



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

**CITY OF SAFFORD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 10 , 2014 @ 6:00 PM
Safford Library Program Room, 808 S. 7th Avenue, Safford, Arizona**

PRESENT: Wyn “Chris” Gibbs, Mayor; Mary Bingham, Vice Mayor; Council Member’s Gene Seale, Arnold A. Lopez, Kenneth Malloque, James D. Howes, and Richard Ortega.

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Buckley, Interim City Manager; Sandra Findley, Executive Assistant; Ann Waite, Chief Financial Officer; John Griffin, Police Chief; Leanne McElroy, Library Director; Jenny Howard, Public Works Director; Dustin Welker, Planning & Community Development Director; Don Knight, Director FlexNet Meter Renewal Project; Randy Petty, City Engineer; and Georgia Luster, City Clerk and Dale Clark, who assisted with the audio/video recording of the meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT: John Howard, Gale Hedges, David Morse, Dean Krieg, Louisa Cabrera, Kelly Owens, Bill Peck, Jay Wright, James Bryce, Valerie Buckley, Tisha Clark, Glen Orr, Kim Larkey, Ramona Ybarra, Tim Ybarra, Linda R. Burrell, Jaime Holguin, Jon Johnson, Eastern Arizona Courier and others who did not sign in. Kelly Van Shaar video recorded the meeting.

- 1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Gibbs called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- 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:** Councilman Seale offered the Opening Prayer.

Proposed New Capacity Fees for Water and Wastewater Utility Services.

Mayor Gibbs opened a Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m. to hear public comments regarding proposed new capacity fees for water and wastewater utility services.

Councilman Lopez inquired about the meter charges included in the Study. Don Knight explained TiishlerBice actually looked at the capacity that each meter could demand whereas the previous study did not consider the capacity in the same way.

There were no comments from the public regarding the proposed new capacity fees for water and wastewater utility services. Mayor Gibbs closed the public hearing and opened a public hearing regarding the proposed new OPT-OUT Policy and Fees for Electric, Gas and Water Meter Billing and Services at 6:11:12 p.m. He pointed out that the Hearing is not a discussion about whether or not the City has Smart Meters. In July 1998, the City started installing radio frequency meters in its electric system. He explained the Hearing is to have a discussion regarding a Policy for consumers to opt out and what those fees might be. There were three members of the public who spoke out against the implementation of the program.

David Schade, 2035 W. Relation, Safford, AZ: Mr. Schade said he previously attended a council meeting in August and had asked the Council to look into the health issues and privacy issues that comes with smart meters. He believes there are many issues with smart meters. He added that smart meters collect data on what you do in your house and they do transmit that information which is a violation of the Fourth Amendment. He referred to a study (possibly a year-long study) that the Arizona Corporation Commission is conducting about the meters. "What is the Council going to do if they are not safe?" He believes this meter reading technology is part of the United Nations Agenda 21. He stated that he sent the City a letter stating he did not want any of the meters installed at his residence.

From the data provided today, Mayor Gibbs stated there is no indication that the system is not safe.

Lee Rogers, 925 W. Cactus Road, Safford, AZ: He read a statement he prepared - the last time I was here, I asked you to investigate other opinions of the smart meters, and it looks like the conclusion was that the City can generate more money by giving the option to opt out. Did anyone happen to investigate themselves or at least get their intern an opportunity to report to you their conclusions? Did you happen to hear of the class action lawsuits that are under way or settled like the one from Santa Cruz where the judge ordered the utility company to pay for the health care costs of the plaintive, or have you read any of the reports that hundreds of neurosurgeons have given? And then there is the privacy issue. In the Courier paper, it was stated by Mr. Knight that the information goes to the census. That's kind of a funny name, don't you think? Don't you think that's what the people don't want, our information going there? It is obvious what's going on in the world today with THS purchasing tons of ammo, the erection of a million

square foot fusion center, the takeover of health care, takeover of education, GMO foods, the dependents of welfare and so on that these people would love to have a global surveillance grid set up. Why are we not teaching our school children healthful technologies like, testless inventions, permaculture or how to build solar or magnetic energy or geothermic energy or aqua phonics to supply their schools food independently? It's obvious to me they want a dumb down population of mushroom people; to keep them in the dark, and to feed them you know what.

Rexanne Rogers, 395 Geronimo Rd., Safford, AZ: Ms. Rogers stated she just happened to be home with a sick child when she discovered the city was installing meters without her knowledge. She stated she has signed a deferral statement and does not want smart meters installed at her home. She stated she was told there is not yet a policy in place. There is a lot of controversy about the smart meters and there is not a valid study out there to say whether or not it's okay or not. She does not support the installation of the smart meters and believes they cause health issues and is a privacy issue. She encouraged the Council to review a video she has called "Taking Back Power". She believes smart meters are being installed on properties without the public's knowledge.

Mayor Gibbs closed the Public Hearings and Opened Regular Session at 6:35:51 p.m.

1. CONSENT ITEMS: The Mayor and City Council may wish to consider approving Items 1 through 11 as Consent Agenda Items.

1. January 13 and January 27, 2014 Public Hearing/Work Session/Special Council Minutes.
2. Police Report
3. Building Inspection Report
4. Public Works Report
5. Business License Report
6. Library Report
7. Utilities Consumption Report
8. Summary of Projects Planning and Grants Administration
9. Prosecution Report
10. Airport Report for January
11. Expense Report over \$5,000

It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Councilman Malloque and carried unanimously to approve Items 1 through 11 as Consent Agenda Items as published.

MOTION ADOPTED

2. **Consider approving the Purchasing Card Report ending December 19, 2013.** It was moved by Vice Mayor Bingham, seconded by Councilman Howes, and carried unanimously to approve the Purchasing Card Report ending November 19, 2013 as published. The City Clerk acknowledged the report ending as November 19, 2013 and not December 19, 2013. **MOTION ADOPTED**

3. **Blasius, Parrish L. and Maureen Dennise are requesting the City Council make recommendation to the State Liquor Board regarding an Application for Extension of Premises/Patio Permit on behalf of the Copper Steer Steakhouse & Saloon located at 1206 East U.S. Hwy 70, Safford, Graham County, Arizona, for the addition/remodel to restaurants second floor.** Interim City Manager Buckley explained the Blasius' submitted an application to the State Liquor Board requesting adding an addition/remodel of the Copper Steer Steakhouse & Saloon.

Parrish Blasius, the Licensee, (1206 Highway 70, Safford, AZ) stated the upstairs area was previously used as living space and office area. That area is now being added to the restaurant.

It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Councilman Seale, and carried unanimously to approve recommendation to the State Liquor Board regarding an Application for Extension of Premises/Patio Permit on behalf of the Copper Steer Steakhouse & Saloon located at 1206 East U.S. Hwy 70, Safford, Graham County, Arizona, for the addition/remodel to restaurants second floor.

MOTION ADOPTED

4. **Recognize Third (3rd) Year LEAD Participants.** Interim City Manager Buckley explained the LEAD Program gives employee's the opportunity to review the operations and become more familiar with each of the departments of the City. He recognized each participant: Amber Hogle, Linda Burrell, Dale Clark, Ramona Ybarra, Eric Whisman, Brandon Knight, Leanne McElroy, Kelly Owens, Jamie Holguin, Bill Peck, