



**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
January 27, 2025**

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

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 (EA Courier), County Supervisor John Howard

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m. by 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 Vice Mayor Welker.

AGENDA

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** None

2. **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

County Supervisor John Howard addressed the Council wishing to thank the Town of Thatcher for all the great work they are accomplishing. Mr. Howard complimented all management, all staff, the work being done on 8th Street, the welding of the fence railing on 8th Street, and the work being done at the cemetery. He wanted to express his gratitude to everyone and that all efforts are appreciated.

3. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES:** None

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve Minutes of December 16, 2024, Regular Council Meeting
- B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report
- C. Police Monthly Report
- D. Approval of Invoices
- E. Financial Reports

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

5. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

6. **NEW BUSINESS:** None

7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

A. Town Manager's Report

- PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
8TH STREET

The contractor is on site and getting started. The power lines have not yet been moved, waiting on boring. The railroad permits have been issued for boring, and we are waiting for the liability insurance to be approved before the other permits are issued. The City of Safford has completed construction and are now working on moving the service taps from old to new. Mr. Palmer stated that the street is closed this week due to digging a 13' deep trench along the side of the street which would be unsafe for traffic.

CRACK SEALING

The Parks crew is working on this project as time allows.

SHOP LEAN-TO

The Parks crew has also begun work on this project beginning with the rebar cages for the footings.

RECREATION COMPLEX RESTROOMS

The Electric crew is working on installing ventilation fans due to the hot temperatures in the summer.

- **ELECTRIC SUBSTATION UPDATE**

Work on the substation has begun. The earthwork contractor has finished their portion, and the concrete contractor is expected to start this week.

- **THATCHER MOBILE APP**

The mobile app is now available for testing on both the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store. The Council took a moment to download the app and quickly explored. We're still gathering some final details to complete the app, and your feedback and suggestions would be appreciated. Additionally, the app will include push notification capabilities for announcements and updates. The app is currently not available for public use. Mayor Howard suggested a QR Code be created and announced when the app is ready to be released to the public.

- **THATCHER COMMERCIAL PLAZA RFP**

The RFP for the Disposition and Development of Land has been released, and it's specifically for the lot along US 70. Culvers has expressed continued interest and is hopeful of submitting a proposal.

- **ACMA CONFERENCE**

I attended the conference in Sedona last week, where one key topic discussed was the legislative session's effort to remove the food tax and Governor Hobbs' veto of the proposal. It is now being considered for a public vote. The food tax accounts for 10% to 15% of the Town's income, making it a significant concern.

- **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND		SEWER FUND		ELECTRIC FUND	
TOWN TAXES	\$693,231	SEWER REVENUE	\$41,060	ELECTRIC REVENUE	\$334,635
SHARED REVENUE	\$194,275	SEWER EXPENDITURES	\$25,392	ELECTRIC EXPENDITURE	\$328,635
OTHER REVENUES	\$120,060	SEWER NET	\$15,668	ELECTRIC NET	\$5,826
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,007,566	SANITATION FUND			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$884,628	SANITATION REVENUE	\$37,734		
GENERAL FUND NET	\$122,938	SANITATION EXPENDITURE	\$15,716		
		SANITATION NET	\$22,019		

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Orr reported on the rash of burglaries which included four vehicles that took place last week. There was approximately \$250,000 stolen and 98% was recovered by the department. The two suspects were found, arrested, and charged. Chief Orr announced that Officer Whisman will be attending Expert Physical Assessment Training in Albuquerque. This will allow him to provide risk management assessments along with risk assessment suggestions to schools, churches, and other organizations. Chief Orr announced that the Incinerator is up and running. Staff are being trained on the equipment all this week.

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Curtis stated that the department has been slow. He discussed the California fires with the Council and staff. Chief Curtis reported that the Wildland brush truck is at CMI getting logos.

B. Council Reports

Councilman Vining expressed his thanks to staff for helping dig graves for two funerals last week. He also mentioned Reece Rugg, a gentleman that has been cleaning up the cemetery voluntarily. Mr. Brown stated that he has received several compliments regarding the cleanup. He has set up an appointment to meet Mr. Rugg and discuss the opportunity of becoming a contracted part-time employee for 10 to 15 hours a week to continue the cleanup.

8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUOROM'S:** None

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Howard adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVED:

Heath Brown, Town Manager

Jenny Howard, 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 27th day of January. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Annie Reidhead, Town Clerk