



**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
July 15, 2024**

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

Councilmembers absent: Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Carlton

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

Visitors: David Bell, Brandon Homer, Jeff Woner, Mike Taylor, Mary Luzania, Shondee Preston, Gabriel Garcia, Trenton Luzania, Tristan Gardner, Linda Brown

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 Councilman Vining.

AGENDA

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** None
2. **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None
3. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**
 - A. Herbert Fire Incident – Mike Taylor Recognition

Fire Chief Curtis presented an appreciation gift from the Town to Mike Taylor. On Saturday, June 8th, a fire occurred at the home of Steven and Sherrie Herbert. Chief Curtis stated that when the call came it was announced on the radio that the home was occupied, and an individual was trapped. Before Thatcher Fire could respond Mike Taylor drove by the home and saw the flames. Mr. Taylor quickly stopped and went into action to help the trapped individual. Chief Curtis recognized him for his heroism. Chief Curtis also recognized Mike Rhinehart for the same efforts. Mr. Rhinehart could not be present.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Action Item
 - A. Approve Minutes of the June 17, 2024, Regular Council Meeting.
 - B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
 - C. Police Monthly Report.
 - D. Approval of Invoices.
 - E. Financial Reports.

Councilman Welker made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:** None
6. **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration, and possible action
 - A. **RESOLUTION NO. 715-2024** – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, ARIZONA MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL, DESIGNATING THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER FOR OFFICIALLY SUBMITTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 EXPENDITURE LIMITATION REPORT TO THE ARIZONA AUDITOR GENERAL.

Mr. Brown stated that this resolution is a yearly process that is required by the Arizona Auditor General's office.

Councilman Welker made a motion to approve Resolution No. 715-2024 and was seconded by Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Revised Final Plat for the Thatcher Commercial Plaza

Mr. Brown referred to the final plat drawing that was distributed to the Mayor, Council Members, and staff. He explained that the plat is being revised to be more suitable for the Credit Union widening it 6 extra feet to the west. Another revision made to the plat is the combining of multiple lots to larger lots. Mr. Brown stated that with these design revisions it will create a cleaner property.

Vice Mayor Howard made a motion to approve the Revised Final Plat for the Thatcher Commercial Plaza and was seconded by Councilmember Welker. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Planning & Zoning Commission Member Appointments

Mr. Brown announced that the four-year terms of three members of the Planning & Zoning Commission are ending this month. The Town advertised the open positions. The three members are Wayne Layton, Billy Orr, and Brandon Homer. They all began their service in July 2020, and all have expressed interest in continuing to serve on the commission. Mr. Brown stated that we received only one letter of interest from Rebekah Pease. Mayor, Council Members, and Staff discussed how it sometimes is good to have experience on the commission but having “new blood” is also good. Mr. Palmer stated that if Brandon Homer is elected to Town Council in 2025 his seat would have to be filled. Mr. Homer stated that he is also on the Board of Adjustments and if appointed as a Council Member his seat on the Board would also have to be filled.

Councilmember Welker made a motion to retain the three incumbents, Wayne Layton, Billy Orr, and Brandon Homer to the Planning & Zoning Commission for another four-year term and was seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

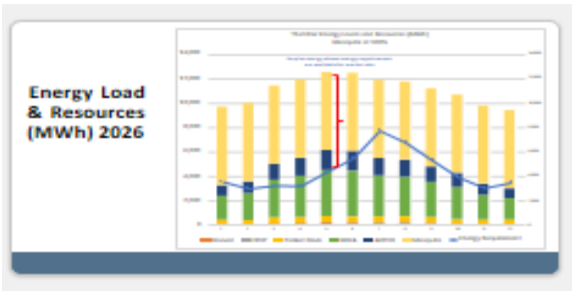
D. Board of Adjustment Member Appointment

Mr. Brown announced that there is one member, Aaron Allen, on the Board of Adjustments with his four-year ending this month. The Town advertised the open position. Mr. Allen began his service in July 2020 as well. He has also expressed his interest in continuing to serve on the Board. We did not receive any interest from anyone else in the position.

