

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
February 27, 2023**

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

Councilmembers excused: Councilman Welker, Councilman Carlton

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

Staff absent: Town Engineer Tom Palmer

Visitors: David Bell (EA Courier), Board Supervisor John Howard

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:33 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 Mayor Bryce

**AGENDA**

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** None
2. **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None
3. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES:** None
4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Action Item
  - A. Approve Minutes of the January 23, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.
  - B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
  - C. Police Monthly Report.
  - D. Approval of Invoices.
  - E. Financial Reports.

Vice Mayor Howard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and seconded by Councilmember Vining. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:** None
6. **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action
  - A. Budget Worksession Date & Agenda

Mr. Brown stated that he would like to schedule the budget worksession the first week of April. Mayor and Council agreed on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Brown stated he has been working on the budget and agenda and these are some of the items he has on the agenda:

    - 8<sup>th</sup> Street Alignment Project
    - Soccer Complex
    - Equipment
    - Right of Way Acquisitions
    - Annual Raises

Mr. Brown asked if Mayor and Council can get their suggestions for the agenda no later than March 20<sup>th</sup> which is the same date of the next council meeting. Mayor Bryce requested that the drainage projects be added to the agenda.

Mayor Bryce requested staff put together a benefits package summary to include the Town's PTO policy. He would like to have the summary in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

#### B. Parking at La Casita

Mr. Brown addressed the parking at La Casita and how it is a capacity and safety issue. He would like to get the Mayor and Council advice and approval to work with the owners on remedying the issue. Mr. Brown has spoke to the owners about eliminating the parking between the curb and the sidewalk on the highway. He suggested the Town landscape the entire block using trees and boulders including irrigation to eliminate the possibility of customer's parking in that area. The Town would also use "No Parking" signage in this same area. Mayor and Council like the suggestion and would like staff to move forward with the project.

### 7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

#### A. Town Manager's Report

- Public Works Department
  - Recreation Complex  
The curbing for the parking lot is complete and the concrete pour is half way completed. The island near the restrooms is being worked on. Landscaping and sidewalk paths are ongoing.
  - Highway Trees  
16 more trees have been planted in front of R&R Pizza and Audio Visions.
  - Sewer Taps were installed at the Daley buildings, the buildings behind EA Glass.
  - Ball Field Improvements  
Red clay was added to the girls softball field. The back netting has been replaced at the two big fields.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street ROW Acquirement  
One land owner has a driveway that comes all the way out to 8<sup>th</sup> Street and as part of negotiation with acquiring this land was to replace a 40' culvert. Some of the larger land areas will need to be budgeted in next years budget.
- Town Council Photo  
Mayor and Council were given possible dates and agreed on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.
- Council Chamber Updates  
Mr. Brown stated that the council chambers Zoom equipment with the TV screen is almost complete. He hopes to test it during the next council meeting. There are also new photos for the wall that have been ordered.
- Walking Path Water Stations  
The City of Safford applied for a grant for water bottle filling station at walking paths. The grant has been received and there will be two stations installed at the Reay Lane walking path.
- Financial Summary  
Mr. Brown reviewed the summary with Mayor and Council.
- Police Department  
Chief Woods stated that an active shooting event is being scheduled for April with Thatcher Schools.  
The department has received one new vehicle that will be assigned as an investigator vehicle.  
Chief Woods stated that the grant application for the Border Grant has been approved and is sitting in contracts. He will update when he knows more.
- Fire Department  
Chief Curtis stated that the department conducts training sessions every Tuesday evening. The last training session included hose testing.

B. Council Reports

Vice Mayor Howard stated that she attended the ADOT board meeting and spoke to the state engineer that compiled the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue survey. The engineer will be emailing the survey information to her and she will share that once received.

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

Vice Mayor Howard requested a map of the Right of Way acquisitions on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to the canal.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 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 27th day of February. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.