



**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL  
November 17, 2025**

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Howard, Vice Mayor Vining, Councilman Bryce, Councilman McEuen, Councilman Carter, Councilman Allen, Councilwoman Gaethje (via Zoom)

Staff Present: Town Manager Heath Brown, Town Attorney Matt Clifford, Police Chief Glen Orr, Fire Chief Steve Curtis, Town Clerk Annie Reidhead, Judge Merri Aden

Visitors: David Bell, John Howard, Sean Wenham, Vernon Batty, Justin Harris

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, noting Councilwoman Gaethje is attending via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember McEuen.

**AGENDA**

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** None

2. **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None

3. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

A. FMI Community Investment Fund Award Presentation

Sean Wenham representing FMI introduced himself to the Mayor and Council and announced that in attendance as well is Vernon Batty, John Howard, and Heath Brown who are all on the Community Investment committee. He stated that FMI Community Investment Fund received a grant application from Gila Valley Magistrate Court, submitted by Judge Aden, for Courtroom Video and Audio Equipment. Mr. Wenham stated that the committee has awarded Gila Valley Magistrate Court the grant and then presented a check in the amount of \$28,000 to Judge Aden.

B. John Howard, County Board Supervisor, expressed his gratitude to FMI for all they do for the community and asked Mr. Wenham to pass that information on to his supervision.

C. Justin Harris, Community & Intergovernmental Engagement Manager, with ADEQ (Arizona Department of Environmental Quality), introduced himself. He stated that he just moved from Phoenix to Pima and is here as a representative for the community. Mr. Harris noted that he had already met with the County and the Town of Pima and wanted to do the same with the Town of Thatcher.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Approve Minutes of September 22, 2025, Special Council Meeting, October 20, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, and November 3, 2025, Town Council Work Session

B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report

C. Police Monthly Report

D. Approval of Invoices

E. Financial Reports

Councilmember McEuen made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and was seconded by Vice Mayor Vining. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Thatcher Commercial Plaza – Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Mayor Howard announced this item will be discussed in Executive Session listed at the end of the agenda.

**B. Public Works Dump Truck Purchase Approval**

Mr. Brown stated that in October's meeting the Council approved the purchase of a used 2019 Ford F750 from United Rentals in the amount of \$65,691.09 contingent upon our mechanic's inspection. Upon inspection our mechanic found that this dump truck contained a V10 gasoline motor and not a diesel motor which is preferred by staff. Mr. Brown is now presenting a quote with pictures for a 2021 Ford F750 Diesel from United Rentals containing 56,112 miles in the amount of \$81,726.00. This is the same type of dump truck approved in last month's meeting and is a 2021 model with a diesel engine versus the 2019 model with a gasoline engine. Staff recommends the purchase of this dump truck.

Councilmember Bryce made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2021 Ford F750 Diesel Dump Truck from United Rentals in the amount of \$81,726.00 therefore vacating the previous approval from last month and contingent upon our mechanic's inspection. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Approval of Contract for Audio/Video System at the Municipal Court**

Mr. Brown stated that the grant presented by FMI earlier during the meeting will be used towards the purchase of the Audio/Video System and then reviewed four quotes, as listed below. He mentioned that City of Safford obtained the quotes as their IT staff will be installing the system.

Vendor	Quote Amount
Audio Visual Experts, Phoenix AZ	\$53,447.74
CTI, Phoenix AZ	\$58,056.23
Double R Sound Inc., Thatcher AZ	\$19,995.56
Justice AV Solutions, Louisville KY	\$46,562.10

Judge Aden addressed the Council and stated that the quote from Double R Sound, Inc. is not correct. The quote being presented in the amount of \$19,995.56 was the original quote received by the City of Safford IT staff including their recommendations. Once the quote was presented to the State for approval their staff indicated that there would be additional equipment required by the State. Judge Aden stated that she believed that the quote for the additional equipment was approximately \$16,000. She noted that with the quote presented and the additional quote the total cost is somewhere around \$36,000.

