



MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
JULY 17, 2023

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

Councilmembers absent: Mayor Bryce

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

Visitors: County Supervisor John Howard, David Bell (EA Courier), Rue Mattice, Ray Bejarano, Steve Curtis, Ryan Curtis, Jake Ferrin, Curtis Whittle, Dayna Tolman, Matt Petersen, Natasha Petersen, David Rigley, Kirke Goltib, Debbie Turley, Shawn Turley, Todd Rusell

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Mayor Howard and she stated that this is a public meeting of the Thatcher Town Council. She stated that we do have a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Welker.

**AGENDA**

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** None

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

3. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

A. Debbie Turley – Pickleball Courts

Debbie Turley asked the council to consider adding additional pickleball courts to the Recreation Complex. She explained how pickleball is becoming more popular and how it is a sport that is bringing the community together. There were lots of supporters in attendance. Mrs. Turley also provided the council with photos.

The council agreed to add this information as an agenda item for the next Work Session meeting.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Action Item

A. Approve Minutes of the June 19, 2023, Regular Council Meeting.

B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.

C. Police Monthly Report.

D. Approval of Invoices.

E. Financial Reports.

Vice Mayor Howard asked if Mr. Brown could recap the year-end information from the financial report.

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

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Fire Department Pay per Call / Meetings

Mr. Brown stated that Mayor Bryce and Councilman Vining met with the Fire Department heads to discuss this item in detail. The meeting discussion included talks about paying each firefighter \$20 per call and \$20 per meeting, paying the Fire Chief \$2,000 per month, and discussed increasing the fire pension fund from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Mr. Brown stated that these payments total approximately \$75,000. Councilmember Vining spoke about the condition of the Fire Department building and stated that there are needed improvements, and this should be discussed in the future.

Councilmember Vining made a motion to move \$100,000 out of the contingency fund to pay volunteer firefighters \$20 per call and \$20 per meeting, pay \$25,000 yearly to the Fire Chief, and add \$10,000 to the fire pension fund and seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

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

A. Approval Extension of Copper Valley Farms Subdivision

Mr. Brown stated that this is the Ben Allred subdivision on Reay Lane that was approved 2 years ago and is in the construction process. Mr. Allred has submitted a letter to the Council to renew the approval.

Councilmember Welker made a motion to approve the extension of Copper Valley Farms Subdivision as discussed and seconded by Councilmember Vining. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Fire Chief Appointment

Mr. Brown announced that the Fire Department has voted and recommended interim Fire Chief Steve Curtis as the new Fire Chief. The Fire Department has asked the Council to consider the recommendation and make the appointment official.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to appoint Steve Curtis as Fire Department Chief and seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

C. ADOT IGA 23-0009287 for 8<sup>th</sup> Street Re-Construction

Mr. Brown stated that this is the IGA between the Town and ADOT for most needed re-construction of 8<sup>th</sup> Street. ADOT will provide \$4,526,400 in funds and the Town will match the remaining funds to total an amount of \$5 million. Mr. Brown stated that then the Town will reconstruct the road as reported in the application provided to ADOT. The IGA has been reviewed by the Town Attorney Matt Clifford.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve ADOT IGA 23-000987 for 8<sup>th</sup> Street Re-Construction and seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Thatcher Unified School Dist. IGA 2023-07-17 for School Resource Officer

Mr. Brown stated that last year the Thatcher Unified School District received a grant that paid this IGA 100%. This year the school did not receive the grant. Thatcher Unified School District has agreed to pay \$50,000 towards the salaries and benefits for the School Resource Officer as stated in the IGA. The school and Town agree this will allow the program to continue, which are both in approval of. Officer Arbizo is designated as the School Resource Officer and when school is not in session he will be designated as a regular officer.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve Thatcher Unified School District IGA 2023-07-17 for School Resource Officer and seconded by Councilmember Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Arizona School Risk Retention Trust, Inc. Facility Use Agreement Between TUSD and the Town of Thatcher

Mr. Brown stated that the Town has used the school's facilities for many years for some of our recreation leagues. There has not been a formal agreement in place for the use of the facilities. The Town would follow the schools' rental rates. This would be approximately \$10,000 for this year. This IGA is based on an annual review and has been reviewed by Town Attorney Matt Clifford. Staff recommends approval of this IGA.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the Arizona School Risk Retention Trust, Inc. Use Agreement between TUSD and the Town of Thatcher and seconded by Councilmember Carlton. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

A. Town Manager's Report

- Public Works Department  
Landscape rock and boulders have been placed at the Recreation Complex.

Crews have finished the work on High School Avenue. They have been busy with sewer taps and potholes. They have also finished the fencing on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Report  
The event went well, and everyone was thanked.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street Widening Project Update, ROW  
Verbal commitments from everyone
- American Southwest Credit Union Update  
Commitment from there is still in place and they will begin moving forward soon.
- Grant Opportunities  
Applications have been submitted to United Way for \$200,000 and FMI for \$100,000 towards the soccer field lighting at the Recreation Complex.  
The Diamondbacks grant is in process and is due July 31<sup>st</sup>. These funds will be for baseball field construction at the Platt property.
- Financial Summary
- Reported back information on the 3-day ACMA conference that was last week.
- Police Department  
Chief Woods stated that our K9 officer is in training this week. He reported back on the weeklong FBI course he attended in Virginia.
- Fire Department  
Chief Curtis thanked the Council for approving the funds for pay outs to the Firefighters. He said they will be doing some house cleaning with their bylaws. Chief Curtis also discussed the recent house burn fires that were done for training purposes. The Chief referred to one of the firefighters for an explanation of the training and how he learned from it.  
Josh Curtis announced that the Fire Department was awarded a grant from AgWest Farm Credit for \$100,000 that will be used toward radio equipment.

B. Council Reports

Vice Mayor Howard mentioned that there is more funding that will be available from RTAC and SEAGO.

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

The council recommended adding the pickleball court additions and the golf course assistance to the work session agenda.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and was seconded by Councilmember Welker. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 17th day of July. 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