

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
January 23, 2023**

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

Councilmembers absent: Councilman Carlton

Staff present: Town Manager Heath Brown, Town Attorney Matt Clifford, Town Engineer Tom Palmer, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, Interim Fire Chief Steve Curtis, Town Clerk Annie Reidhead, Procurement Officer Gary Allred

Visitors: County Supervisor John Howard, SEACAP Organization that included Yvette Ramirez, Diana Merino, Monica Valdez, Alexia Hurtado, and Sally Barba.

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 Vice Mayor Howard.

**AGENDA**

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** None

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

3. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

A. SEACAP LIHEAP Presentation

Yvette Ramirez, SEACAP Executive Director, presented the LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) to the council. She explained how the program is having a negative affect on our senior community in our county. DES will be reviewing the program in the following months for better accommodations for our seniors. The main purpose of the presentation was to ask for Town Council's help by reaching out to legislature and governor offices if this does not occur.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Action Item

- A. Approve Minutes of the December 19, 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 Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

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

A. Electric Rate Discussion and Adjustment

Mr. Brown referred to a Powerpoint presentation titled Town of Thatcher Purchased Power Cost Adjustor (PPCA) included in the council packet. The presentation was created by K.R. Saline our electric consultants. The presentation included where we currently receive our energy purchased supply and how current events are impacting these power supplies. Mr. Brown reviewed the anticipated numbers for the upcoming years from the presentation. Currently the Town's PPCA is set at 2 cents per kilowatt hour. K.R. Saline recommended staff increase the PPCA rates to 5 cents per kilowatt.

Councilmember Welker made a motion to set the Town of Thatcher's PPCA to 4.5 cents per kilowatt hour (which results in an approximate 20% increase to bills) effective immediately and seconded by Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

B. **RESOLUTION NO. 710-2023 - APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE NATURAL GAS HEDGE IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT**

Mr. Brown stated that if the Town enters into this resolution it would include a cost of \$60,000 paid to SPAA for operating capital. If the Town's opts out of the hedging it will receive the \$60,000 back. The hedging will be monitored on a month to month basis.

Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to approve Resolution No. 710-2023 and seconded by Councilmember Welker. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Customer Electric Shutoff Criteria

Mr. Brown stated that we have recently received phone calls from customers regarding the shut off of their utilities due to nonpayment during the cold weather. Other utility companies that follow the Corporation Commission rules have a "Do not Disconnect" policy in place. This policy states that a customers utility services will not be shut off due to nonpayment when the weather is below 32 degrees and over 100 degrees. Currently the Town does not have a policy in place for the shut offs due to weather. Staff is aware of 10 to 20 customers that this is affecting. The town has a payment arrangement policy in place that allows customers to pay after the due date. Mr. Brown is looking for recommendations from council on how to handle this with our customers since we do not follow Corporation Commission rules. Council recommended that staff continue to operate as they have been, looking at each case individually.

7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

A. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Brown congratulated Vice Mayor Smith on being appointed to the ADOT Board.

- Public Works Departments  
Reay Lane Project  
The project is 100% complete.  
Recreation Complex  
Concrete has been poured in front of restrooms and getting ready to do the block in front of the planner. They will move to the parking lot next.  
Boulders have been ordered for the landscaping.

- Town Audit  
Colby & Powell, our auditors, were here last week performing the final audit. They will now prepare the financial statement for the 2021/2022 fiscal year.
- Town Council Photo  
Staff would like dates that council members are available for a photo session that would include group and individual photos.
- Financial Summary  
Refer to the financial summary included in the council packet.
- Police Department  
Chief Woods stated that the new speed trailer is up and running and is set at Church Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street.  
Chief Woods announced that he has been accepted to an FBI one week course class in Virginia. The course is free of charge.  
Chief Woods gave an update on the border grants that are being funded by the State.
- Fire Department  
Interim Chief Steve Curtis stated there is nothing to report.

B. Council Reports

Mayor Bryce asked for volunteers for the PSPRS (Public Safety Personnel Retirement System) Board. The board will meet when needed before the regular council meeting. Councilmen Vining and Welker agreed to volunteer.

Vice Mayor Howard asked if it would be possible to form a committee for the Thatcher 4<sup>th</sup> of July event to make the event run smoothly. She suggested a few councilmembers and maybe an employee from each department serve on the committee.

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

Councilman McEuen inquired about the possible change of the area on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Reay Lane near the soccer field. Mr. Brown stated that this will be added as an agenda item for the next work session.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 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 regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher held on this 23rd day of January. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.