Vice Mayor Vining made a motion to approve the purchase of the Audio/Video System for Gila Valley Magistrate Court to Double R Sounds not to exceed \$40,000 and was seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

**D. RESOLUTION 724-2025: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO BOX CANYON RESALE AGREEMENT**

Mr. Brown reported that a couple of months ago buying into the Box Canyon Solar project was discussed with Mayor and Council. This Agreement is to approve a balancing authority which is required to bring power to the grid. SPAA has identified SRP as that balancing authority. SRP would be willing to approve the Agreement if each entity gives megawatt shares from the project. Town of Thatcher is giving 5 of the 10 megawatts to SRP in the Agreement. The Agreement also includes a deposit to SRP which will be returned at a prorated rate.

Councilmember Carter made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 724-2025, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher, approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of the First Amendment to Box Canyon Resale Agreement and was seconded by Councilmember Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**A. Town Manager's Report**

- Public Works Department  
Thatcher Commercial Plaza

Crews continue to work to bury the powerlines on the north side of the highway.

1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

Half of the Public Works crew worked and completed the relocation of three irrigation boxes in preparation for road widening.

Town Yard

The other half of the Public Works crew worked on fencing in preparation for the new automatic gate.

Crack Sealing

Crews will begin this project in the next couple of weeks as temperatures decrease.

- US 70 Paving Project

Crews have completed the concrete in Thatcher. Milling the asphalt will start in January and paving in February.

- Ball Field Lighting

Equipment has been received, and the Electricians will begin this project.

- Drain Box at Williams/Palmer Commercial

Crews have completed installing the 3 x 3 drain box for this new business.

- Financial Summary

GENERAL FUND		SEWER FUND		ELECTRIC FUND	
TOWN TAXES	\$456,898	SEWER REVENUE	\$40,944	ELECTRIC REVENUE	\$475,825
SHARED REVENUE	\$210,353	SEWER EXPENDITURES	\$36,691	ELECTRIC EXPENDITURE	\$317,075
OTHER REVENUES	\$150,146	SEWER NET	\$4,253	ELECTRIC NET	\$158,751
TOTAL REVENUE	\$817,398	<b>SANITATION FUND</b>			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$619,933	SANITATION REVENUE	\$38,460		
<b>GENERAL FUND NET</b>	<b>\$197,465</b>	SANITATION EXPENDITURE	\$28,071		
		<b>SANITATION NET</b>	<b>\$389</b>		

- Police Department

Chief Orr reported that the US 70 Highway paving project will be conducted day and night for next week. The department is rotating coverage with the City of Safford Police Department on a weekly basis.

EAC (Eastern Arizona College) requested full security from the department for the Representative Juan Ciscomani Reception. Officer Whisman developed a critical analysis plan for the reception which included 10 officers. An hour before the event the department was informed that Representative Ciscomani would be unable to attend and other representatives from his office would be attending. The department went ahead and moved forward with the plan to take advantage of live training.

Chief Orr stated that background checks are being conducted on the two potential candidates for Police Recruits.

- Fire Department

Chief Curtis provided an update on an incident that occurred on November 1<sup>st</sup> at a mobile home in Daley Estates. A couple of firefighters that reside in the neighborhood responded immediately to assist in containing the fire. At the time of the incident, five individuals were inside the residence. The fire was successfully extinguished, resulting in broken windows and minor damage to the exterior siding.

**B. Council Reports**

Vice Mayor Vining mentioned the passing of Rusty Noland, one of Town of Thatcher's former employees.

Mayor Howard reminded all that ADOT will be conducting their open meeting in the Gila Valley to promote their 5-year plan. ADOT will be conducting the meetings in the week of January 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

At 6:35 p.m. Vice Mayor Vining made a motion to enter Executive Session and was seconded by Councilmember Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Pursuant** to A.R.S. Section 38-431.02 (A)(1)(7) the Council may go into an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and to consult with the Town Attorney for legal advice. Action Item

**A. Disposal of Real Property**

Council discussed an Amendment to Proposal received for the Thatcher Commercial Plaza.

**B. Discussing Legal Advice with Town Attorney**

Legal counsel briefed the Council on a recent meeting with outside counsel. No formal action was taken.

At 7:15 p.m. Councilmember McEuen made a motion to exit the Executive Session and return to Regular Session and was seconded by Councilmember Allen. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Allen made a motion to accept Amendment to Proposal from Palmer & Johnson Family Dental for the purchase price of \$95,000 at Thatcher Commercial Plaza and was seconded by Councilmember Carter. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. and was seconded by Councilmember Gaethje. Motion carried unanimously.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> day of November. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Annie Reidhead, Town Clerk