



"The mission of the City of Safford is to make Safford  
a great place to live, work, and visit"

**CITY OF SAFFORD - SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING WATER EMERGENCY  
THURSDAY, August 16, 2012 @ 5:00 PM  
PHELPS DODGE ROOM - LIBRARY**

PRESENT: Wyn "Chris" Gibbs, Mayor; Mary Bingham, Vice Mayor; Council Member's Ken Malloque, Gene Seale, James D. Howes, Richard Ortega, and Arnold A. Lopez.

STAFF PRESENT: David Kincaid, City Manager; Sandra Findley, Executive Secretary; Christine Fisher, Personnel Director; John Griffin, Police Chief; John Morast, Public Works Director; Don Knight, Director Management & Budget; Ann Waite, Finance Director; Jan Elliott, Library Director; Randy Petty, City Engineer; Eric Buckley, Utilities Director; Harry Williams, Water Quality Specialist; and Georgia Luster, City Clerk. Dale Clark, IT Support Specialist, assisted with the audio/video recording of the meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jenifer Seale; William S. Perry, KATO Radio; Jon Johnson, Eastern Arizona Courier; Lori Pedregon; Kim Larkey; Brian Coppola; Valerie Buckley; Gale Hedges; Bill Brandau, U of A Cooperative Extension; Sally Holguin, Laura Haynes, Brandon Nite; Hunter Winsor; Phil Curtis; Marie Freestone, Graham County Chamber; Terry Hinton, Thatcher Town Manager; Bob Rivera, Thatcher Town Mayor; Jim Palmer, Graham County Board of Supervisors; and others who did not sign in. KGUN, Channel 9 TV was present and video recorded the meeting.

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Gibbs called the meeting to order at 5:07:44 p.m. He apologized for the delay in starting the meeting. However, Mr. Kincaid just received a call from the Arizona Department of Water Resources and is speaking with them.

Mayor Gibbs welcomed and thanked everyone present. He acknowledged Mayor Bob Rivera from the Town of Thatcher and Jim Palmer, Chairman, Graham County Board of Supervisors. He expressed appreciation to them for their attendance and support because the water emergency is a community wide issue.

2. ROLL CALL: A quorum of the Council was present (7).
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Gibbs led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
4. OPENING PRAYER: Kevin Peck offered the Opening Prayer.

**5. PROCLAMATION DECLARING WATER EMERGENCY: Discussion on declaring a water emergency and stating regulations, restrictions and penalties.**

A special council meeting to increase public awareness of the water situation was called by Mayor Gibbs. He stated the City's water system is suffering and the City is not able to maintain water production levels at this time. Numerous wells throughout the Gila Valley have ceased to produce water over the last couple of weeks. The City of Safford currently provides water to approximately 23,000 Safford customers (13,000 customers living within Thatcher and Graham County). He invited Eric Buckley, Utilities Director, to come forward to discuss the emergency.

Eric Buckley clarified the City has not run out of water and still is able to provide adequate water supply. However, it is the City's duty to look to the future and try to predict what will happen if certain things change or don't change. He noted the City has noticed trends in the weather and trends in water production and believe drastic actions are needed at this time to divert a real disaster. He referred to the City's water production sources which include Bonita Springs and Artesian Wells, and eleven (11) wells. Projected water production and actual water production was compared.

<u>Production Sources (GPM)</u>	<u>Projected Production</u>	<u>Actual Production</u>
1. Bonita Springs and Artesian Wells	2,150	1,700
2. Well #15	750	250
3. Morris Well #1	500	
4. Morris Well #2	300	320
5. Morris Well #3	300	125
6. Alder Well	900	--
7. Smith Well (use only if no other water source)	900	Offline
8. Carrasco Well	1,300	745
9. Kempton A	400	--
10. Kempton B	750	235
11. Kempton C	750	116
12. Clont's Well	<u>300</u>	<u>310</u>
	9,300	3,801

Mr. Buckley stated 9,300 gallons of water per minute is normally produced on a daily basis. However, as indicated actual production is 3,801 gallons per minute. Production is currently about 40 percent of its normal rates. He recognized the Water Production Crew, Harry Williams and Ron Gibson, for their attempt to maintain water production. He referred to a graph that will be produced in the weekly edition of the Eastern Arizona Courier. The graph indicates water consumption between July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>. Secondly, he referred to graph of the State of Arizona indicating the severe drought status in Graham County and Statewide and U.S. Drought Monitor of Arizona. Arizona is in a server drought stage. It is hopeful that a wetter winter than normal will occur as predicted by the El Nino. At this time, he asked Harry Williams to come forward to

explain the water conditions of several of the City's water wells. He stated this data is gathered on a daily basis to track water tables, water productions, etc. Harry Williams stated he keeps this information so that he can have a day-to-day snapshot of what the wells are doing.

Additionally, this information helps track water levels in the water storage tanks. At this time water consumption is overtaking water production.

Mayor Gibbs explained the Proclamation proclaims a water emergency and hopes the public understands the concern and begin to voluntarily conserve water immediately. Storage capacities are being re-balanced in order to provide fire suppression if necessary. This is a wakeup call and said the situation has boiled down to "Would it be better to have flowers or drinking water?" The emergency is expected to be temporary and end at the end of this year's growing season. "If we don't get moisture within the next 6 months, we will be out of water again." The Municipal Code stipulates the Mayor does a Proclamation. Mayor Gibbs read the Proclamation into the record.

#### **PROCLAMATION NO. 12-001**

#### **A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SAFFORD, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA PROCLAIMING A WATER EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, a prolonged drought has occurred curtailing our water supply in the City of Safford water service area; and

**WHEREAS**, water production capacity is at forty (40) percent of normal flows; and

**WHEREAS**, our water reservoir system is not able to be maintained at maximum capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, it is expected that our water supply issues may be short lived.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor of the City of Safford by virtue of Section 2.16.040 of the Safford Municipal Code.

The City finds that an emergency exists as a result of the scarcity of water and that it is required for the public good to restrict the use of outside water usage in the City of Safford water service area in accordance with this Proclamation. The following water restrictions are in place until deemed by the City that a water emergency no longer exists.

The following mandatory restrictions are immediately in effect for all City of Safford water customers:

- All outside watering shall follow the following two day a week schedule: if your address ends with an even number, water on Wednesday and Saturday. Odd numbers will water on Tuesday and Friday.
- All outside watering shall be limited to two (2) hours on designated watering days.
- Outside watering shall be prohibited between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Commercial nurseries excluded.
- Prohibit the hosing off of pavement, sidewalks, walkways, parking lots, tennis courts, buildings or any structures.



Proclamation Number 12-001

August 16, 2012

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Meeting of the City of Safford, Graham County, Arizona held Monday, August 13, 2012, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting on September 10, 2012. I further certify the meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

Dated: September 10, 2012

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Georgia Luster, MMC  
City Clerk