

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
December 19, 2022**

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

Staff present: Town Manager Heath Brown, Town Attorney Matt Clifford, Town Engineer Tom Palmer, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, Fire Chief Josh Curtis, Town Clerk Annie Reidhead, Building Inspector Alan Bryce, Procurement Officer Gary Allred, Magistrate Merri Aden

Visitors: County Supervisor John Howard, David Bell, Lori Sedgeman, Lisa Shurtz, Kathy Shepherd, Donald & Aimee Ambler, Rhett Dodge & Alysia Dodge, Chelsea Estes, Ethan Estes, Steve Curtis, Curtis Whittle, Aaron Dodge, Cayden Curtis, Brandon Homer

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:30 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 Elect McEuen.

**AGENDA**

**1. SWEARING IN OF NEWLY Elected COUNCILMEMBERS:**

There were three newly elected council members, Ginaveve Howard, Heston Welker, and Mike McEuen sworn in by the Honorable Judge Merri Aden.

**2. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR:**

Councilman Carlton nominated Randy Bryce for Mayor and was seconded by Councilmen McEuen. Motion carried unanimously. Vice Mayor Smith nominated Councilwoman Howard for Vice Mayor and was seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING**

- A. To consider the matter of a proposed re-zone of parcel 104-09-024A from a mixture of C-2 (Highway Commercial) and R1-8 (Single-Family Residential) to all C-2 (Highway Commercial) . This property is approximately 10.2 acres and is located at the southwest corner of US Hwy 70 and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Thatcher.

No comments were made

**4. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None**

**5. PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

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

**6. CONSENT AGENDA: Action Item**

- A. Approve Minutes of the November 21, 2022, Regular Council Meeting.  
B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.  
C. Police Monthly Report.  
D. Approval of Invoices.  
E. Financial Reports.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and seconded by Councilmember Carlton. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

8. **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Proposed Re-Zone of Parcel 104-09-024A from C-2 and R1-8 to all C-2.  
Mr. Brown explained that this is the 11 acre agricultural field on Highway 70 and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. There are prospective buyers and developers interested in the area.  
Mr. Palmer stated that there was no opposition from the Public Hearing Meeting nor the Planning & Zoning Meeting.

Vice Mayor Howard made a motion to approve the Re-Zone of Parcel 104-09-024A from C-2 and R1-8 to all C-2 and seconded by Councilmember Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. **RESOLUTION NO. 709-2022 - A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWN OF THATCHER FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DOCUMENT.**  
Mr. Brown stated that at the recommendation of our auditors staff has drafted the document. It has been reviewed by the Town Attorney and our auditors.  
Mrs. Reidhead gave a brief description of the document.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve Resolution No. 709-2022 and seconded by Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Town Council Meeting Dates for January & February 2023.  
Mr. Brown stated that the January and February 2023 council meetings are both scheduled on holidays and would like to reschedule.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to move the January council meeting to January 23<sup>rd</sup> and move the February council meeting to February 27<sup>th</sup> and seconded by Councilmember Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Bid Award for Town of Thatcher Project #22-23-01 Street Paving Project  
Mr. Brown stated that this is the annual pavement preservation project. This year it includes a mix of mill & fill, new pavement, fog sealing, chip sealing, and the Reay Lane project. HURF funds are used for this project and Mr. Brown gave a brief summary of where we are currently at with these funds.

Vice Mayor Howard made a motion to approve the Bid Award to CKC Construction in the amount of \$519,708 and seconded by Councilmember Welker. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Town Manager's Report
- Public Works Projects  
Reay Lane Project  
Staff is pouring the last stretch of curbing and will be working on building a retaining wall. All power is now underground except for the Century Link lines.  
Staff worked on potholes  
Officer Maner has moved and staff helped transfer the dog kennel from his old home to his new home.  
Crack Sealing  
We have approximately one month of work left on this project.
  - Financial Summary  
Sales Tax Revenues are low. The lowest we have seen in about a year and a half.  
Mr. Brown stated that he had sent out an email today to Councilmembers regarding natural gas costs. For the month of November natural gas prices increased from \$5 to \$10 a unit. For the month of December we are averaging

\$35 a unit. Last December \$162,000 was spent to purchase electricity and this December it is estimated to be \$646,000. Mr. Brown stated that he will be putting a Resolution for electric hedging on January's agenda.

- Christmas Party  
Christmas Employee Brunch is scheduled for Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Council is invited and all were given flyers with the information.
- Holiday Schedule for Town Hall and Employees  
The office will be closing at noon on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> for Christmas Eve. The office will be closed Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> to observe the Christmas holiday on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> to observe the New Years holiday. A copy of the garbage schedule was handed out to all councilmembers.
- Police Department  
A Speed trailer has been purchased with a grant in the amount of \$18,000. It should be delivered after the first of the year.  
Three Enterprise cars arrived at dealership. There is not an ETA on delivery of the cars as of yet.
- Fire Department  
The Mass Casulity event at EAC went well.  
There will be upcoming drills in spring and fall.  
Drill coming in spring  
Fire Fighter 1 & 2 Arizona state certification will be held in January. There will be 4 to 5 of our fireman attending.

B. Council Reports: None

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Action Item

Vice Mayor Howard made a motion at 7:11 p.m. to go into Executive Session and was seconded by Councilmember Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Smith made a motion at 7:52 p.m. to leave Executive Session and was seconded by Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Fire Department Staff

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to appoint the Assistant Chief Steve Curtis as the inerim Fire Chief and was seconded by Councilmember Welker. Motion carried unanimously

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUORUM'S**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 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 19th day of December. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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