



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

Councilmembers present: Mayor Bryce, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Vining, Councilman Carlton, Councilman McEuen

Councilmembers absent: Vice Mayor Howard, Councilman Welker

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

Staff members absent: Town Engineer Tom Palmer

Visitors: County Supervisor John Howard, Mark Brawley, Marc Ehlers, Matt Palmer, Jim & Lynn Daley, Jeff & Karen Martin, Julia Briggs, Frank Reyes, Chip Griffin, Carlos Montano, Josh Curtis

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:31 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 Town Attorney Matt Clifford.

AGENDA

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** None
2. **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None
3. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**
 - A. Christmas Lighting Contest Awards
Mayor Bryce presented awards to the winners of the 2023 Christmas Light Contest. Six of the 12 winners were present.
 - B. Ag West Presentation of \$100,000 Fire Department Grant
Mark Brawley addressed the Council and explained what Ag West as a company does. He explained their grant process and how they give back to the community through this process. This year they are presenting the Thatcher Fire Department with a check of \$100,000 to be used towards digital radios. Mr. Brawley along with Marc Ehlers and Matt Palmer, who are part of the Ag West grant committee, presented the check to Fire Chief Steve Curtis and Assistant Fire Chief Josh Curtis.
4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Action Item
 - A. Approve Minutes of the November 20, 2023, 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 McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

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

A. Town Council Meeting dates for January and February 2024

Mr. Brown stated that the January and February council meeting dates fall on holidays. Therefore, new dates for these meetings need to be chosen.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the dates of January and February council meeting dates to January 22nd and February 26th and seconded by Councilmember Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

B. IGA between Safford, Pima, and Thatcher for Joint Municipal Court Services

Mr. Brown stated that this IGA is required to establish Municipal Court Services between the City of Safford, Town of Pima, and Town of Thatcher. The IGA will expire at the end of this year and is up for renewal. The court services will be provided by the GV Consolidated Municipal Court that will be staffed by the Town of Thatcher. The IGA will commence on January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026. The City of Safford presented the IGA in their last council meeting and approved the IGA. The Town of Pima will be presenting the IGA in their next council meeting.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the IGA for Joint Municipal Court Services between City of Safford, Town of Pima, and Town of Thatcher and seconded by Councilmember Carlton. Motion carried unanimously.

C. AEPCO MSA Resale Agreement

Mr. Brown stated that this agreement is what we have in place with AEPCO and Southwest Public Power to provide wheeling services from other power sources to the Town's power distribution grid. The agreement also includes other SPAA participants, City of Safford, Ak-Chin Energy, Pinal County Electric District, and Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority. This Agreement must be renewed each year.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the AEPCO MSA Resale Agreement as stated and seconded by Councilmember Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Bid Award for Soccer Field Lighting

Mr. Brown presented a chart included in the council packet with the breakdown of the bid items with descriptions. Mr. Brown stated that the electric engineering firm we have contracted with reviewed the bid packet before the Town posted. We only received one bid and the amount of the bid is \$723,489. There was \$540,000 budgeted for the Soccer Field Lighting project. We have received a \$200,000 grant from United Way and a \$100,000 grant from FMI for the project.

Councilmember McEuen made a motion to instruct staff to rebid the Soccer Field Lighting project and seconded by Councilmember Vining. Motion carried unanimously.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report

- **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**
ALLRED LANE
The conduit has been buried for telephone, electricity, gas, primary power, and communication lines from Church Street to Morcomb Diesel.
- **RECREATION COMPLEX**
Electrician have been working on the path lighting. The lighting controller will be installed.
- **NEW GRANTS AWARDED**
The Community Development department has been awarded two federal grants for design projects. \$150,000 for the pathway to the canal and \$620,000 for the 1st Avenue widening. Staff will be working with ADOT on these 2 projects.
The Police Department has been awarded \$140,193 from United Way for the purchase of an incinerator.
- **PATHWAYS TO SCHOOL**
Met with Matt Petersen, Superintendent of Schools, and he will be looking into receiving funds from "Paths to Schools".

- **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**
Due to the office internet being down the financial statement and summary have not been completed. Once completed they will be presented to the Council.
- **POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Chief Woods stated that a an anonymous donation of \$1,000 was donated to the Police Department to "Shop with a Cop". The school nominated a couple of kids for this event, and it took place last week.
- **FIRE DEPARTMENT**
Chief Curtis stated that they have been receiving lots of calls from Home Depot and are tending to them. They also were called to a truck fire at Blue Ponds.
Chief Curtis stated that the Fire Department will be donating gifts to a needy family that they found through the schools. They will be presenting the gifts to the family tomorrow night with the fire trucks and Santa Claus.

B. Council Reports

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUORUM'S

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bryce adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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 18th day of December. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Annie Reidhead, Deputy Clerk