

**NOTICE OF A WORK SESSION OF THE
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
April 4, 2022**

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38 431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher and the general public that the Town Council will hold a **Work Session that is open to the public on April 4, 2022, beginning at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, Thatcher Town Hall, located at 3700 West Main Street, Thatcher, Arizona.**

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

Staff present: Town Manager Heath Brown, Town Engineer Tom Palmer, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, staff member Rachel Nicholas.

Visitors: Ben Sehy, Morton Assest Management, Susan Hancock and Veta Estrada from the Cemetery Committee.

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to order by Vice Mayor Smith at 6:00 pm. She stated that we do have a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Rapier

Open Call to the Public

None

NEW BUSINESS: None

BUDGET WORK SESSION: Discussion & Consideration

- A. Moreton Asset Management Presentation – Ben Sehy discussed who and what Moreton Asset Management is and outlined possible strategies for the town’s savings bonds that are currently in the LGIP. A recommendation was made by Councilmember Rapier to table any discussions or decision making about Moreton Asset Management until further research about the company could be done.

Purchases/Projects to Consider for Upcoming Fiscal Year

- B. Cemetery Committee - Susan Hancock and Veta Estrada introduced themselves as Cemetery Committee members and wanted to petition the council for extra monies for projects that the committee wished to start working on during the upcoming year. Some of the projects included preemergent spray to help with weed control and gates to help control the traffic flow afterhours. Pros and cons were discussed for both projects. A short term solution, to help with tailgating during baseball season, is a temporary barrier to keep cars from driving on the overlook at night during baseball season or planting oleanders as a natural barrier between the cemetery and baseball

fields. There was also discussion about setting aside money for the committee to use for any volunteer efforts or monthly service projects.

- C. Cost of Living/Merit Raises – Mr. Brown initially proposed a 5% cost of living raise and a 2.5% merit raise for the upcoming fiscal year and opened it up for discussion among the council members. Discussion was made about the initial proposal and the pros and cons for adjusting those numbers based on different criteria. Agreement was made on a 2% cost of living raise and a 2% merit raise.
- D. Employee Christmas Bonus - Increasing the Christmas bonus amounts for the next fiscal year was discussed. Agreement was made to increase the bonus for one year to the following: department heads from \$1200 to \$2000, full time employees from \$300 to \$1000, part time employees from \$150 to \$500 and volunteers remain the same amount of \$150.
- E. Health Insurance – Mr. Brown updated the council on the recent health insurance lawsuit. The insurance company has decided to settle and pay the provider the full amount they are asking for, so therefore the lawsuit will be dismissed. The current health insurance plan will need to be changed due to changes in the way broker is paying out claims. The town is currently shopping for new insurance and get quotes from multiple insurance brokers. Mr. Brown is currently waiting for all quotes to be received and will compile a list and present options to the council at a later meeting.
- F. Parks & Recreation – The Superintendent of TUSD has asked the Town to contribute to the cost of using school facilities that the Town Recreation Leagues use through out the year. Discussion was made about what type of contribution would be appropriate. Pros and cons were made for monetary assistance versus physical/labor assistance with certain projects. All agreed that until the IGA with the school district is updated the best solution would be to have the school invoice the town for the cost of using each facility.
- G. Graham County Economic Development Organization – This organization consists of managers from each town in the county and a representative from Freeport McMorrان. The recommendation from the organization at the last meeting was to hire a full-time person to work on economic development. Discussion was made about this position. Agreement was made not to hire a full-time economic developer.
- H. Sewer & Garbage Fees – Discussion was made for a possible increase in fees to help increase the garbage fund to pay for future purchases. Decision was tabled for future discussion.
- I. Red Lamp – A summary was given about the progress of the Red Lamp site plans and the interested parties involved. Mr. Brown is currently waiting to hear from all parties regarding the proposed cost and site plans for each business.
- J. Department Budget Items –

Town Hall requested included new blinds, a new copy machine and a fireproof cabinet. Requests approved.

The police department requests include body armor, a clothing allowance increase and the annual K-9 costs. Requests approved.

The Fire Department requests include a second set of turnouts, radios, CO2 detectors, wildland turnouts and wildland vehicle. A decision for the fire department requests was postponed until the Fire Chief can come to the next meeting and explain the need for each request.

Public Works – The streets crew has requested a list of new machinery which include a

small front-end loader, a trench compactor, concrete saw, and a paint striper. Discussion about a new backhoe was pushed to the next budget year. Requests approved.
Parks Department requests include a small tractor. Requested approved.
Electric Department is requesting monies to replace all the highway lights to LED. Request approved.

Other Discussion Items as Needed

Street improvement was discussed. Mr. Palmer informed the council that a rating system is currently being set up through SEAGO to rate all the street and roads in the town to help with a road maintenance and improvement schedule.

The Quail Ridge Road closure was discussed. Discussion was made about various issues involving the road closure including labor and materials shortage, community safety, and whether the residents should be officially put on the agenda for the next meeting. A decision was made to contact the spokesperson for the subdivision and explain the issues the contractor is having and ask if he would still like to be put on the council agenda.

Current and Upcoming projects include the completion of the High School Ave project and a few minor completions to the 1st Ave project. The Soccer Fields will be used this summer for a large community event and there will be some minor projects that will need to be completed to accommodate the amount of traffic and people that are estimated to be at this event.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn by Councilmember Carlton and was seconded by Councilmember Howard. All in favor of adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 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 4th day of April. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Rachel Nicholas, Town Staff Member