Vice Mayor Howard made a motion to retain incumbent Aaron Allen the Board of Adjustments for another four-year term and was seconded by Councilmember Welker. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Thatcher Municipal Utilities Electricity Rate

Mr. Brown introduced Jeff Woner with K.R. Saline to present a PowerPoint on the electricity rate specific to the Power Cost Adjustor. To follow is the PowerPoint that was presented.



Recommendation

- Recommend maintaining Power Cost Adjustor (PCA) at current (\$0.030/kWh) through FY2025, possible FY26 increase
 - Use Cash Reserves to Fund
 - \$686,000 Box Canyon deposit in Oct/Mar 2025
 - Target 200+ days cash on hand
- Continue to monitor monthly operating results and adjust PCA as necessary.

The Mayor and Councilmembers recommended staff to maintain the current Power Cost Adjustor of .03/kwh.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report

- **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Allred Lane

The intersection at the highway is completed.

The 15 poles have been removed so pavement can be finished.

Sewer Taps

Three sewer taps were completed on Reay Lane.

Box Culvert Entrance at Dekuester's Gymnastics

This driveway bridge box culvert was completed under New Business Assistance.

- **4th OF JULY REPORT**

It was reported that it was the best year yet. A thank you to all that volunteered. Councilwoman Smith sent a staff a punch list of items for next year.

- **LONGTIME VOLUNTEER REWARDS**

Ramon Morales, a resident of Thatcher and former Planning & Zoning Commission member, has suggested the Town reward individuals that are long standing members of the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustments with some incentive. It was suggested to add this as an agenda item for the next Work Session Meeting. Mayor Bryce asked staff to research what other cities and towns may do.

- **NEW EMPLOYEES AND JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Eilidh Fischbeck has accepted an offer for the position of police officer. She is currently a police officer in Bisbee. Laine Allred has been hired for the Maintenance Worker I position for the Parks & Recreation Department. He will start on Monday, July 22nd. The Maintenance Worker I position with the Electric Department is currently being advertised.

- **COUNTY WIDE MAYOR / MANAGER MEETINGS**

The City of Safford requested a meeting with the Mayor and Town Manager that took place last week. They would like to continue to have these meetings every other month as a Mayor/Managers Meeting to discuss long term plans, collaborations, and to keep each other informed. They have invited the County and the Town of Pima.

- **SOCCER FIELD LIGHTING UPDATE**

This is currently under construction with the foundations being poured today. The poles will be standing by the end of this week and hoping to have the lights in working order early next week.

- **REC COMPLEX HANDRAILS**

An outside contractor has been hired to work on several handrails.

- **8TH STREET PROJECT**

Mr. Palmer stated that the 1st Agreement was received from the Railroad to build the crossing on Main Street. The amount of the agreement is \$1.4 million. Our railroad consultant has recommended the Town get justification for the amount. The permits for the underground utilities have been submitted and are moving forward. The bid for the roadway project will follow.

- FINANCIAL SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND		SEWER FUND		ELECTRIC FUND	
TOWN TAXES	\$455,618	SEWER REVENUE	\$47,020	ELECTRIC REVENUE	\$654,999
SHARED REVENUE	\$222,250	SEWER EXPENDITURES	\$36,812	ELECTRIC EXPENDITURE	\$395,267
OTHER REVENUES	\$125,668	SEWER NET	\$10,208	ELECTRIC NET	\$259,732
TOTAL REVENUE	\$803,536	SANITATION FUND			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$439,967	SANITATION REVENUE	\$33,202		
GENERAL FUND NET	\$363,569	SANITATION EXPENDITURE	\$33,601		
		SANITATION NET	-\$399		

- POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Orr stated that Briggs Baldwin will be starting the police academy on Monday, July 22nd. The officers will be providing traffic control for the Pioneer Day's parade on July 24th. He announced that all radios are in the process of transitioning over to digital. All radios should be completed by September.

- FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Curtis reported on the assisting in the fires in San Carlos and Peridot. An application has been submitted for the FMI Community Investment Grant to help purchase a Wildland Fire Truck. There will be 2 fire trucks representing the Town in the City of Safford Pioneer Day's parade.

B. Council Reports

Mayor Bryce expressed his appreciation to all the volunteers that helped with the 4th of July Event.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUORUM'S None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bryce adjourned the meeting at 7:37 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 15th day of July. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Annie Reidhead, Town Clerk