



MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

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

Councilmembers absent: Councilman McEuen

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

Visitors: David Bell (EA Courier), Micah Windsor (Childhood Cancer Proclamation), Lee Patterson, and UWGGC included Denise Benton, Amanda Paterson, Eric Bejarano, Natalie Baker

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 Matt Clifford.

AGENDA

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING: None
2. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None
3. PUBLIC APPEARANCES:
A. United Way Grant Presentation
The members from United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties presented the Town of Thatcher with a \$200,000 grant award check. The funds will be used for the Recreation Complex Soccer Field Lighting.
4. CONSENT AGENDA: Action Item
A. Approve Minutes of the August 21, 2023, Regular Council Meeting.
B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
C. Police Monthly Report.
D. Approval of Invoices.
E. Financial Reports.

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

- 5. OLD BUSINESS: None
6. NEW BUSINESS: Discussion, consideration, and possible action
A. Proclamation – Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Mayor Bryce read the proclamation.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, September is recognized as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to recognize the children and families affected locally, nationally, and worldwide by childhood cancers; and

WHEREAS, each year in the United States more than 15,780 children birth to 19 years of age are diagnosed with cancer, equal to about 42 childhood cancer diagnoses each day; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer before their twentieth birthday with this number increasing each year; and

WHEREAS, each year worldwide, there are more than 300,000 new childhood cancer diagnosis, equal to about every three minutes a family will hear the words 'your child has cancer'; and

WHEREAS, although the five-year survival rate for childhood cancer has reached 84 percent, nearly 1,500 American children under the age of nineteen still die each year from cancer, making it the leading killer of children by disease; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds that do survive may face at least one chronic health condition later on in life-not limited but including-heart, liver, lung damage, infertility, secondary cancers and growth deficits; and

WHEREAS, the causes of childhood cancer are largely unknown and more studies are needed to understand which treatments work best for children; and

WHEREAS, cancer treatment for children often must differ from traditional adult treatments to take account children's developmental needs and other factors- there are more types/variances of childhood cancers than adult cancers; and

WHEREAS, there are hundreds of children being treated for cancer in Arizona.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Randy Bryce, Mayor of the Town of Thatcher, Arizona, do hereby proclaim.

September 2023 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

In the Town of Thatcher.

B. Samaritan Home IGA – Thatcher, Safford, Pima, & Graham County

Mr. Brown referred to the email that was sent to the Council that included the IGA. John Casella, Town Manager of the City of Safford approached the Town of Thatcher and Town of Pima to engage in an IGA in support of the Samaritan Home. The commitment for the City of Safford, Town of Thatcher, and Town of Pima is as follows:

2. The "City", "Pima" and "Thatcher" shall cover the cost of utilities for the "Project", to include water, wastewater, gas, electric and trash pickup. Costs will be split 15% for "Pima", 42.5% for the "City" and 42.5% for "Thatcher". The "City" shall provide a copy of the total monthly utility bill that will be used to calculate the cost breakout to each participant.
3. The "City" and "Thatcher" agree to make a one-time contribution of \$5,000 each (\$10,000 total) in support of "Project" startup costs. "Pima" agrees to provide \$750 for startup costs.
4. The "County" has contributed \$250,000 to the project to cover building renovations and repairs as well as the purchase of appliances, furniture, and equipment.
5. "GVSH" shall be responsible for staffing and operating the facility Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hours may vary in observance of federally recognized holidays.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the Samaritan Home IGA between Thatcher, Safford, Pima, and Graham County and seconded by Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Purchase of Metal Shop Awning – Bungar Steel, \$65,626.92

Mr. Brown stated that this item is to build a full-length lean-to awning on the north side of our existing shop building. The item has been budgeted for in this year's budget for \$60,000. The bid summary was presented, and the low bid came in at \$65,626.92 from Bungar Steel. The Town has previously had good experiences purchasing from and working with Bungar Steel. Currently the lead time is 6 to 8 weeks.

Councilmember Welker made a motion to approve the purchase of the Metal Shop Awning from Bungar Steel in the amount of \$65,626.92 and seconded by Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**
Finished the landscaping at La Casita.
Repaired manholes on Reay Lane.
Curbing and sidewalk have been completed from 8th Street to the Daley's Development on the Allred Lane project.
Verbally have reached a deal on the Motes property.
- **PERSONNEL UPDATE**
Shawn Turley has been hired as the Municipal Electrician. His start date is September 25, 2023.
- **FREEPORT-MCMORAN COMMUNITY & SOCIAL INVESTMENT GRANT**
We have been given the official notice that we have received a grant in the amount of \$100,000.
- **SOUTHWEST GAS GROUNDBREAKING**
Presented a photo rendering of the building.
- **ARIZONA LEAGUE CONFERENCE REPORT**
Vice Mayor Howard reminded everyone about the survey that has been sent out by Matt Lore from the League.
- **COUNCIL WORK SESSION**
The work session is scheduled for Monday, October 30th, at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Brown stated that suggestion items from the council are due no later than the next Council Meeting.
- **1ST AVENUE WIDENING & UNION CANAL PATH – DESIGN – GRANT PURSUAL'S**
We are applying for a couple of grants for engineering/design services through SEAGO and ADOT. The first is for the 1st Street widening from Eagle Drive to Quail Ridge. The second is for

8th Street realignment to include sidewalk. The third is for the Union Canal Path which is from College Avenue to 8th Street which would include a pathway from the college to Wal-Mart.

- **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Refer to the summary included in the council packet.

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Woods stated that 3 Police Officers participated in the 9/11 Annual Step Event that was held at EAC.

He reported back on the Chief of Police conference he attended in Laughlin. The presentations were informative and beneficial. Chief Woods thanked the Council for allowing him to attend the conference.

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Curtis reported back on Arizona Fire School which was the 50th year celebration. Twenty firefighters attended and two graduated. Firefighter Mike Nagy attended Firefighter I & II classes in hopes to be able to instruct classes. Five firefighters attended the First Fundamental class, three attended the Basic Fire Fighter Skills class, six attended the Pump Fire Theory class, and almost all attended the Crisis Support Training.

He reported that 10 Firefighters participated in the 9/11 Annual Step Event that was held at EAC.

They also provided the fire truck to display the flag at the event. He presented each Councilmember with a photo displaying the flag on the field that he photographed.

He stated that the Annual Fire Department Open House will be held on October 10th at 6:00 p.m.

B. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Bryce attended a bonding presentation at the League Conference. He learned that there are some metro areas that had not grown to towns and cities until they reached a population of 40,000 to 60,000. These towns and cities are now investing in land designated as areas to create a Civic Center. He suggested we be proactive and start looking into this for our Town.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUORUM'S:

Mr. Brown stated that suggestion items from the Council for the work session are due no later than the next Council Meeting.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION – THATCHER COMMERCIAL PLAZA DISCUSSION

At 7:31 p.m. Councilmember Carlton made a motion to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilmember Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:59 p.m. Councilmember Carlton made a motion to exit the Executive Session and return to Regular Session and seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bryce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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 21st day of August. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Annie Reidhead, Deputy Clerk