

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
November 7, 2022**

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

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

Visitors: Mike McEuen

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:11 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 Councilmember Vining

**AGENDA**

1. **Open Call to the Public:** None
2. **NEW BUSINESS:** None
3. **BUDGET WORK SESSION:** Discussion & Consideration
  - A. **Street Maintenance – 5 Year / 10 Year Plan**

Mr. Brown presented a spreadsheet that was completed by Mr. Palmer for the 5/10-year plan on the street maintenance. The spreadsheet lists all the main streets with what type of maintenance and costs by years. The next fiscal year we will be receiving \$450,000 from the HURF (Highway User Revenue Fund) fund that will be utilized. In the next upcoming 3 years we are expected to use \$1 million of the HURF fund for the street maintenance. We will be receiving the SEAGO information within the next 6 months to review. Mr. Palmer has submitted a project to SEAGO that has been reviewed through Arizona Congress using the federal budget. The project is \$4.7 million and encompasses 8<sup>th</sup> Street from 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue to 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The project includes widening the streets, burying ditches, curbing, sidewalks, and railroad crossings. The project is standing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round or reviews.
  - B. **Public Works Projects – 1 Year / 5 Year / 10 Year Forecasts**

Mr. Brown presented the Capital Improvement Plan to council for the next 5 years. There were a lot of items from the previous plan that have been completed and removed from the plan. Mr. Brown asked council to review the plan and make recommendations. Currently the Reay Lane project is being worked on and after that the crew will be moving back to the Recreation Complex. The Allred Lane project and the Red Lamp Development project are two that are solid for upcoming work. The Red Lamp Development project

would be starting with burying power on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Brown stated that the electric consultant for the Red Lamp Development is being pushed to complete the lighting control design for the pathway. The pathway is being utilized a lot more at night than was anticipated. Mr. Brown would like this part of the project to be done in this fiscal year. Mr. Brown suggested hiring a consultant for the lighting of the pathway. Discussion was tabled to discuss at the upcoming budget meeting. Discussion was made on placing a permanent gate/fence at the south entrance of the cemetery. The gate would be accessible to open for those needed. Drainage is also a major one on the list. Currently we are working on gaining the right of ways for the drainage areas. The County has received a grant that will assist. They are working on a study for recommendations for the funding. Discussion was made on various projects, soccer field lighting, charging station, and solar panels for parking. The consensus was if we could try to finish the small individual projects that are started.

C. Recreation Center – Partnerships / Scope / Moving Forward Plans

Mr. Brown updated the council on the last meeting that took place with the college. The college is interested if it is a gym and wellness, no pool, and at the location of their choice. The college would be responsible for the operations and maintenance. Residents are interested in the pool and gym. Safford continues to remain interested if the center would be built on the line of the town and city.

D. Thatcher Commercial Plaza (Red Lamp Development) – Status / Plans

Mr. Brown reported on the meeting that took place today with CR Engineers, the electric consultant on the project. Light fixtures were picked out for along the streets and the interior. Logan Simpson, the landscape architect consultant is about 90 percent complete with their design. The bank, Kainoa's, and Vector are still interested in developing. Discussion was made of the town working on the frontage of the development to generate interest.

E. Graham County Utilities – Substation / Relocation Projects

Mr. Brown updated on the meetings that have taken place with Graham County Coop regarding the substation agreement. The issues are the cost for power relocations and underground services. The Coop is wanting to revisit the original agreement where they would pay the first \$100,000 per project and then the cost would be 50/50. Mr. Brown will be meeting with Phil Cook with Graham County Coop tomorrow morning.

D. School Resource Officer – Future Plans / Options

Chief Woods addressed the council regarding the renewal of the SRO grant for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. The school feels that the grant will not be renewed but would like to keep the program in place. The school would like the town and the school to come up with a plan to fund the SRO program. The salary rate of the current SRO officer is \$90,000 to \$95,000. Chief Woods would like recommendations on how to move forward. Council suggested an offer of \$50,000 to \$60,000 to the school for the SRO program.

E. Enterprise Fleet Lease Program

Mr. Brown referred to the spreadsheet created that lists all the current leased vehicles with the monthly lease costs. The cost per year is \$135,000. There are still 6 police cars on order that are to come. Mr. Brown stated that we are saving money on gas and maintenance. There will be 7 vehicles ready to be sold in the upcoming months.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. 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 work session meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher held on this 7th day of November. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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Annie Reidhead, Deputy Clerk