



**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
August 19, 2024**

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

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, Building Inspector Alan Bryce, Officer James Whisman, Officer Eilidh Fischbeck

Visitors: David Bell, County Supervisor John Howard, Vaughn Grant, Vance Bryce, Brandon Homer, Brian Hughes, Lance Layton, Sherri Layton

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 Mayor Bryce.

AGENDA

1. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Final Plat for the Element Crossing Subdivision – No Comments

2. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Vance Bryce, Executive Director of the Graham County Chamber, has been asked by his marketing committee to obtain an improved list of email addresses from the community. Vance presented a list to pass around for the Mayor and Council to add their email addresses and any other individuals attending the meeting. This list will be used to invite the community to events held by the Chamber. Vance also announced the ribbon cutting ceremony for American Southwest Credit Union which will be Tuesday, September 24th, 5:30 p.m., 3915 W. Main Street.

3. PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

- A. Samaritan Home Update – Vaughn Grant

Vaughn Grant representing Samaritan Home presented an update on the progress of the organization which included a chart with the different services they provide. Some of the services include showers, laundry, case management, heating/cooling stations, and utility assistant. The chart shows the number of services being provided monthly and the funds being received from different agencies.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: Action Item

- A. Approve Minutes of the July 15, 2024, 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 was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS: None

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

A. Proposed Final Plat for the Element Crossing Subdivision

Mr. Brown stated the subdivision is located on Reay Lane south of the highway. He introduced the property owners, Lance & Sherry Layton along with the contractor Brian Hughes, Hughes Custom Performance. This subdivision will consist of 19 lots with fourplex multifamily homes. Mr. Brown referred to Alan Bryce, Building Inspector, for any questions anyone may have. Alan Bryce stated that the P&Z committee is in favor of the subdivision. Mayor Bryce asked who would be maintaining the roads. Tom Palmer, Town Engineer, stated that the streets will be private streets due to the perpendicular parking that will occur. The streets will be maintained through an HOA.

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to approve the Final Plat for the Element Crossing Subdivision and was seconded by Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Final Plat Extension for the Spring Canyon Estates Subdivision

Mr. Brown stated this subdivision is located east of 1st Avenue across from the high school. It includes 24 lots. He referred to Alan Bryce, Building Inspector, for more information. Mr. Bryce stated that the plat expired in June of this year and Justin Mack, the owner would like another year extension since construction has not begun.

Councilman Carlton made a motion to approve the Final Plat Extension for the Spring Canyon Estates Subdivision and was seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Canvas of Vote – 2024 Primary Town Council Election

Mayor Bryce announced the primary election was held July 31, 2024. The Town of Thatcher had four open seats and seven candidates seeking election. Mayor Bryce stated that there was a total of 6,934 ballots cast. He read the results, Randy Bryce 757, Eddy Carlton 348, Bryce Carter 696, Brandon Homer 365, Ryan Rapier 456, Mark Vining 795, and Shaffen Woods 788. The 4 candidates that had the most votes have met the requirements to obtain office and we will not be having to enter the general election.

D. Promotion of Street Crew Employee from PT to FT Status

Mr. Brown stated that Tommy Nicholas, Streets/Special Projects Director, has brought to his attention a part-time employee, Jaxten Wiltbank, that he would like to be promoted to full-time status. Jaxten would be promoted to full-time Maintenance Worker I in the Public Works Department. Mr. Brown stated that with the hourly rate increasing from \$20 to \$25 it equates to \$51,000 for the year. This was not budgeted for so we will not replace the part-time employee for the year. This may also require movement in funds at the end of the year.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Town Manager's Report

• PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Allred Lane

Paving is complete, working on manholes, and finishing a residential driveway. Crews should be completed with the entire project at the end of the week.

Grave Openings

The crew dug grave sites for Jaiden Palmer and Maurine Allred.

8th Street Construction

Crews will begin working on power relocation and irrigation lines on 8th Street next week.

