

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
April 18, 2022**

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

Councilmembers absent: Councilman Carlton

Staff present: Town Manager Heath Brown, Town Engineer Tom Palmer, Town Attorney Matt Clifford, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, Building Inspector Mike Payne, Town Clerk Annie Reidhead

Staff Absent: Fire Chief Josh Curtis

Visitors: County Supervisor John Howard, David Bell, Chuck Hayden, Jeanette Hayden, Mark Aaron, Kellie Aaron, Crandall Aaron, Eileen Aaron, Becky Johnson, Ruth Vining, Hector Ruedas, McKay Ferrin, Kallie Maner

AGENDA

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Howard

PUBLIC HEARING: None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Chief Woods introduced Officer JR Maner and K9 Apollo. Officer Maner gave a brief overview of situations that the K9 may be used for. He also mentioned that at the academy the K9 community was impressed with the Town's commitment to the program. He answered questions from the council and the public. Officer Maner also did a brief demonstration with the K9. Chief Woods and Officer Maner stated that a nonprofit organization has donated a vest for the K9 that is worth \$3,000.

Mayor Bryce read a letter that was received from Bob & Holly Pascoe from Central. The Pascoe's thanked the Fire Department for assisting in a fire at their home. They also donated \$200 to the Fire Department.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the March 21, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, and the April 4, 2022, Council Budget Workshop
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report
- C. Police Monthly Report
- D. Approval of Invoices
- E. Financial Reports

Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Councilmember Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action

A. Quail Ridge Drive Road Closure Status

Manager Brown stated that he was approached by Mr. Hector Ruedas to be put on the agenda regarding the matter. Mr. Ruedas thanked the council to allow them to be part of the agenda. He stated the three topics that are goals of the discussion. He stated that residents are not seeing much progress on the project and still do not understand the reason for the road closure. Residents are upset that the project is taking so long. The first goal is to obtain a short term and/or long-term timeline on the road closure. The second goal is to understand the ownership of the road. The third goal is the streetlights placed at one of the intersections that the residents are unhappy with.

Manager Brown addressed the street light topic and stated that the town required the streetlight being placed at the intersection for safety reasons.

Manager Brown addressed the ownership of the road and stated that the Town does not accept road ownership until the right of way is completed. This has not been completed therefore the Town has not accepted ownership. The road is owned by Aaron Angle Development.

Mayor Bryce and Manager Brown asked Mr. Crandall Aaron if he would like to address the timeline topic. Mr. Aaron stated that he would like to keep the road closed until construction is complete for safety reasons. He initially tried to keep the road open during construction, but residents continued to walk and drive through the worksite. The original timeframe was 6 to 8 months. At this time, he can only give an estimated time of completion which is end of June. The original timeframe given to him by his dirt work contractor, and they took 6 months to complete the work. There has been slow progress from his contractors due to equipment issues, employee shortages, and Covid related issues. Contractors have also shut down work due to the residents not staying away from the worksite. Mr. Aaron stated that material shortages are the biggest issue he is currently dealing with. There are material shortages for concrete and asphalt. He stated that he is losing money every day that work is not being performed.

Several residents addressed the council with their frustrations. Councilmember Rapier recognized the residents' statements. Mayor Bryce stated that he would like to see the residents work with Mr. Aaron rather than going to extreme measures that would end up involving more taxpayer dollars. Councilmember Howard stated that it seems there has not been communication between everyone. She stated that we could facilitate having open lines of communication between Mr. Aaron and the residents. Councilmembers and staff stated that we could facilitate this by explaining the process and giving a general project schedule with no significant timeline.

Mayor Bryce closed out the discussion and stated that staff will work with Mr. Aaron and the residents to produce a plan on communication.

B. **RESOLUTION NO. 702-2022 - 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 2023 HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN.**

Manager Brown addressed the council stating that this is an annual resolution that requires approval to allow the police department to apply for the Highway Safety Grants.

Motion to approve Resolution 702-2022 was made by Councilmember Rapier and seconded by Councilmember Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

C. **RESOLUTION NO. 703-2022 - A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL, DESIGNATING THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER FOR OFFICIALLY SUBMITTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 EXPENDITURE LIMITATION REPORT TO THE ARIZONA AUDITOR GENERAL**

Manager Brown addressed the council stating that this is an annual resolution that the state requires of all cities and towns.

Motion to approve Resolution 703-2022 was made by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Councilmember Rapiere. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Bid Award for the High School Avenue Paving Project, TOT Project No. 21-22-04

Manager Brown stated that one bid was received for the project from CKC Construction for \$309,605.

Motion to approve the bid award to CKC Construction for the High School Avenue Paving Project was made by Councilmember Howard and seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Bid Award for new Garbage Truck

Manager Brown stated that we received two bids, one from Vanguard for \$362,592.68 and from RWC for \$353,669.43. We were unable to obtain a third bid. The Vanguard company is where the previous garbage truck was purchased from about 4 years ago. The Vanguard bid is slightly higher but is better quality.

Motion to approve the bid to Vanguard for \$362,592.68 for the new garbage truck purchase was made by Councilmember Rapiere and seconded by Councilmember Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

F. 2022 PSPRS Funding Policy

Manager Brown stated that this is an annual requirement by the State Legislature for all cities and towns to adopt a funding policy. Currently our unfunded liability is about \$3 million.

Motion to approve the 2022 PSPRS Funding Policy was made by Councilmember Welker and seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Fair Housing Proclamation

Mayor Bryce read the proclamation.

FAIR HOUSING PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The National Fair Housing Law of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it a national policy to provide within constitutional limits, for fair housing in the United States; and WHEREAS, the principle of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans; and

WHEREAS April has traditionally been designated as Fair Housing Month in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Randy Bryce, Mayor of the Town of Thatcher, Arizona, do hereby proclaim

April 2022 as Fair Housing Month

In the Town of Thatcher and do hereby urge all citizens of this community to comply with the letter and spirit of the Fair Housing Law.

H. Arizona Community Foundation of the Gila Valley Board Member Appointment – Ted Prina

Don Smith substituted for Ted Prina and addressed the council to explain what Arizona Community Foundation of the Gila Valley does for our communities. Mr. Smith would like for one of the councilmembers from the Town of Thatcher to volunteer for the board of this foundation. The Town council will get back to Mr. Smith with the information.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report

- Public Works Projects
Updated the council on the High School Avenue and 1st Avenue.
Reported on an in-kind project done for Bingham & Jacobs new facility
The splash pad opened as of today
- Pima High School Soccer Field Use – Fall 2022
Reported that Pima High School soccer team has approached us to use the fields for practice for their upcoming fall league. An IGA was suggested for this project.
- Recreation Center
- Red Lamp Update – New Name?
Updated the council on the businesses that submitted RFP's
Reported that a law firm has been brought on board to work out the real estate coordination
- Monthly Financial Summary
Reported the sewer fund in the negative due to CCTV contract being paid and paying the equipment rental for the Reay Lane sewer project
- Police Department
Chief Woods stated once again his appreciation for the K9 program
- Fire Department
Mayor Bryce asked if there was a known cause of the fire on Church Street. There is an investigation in process, nothing was reported at the time.

B. Council Reports - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 pm by Mayor Bryce.

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 April. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Annie Reidhead, Deputy Clerk