



MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
October 20, 2025

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Howard, Vice Mayor Vining, Councilman Bryce, Councilman McEuen, Councilman Carter, Councilman Allen, Councilwoman Gaethje

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, Vance Bryce, John Howard, Arnold Lopez, Matthew Svee, Erin Motes, Becky Motes, Torey Cranford, Joel Robinson, Mark Palmer, John Gaethje, Kia Gaethje

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 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 Councilman Carter

AGENDA

1. Swearing in of Councilwoman Carolina Gaethje



Mayor Howard introduced newly appointed Councilwoman Carolina Gaethje and administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Gaethje. After being sworn into office, Councilwoman Gaethje assumed her seat on the Council. Councilwoman Gaethje was appointed to Council to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Shaffen Woods. The term expires in December of 2028.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

None

3. OPEN CALL TO PUBLIC

Torey Cranford, Board President of the Graham County Chamber of Commerce, extended the Chamber’s gratitude to Mayor Howard and Councilmember Carter for participating as judges in the Salsa Fest Competition and invited them to participate next year.

4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

A. National Women’s Small Business Month - Proclamation

Torey Cranford, representing the Eastern Arizona College Small Business Development Center, presented information regarding the National Women’s Small Business Month Proclamation. She provided an overview of the program, noting that each year during the awards ceremony, several women are recognized with the Small Business of the Year award. Ms. Cranford also acknowledged the growing number of women in the Thatcher community. Mayor Howard added the program began in 2013 and shared that she is a past recipient of the award. She then proceeded to read the proclamation.

Proclamation
National Women’s Small Business Month
October 2025

WHEREAS, working women constitute 57.5 percent of the nation’s workforce and strive daily to serve their communities, their states, and their nation in professional, civic, and cultural capacities; and

WHEREAS, 39.1 percent of all United States businesses are women-owned, translating to approximately 272,567 million-dollar-plus women-owned businesses that generate \$2.2 trillion in annual revenue and employ 9.4 million workers; and

WHEREAS, women should be applauded for their contributions to the workplace and the financial stability of their families especially during times of economic downturn, when more women have become the primary breadwinners of their households; and

Councilmember McEuen made a motion to approve the purchase of the used 2019 Ford F750 from United Rentals in the amount of \$65,691.09 if it meets the mechanic's inspection and was seconded by Councilmember Carter. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Approval of the removal and addition of authorized signers for the Town of Thatcher's bank account at National Bank of Arizona.

Mr. Brown explained that this action item is to approve updating the authorized signers for the Town of Thatcher's bank account at National Bank of Arizona, located in Safford, Arizona, removing Robert (Bob) Rivera and Shaffen Woods, and adding Mayor Genavive (Jenny) Howard and Police Chief Glen Orr as authorized signers. Tom Palmer and I (Heath Brown) are existing authorized signers.

Councilmember Bryce made a motion to remove Robert (Bob) Rivera and Shaffen Woods and add Genavive (Jenny) Howard and Glen Orr as authorized signers for the Town of Thatcher's National Bank Account and was seconded by Vice Mayor Vining. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Liquor License for new Circle K

Mr. Brown stated that we received the official Liquor License from the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for the new Circle K which will be located at 3007 US Highway 70. He reported the license has been filed as a beer and wine license, the common license for convenience stores. Staff posted the license at the location for the required 20-day period, and no public comments or protests were received.

Councilmember Gaethje made a motion to approve the Liquor License for the new Circle K Store as presented and was seconded by Councilmember Bryce. Motion carried unanimously.

- F. **RESOLUTION 723-2025:** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE SPAA WCF2 PROJECT.

Mr. Brown explained that the original Resolution authorized SPAA to manage the Town's cash deposits, invest the funds to earn interest, and return the interest to the Town. The Amendment allows other entities to participate in the Resolution without requiring approval from the Town or the City of Safford. He noted that this Amendment does not change the original Resolution and will enable SPAA to streamline the process.

