the funds that

were set aside for rural Arizona from the newly passed Infrastructure Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:03pm by Mayor Bryce.

APPROVED:

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Heath Brown, Town Manager

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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 20th day of December. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Annie Reidhead, Deputy Clerk