

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
May 16, 2022**

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

Councilmembers absent: Councilwoman Howard

Staff present: Town Manager Heath Brown, Town Engineer Tom Palmer, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, Fire Chief Josh Curtis, Town Clerk Annie Reidhead

Staff Absent: Town Attorney Matt Clifford

Visitors: David Bell

AGENDA

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:35 p.m. 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 Fire Chief Josh Curtis

PUBLIC HEARING: None

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Action Item

- A. Approve minutes of the April 18, 2022, Regular Council Meeting
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report
- C. Police Monthly Report
- D. Approval of Invoices
- E. Financial Reports

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action

- A. Investment of Town Funds with Moreton Asset Management

Manager Brown addressed the council regarding investing LGIP funds with Moreton Asset Management. Currently the Town's LGIP fund has \$13.5 million, and Moreton has suggested we invest \$9 million. They suggested spacing the investments over a 6-month period. Moreton also suggested this being a good time to start the ladder of investing. Council and staff discussed contributing more to PSRS instead of \$9 million do less.

Councilmember Welker made a motion to authorize Manager Brown to coordinate with Moreton Asset Management to invest \$6 million of the LGIP funds based on their recommendations and seconded by Councilmember Carlton. Motion carried unanimously.

B. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN GRAHAM COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF THATCHER TO PROVIDE DISPATCH SERVICES

Manager Brown stated that this is a 3-year IGA. This year the County redid their cost sharing based on population, City of Safford, Town of Pima, and EAC's cost went up and the Town of Thatcher's stayed the same.

Motion to approve the IGA by and between Graham County and the Town of Thatcher to provide dispatch services was made by Vice Mayor Smith and seconded by Councilmember Rapier. Motion carried with Councilmember Welker recusing himself.

C. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN GRAHAM COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF THATCHER TO PROVIDE ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

Motion to approve the IGA by and between Graham County and the Town of Thatcher to provide animal care services was made by Councilmember Rapier and seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Motion carried with Councilmember Welker recusing himself.

D. 2022/23 Town of Thatcher Preliminary Budget

Manager Brown stated that he took the council's recommendations from the budget workshop and implemented them. Manager Brown referred to the notes he sent out regarding the changes to the budget that could follow during the discussion.

- Sales Tax Revenue – Predicted to increase by \$300,000
- Salaries & Wages – Budgeted a 2% raise for cost of living and a 2% merit raise. The merit raise would apply to employee's that earn it based on employee evaluation.
- Health Insurance Renewal – Staff is unhappy with the current RBP (Referenced Based Pricing) plan in place. We have been receiving proposals and searching different options. Last year health insurance was budgeted for \$680,000 and this year increased to \$812,000. The option recommended for health insurance renewal is with Vector Employer Solutions. Vector is offering a BC/BS (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) network plan that would cost approximately \$720,000. Our current deductibles are \$2,500 and \$5,000 out of pocket. With the new plan this would increase to \$3,000 and \$6,000 out of pocket.
- Blinds – Budget to include adding new blinds to the building. The building still has original blinds.
- Copier – Budget to include cost of a new industrial copy machine at \$8,000. Council recommended we receive proposals on lease options before moving forward.
- Vehicle Budget – All departments now include a vehicle budget to allow the option of leasing vehicles if needed.
- Parks – Budget includes the purchase of a small tractor to replace the existing one.
- Police – Budget includes for new body armor and radios.
- Fire – Budgeted for 1/3 of the cost of a second set of turnouts as a starting point. Chief Curtis addressed the council for the need of the second set of turnouts. Also budgeted is money for gas detectors, radios, and cabinet.
- Streets – Budget includes cost for maintenance of the Reay Lane job, improvements on Allred Lane, and equipment which includes a loader, trench compacter, saw, and paint stripper.
- Community Development – Budgeted \$15,000 for GIS system and \$7,000 for IWorks software system.
- Red Lamp Fund – Added new funding source to the budget that will show revenues and expenses
- PSRS – Councilmembers addressed the additional \$500,000 payment being made before July 1. Council recommended we pay \$500,000 from the current budget and increase next year's budget to \$1 million.
- Sewer – Budgeted for new sewer camera. The current one is 10 years old.
- Electric – Budgeted to increase electric rates. KR Saline has recommended we raise our rates due to less hydro power being produced and more expensive natural gas cost, leading to more expensive power. They recommend a 46% increase to the PPCA (Power Purchase Cost Adjustment). Included in the budget is a 10% increase. Council recommended the 10% increase.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the preliminary budget as outlined and per the decisions made during the council meeting and seconded by Councilmember Rapier. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Arizona Community Foundation of the Gila Valley – Possible Board Member Appointment

Manager Brown reminded the council that Mr. Smith with the Foundation came and spoke at the April council meeting asking for a volunteer from the council to join the Foundation.

Councilmember Rapier preliminary volunteered awaiting information on the schedule of meetings for the Foundation.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report

- Public Works Projects
High School Avenue – Asphalt was removed in one week, finished pouring 2500 ft of curbing, 2000 tons of AB was delivered and put down in one day. The plan is to pave on Tuesday of next week.
Recreation Complex – Restrooms should be complete this week per Brandon Lunt
- Red Lamp Update
Discussed under the 2022/23 Preliminary Budget
- Insurance Renewal
Discussed under the 2022/23 Preliminary Budget
- 8th Avenue Home Demolition
Staff went to a training that outlined a process on how to demolition condemned homes. This home should be down by the end of June.
- Monthly Financial Summary
- Police Department
Chief Woods stated that staff would be participating in the Thatcher 8th grade promotion parade.
- Fire Department
Chief Curtis stated that Todd over at the Town shop has been assisting him on maintenance of the fire trucks.

B. Council Reports – 4th of July events was discussed to get an early start.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. 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 16th day of May. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Annie Reidhead, Deputy Clerk