• QUAIL RIDGE PAVING PROJECT

A sewer emergency occurred due to CKC filling a manhole with concrete. Sewage is currently being pumped out by our crews. CKC will be correcting the problem.

• EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

An employee luncheon took place last week on Thursday, August 15th, out on the Town lawn.

Officer Jason Larson brought his barbeque set up and cooked hamburgers. We also had Auntie Hua's Desert food truck. Employees enjoyed the event, and we plan on having these quarterly.

- NEW EMPLOYEES AND JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Eilidh Fischbeck – Police Department
 Chief Orr announced new Officer Alea Fischbeck. She started on August 5th and is currently working with Officer Larson on night shift.

Laine Allred – Parks Department
 Laine Allred started on July 22nd as a Maintenance Worker I in the Parks Department.

Electric Assistant
 We have made an offer to McKay Griffin for the Maintenance Worker I in the Electric Department.

Office Interns
 Our summer intern, Avery Ainsworth, has expressed staying during the school year. She has done well over the summer, and we plan to keep her. She will be focusing on Human Resource projects. We hired a second intern, Ella Jernigan, she is interested in working for the government. She will be focusing on Project Management, Youth Council, and Grants. They will both be attending EAC full-time and working here 12 hours a week.
- COUNTY WIDE MAYOR / MANAGER MEETINGS**
 Another successful meeting for this month. The meetings will continue to occur monthly and next month they will be inviting the EAC President and Board.
- SOCCER FIELD LIGHTING UPDATE**
 The project is complete. The lights are activated with a push button. There is a push button for each field and are located on the south end between the two fields. Once the button is activated the lights will remain on for two hours. They will immediately turn right back on due to them being LED lights. The lights are programmed to turn off at 10:30 p.m.
- 8TH STREET PROJECT**
 Spoke about earlier in the meeting.
- BUDGETED PURCHASES**
 Shop Compressor - Installed
 Plotter - Installed
 Water Truck – Working on getting bids
 Tire Machine – Bids are being reviewed
 IT Projects – Working on getting
- LEAGUE CONFERENCE PARADE OF FLAGS**
 EAC Cheer Team will be carrying the Town flag at the League Conference Parade of Flags this year.
- VARIANCE SCHEDULED**
 The group that owns Springhill Suites is desiring to build a 4-story hotel near Springhill Suites. There is a variance meeting scheduled in the next coming weeks. It may require changes in our zoning code. The group hopes to start construction in December.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND		SEWER FUND		ELECTRIC FUND	
TOWN TAXES	\$693,970	SEWER REVENUE	\$39,217	ELECTRIC REVENUE	\$776,550
SHARED REVENUE	\$187,979	SEWER EXPENDITURES	\$26,645	ELECTRIC EXPENDITURE	\$280,471
OTHER REVENUES	\$201,319	SEWER NET	\$12,572	ELECTRIC NET	\$496,079
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,083,268	SANITATION FUND			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$552,154	SANITATION REVENUE	\$37,203		
GENERAL FUND NET	\$531,114	SANITATION EXPENDITURE	\$16,827		
		SANITATION NET	\$20,376		

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Chief Orr stated that besides the hiring of a new police officer we also have an individual, Briggs Baldwin, attending the police academy. He has completed his first month of the three and a half month training. He is scoring in the top 3 in exams and physical testing. He will graduate from the academy in December of this year. He will then do his field training and then will be on his own in March 2025.
- **FIRE DEPARTMENT**
Chief Curtis reported that they had a busy month with commercial fires. He spoke about the Steve's Service Center fire and the Mathews fire. Both did significant damage. He stated that there will be 17 attending Arizona Fire School the first week of September. Chief Curtis stated that Engine 9 is down and needs a new compressor. The compressor has been ordered.

B. Council Reports

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUORUM'S None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bryce adjourned the meeting at 7:29 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 19th day of August. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Annie Reidhead, Town Clerk