Councilmember Bryce made a motion to approve Resolution 723-2025 as presented and was seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

A. Town Manager's Report

- Public Works Department
 - Thatcher Commercial Plaza
Sidewalks and driveways are completed along the frontage. Underground utilities are also completed. Overhead power and streetlights remain left to complete.
 - 1st Avenue
South of the highway there are 3 irrigation boxes that need to be relocated by mid-November.
 - Town Yard
There are drainage problems that need attention.
 - Maintenance
Staff will dedicate a month to street maintenance which will include potholes.

- Thatcher App
The App is up and running. It was previewed by the Mayor and Council and were encouraged to download.
- US 70 Paving Project
Have started with concrete work.
- 1st Avenue Speed Limit Change
The posting of the signs has been completed.
- Town Council Workshop
Monday, November 3rd, 6:00 p.m., send requested agenda items by next week. Preliminary list of agenda items was requested to be emailed as a reminder.
- Culver's Update
Closing on the land next week and site plans have been sent to staff. Site plans were requested to be emailed.
- Freeport-McMoRan Foundation Community and Social Investment Fund Grand Award
Judge Merri Aden, Gila Valley Magistrate Court, submitted a grant application for this cycle. The grant was awarded in the amount of \$28,000 for the upgrade to the GVC courtroom video and audio equipment.

- Financial Summary

GENERAL FUND		SEWER FUND		ELECTRIC FUND	
TOWN TAXES	\$646,827	SEWER REVENUE	\$47,207	ELECTRIC REVENUE	\$728,816
SHARED REVENUE	\$179,601	SEWER EXPENDITURES	\$31,299	ELECTRIC EXPENDITURE	\$309,159
OTHER REVENUES	\$252,622	SEWER NET	\$15,908	ELECTRIC NET	\$419,657
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,079,049	SANITATION FUND			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$880,404	SANITATION REVENUE	\$37,877		
GENERAL FUND NET	\$198,646	SANITATION EXPENDITURE	\$18,253		
		SANITATION NET	\$19,624		

- Police Department
Chief Orr reported on the following items:
 - Running traffic on 1st Avenue and most have slowed down.
 - Sent out safety regulations for Electric Scooters and EBikes.
 - Department participated in the Fire Department Open House.
 - ADOT requested support for the Highway 70 project. The request is for patrolling from 1 officer for the next 100 days from the local agencies. Officer patrolling will occur during their off time and will be compensated directly by the construction company. The Town will be reimbursed for the use of the vehicle.
 - Officer Whisman applied this grant cycle to United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties. The grant was awarded in the amount of \$30,885 to be used to implement Operation Safe Entry.
 - Officer Arbizo resigned, and his last day was last Thursday. Will start the process of replacing the position and would like to send two individuals to the academy. Would like to discuss this further at the upcoming Workshop Session.
 - Officer Whisman started at the schools as the SRO to replace Officer Arbizo.
- Fire Department
Chief Curtis reported on the following items:
 - Quite month but did have an incident with a bear.
 - Open House was well attended, serving 450 hot dogs. It included lots of demonstrations, smoke room, and EAC Cheer Team did facepainting.

B. Council Reports

Vice Mayor Vining attended the Eastern Arizona Hispanic Heritage Dinner/Show on Saturday, September 27th and the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Mt. Graham Cardiology on Tuesday, October 14th.

Mayor Howard reported that ADOT will be preparing for an open meeting in the Gila Valley to promote their 5-year plan. They are hoping this meeting will attract citizens to invest in their communities and the future of transportation. At the meeting, she was approached by the Mayor of Miami, and he expressed his gratitude to the Town's staff for their help with the cleanup efforts.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUOROM'S

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02 (A)(1)(7) the Council may go into Executive Session for discussion and consult with the Town Attorney for legal advice on the following matters: Action Items

At 6:44 p.m. Vice Mayor made a motion to enter Executive Session and was seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Disposal of Real Property

At 7:29 p.m. Councilmember Gaethje made a motion to exit Executive Session and return to the Regular Meeting Session and was seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Mayor Vining made a motion directing staff to begin negotiations with Palmer & Johnson Family Dental regarding their proposal and was seconded by Councilmember Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Howard adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

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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 the 20th day of October. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Annie Reidhead, Town Clerk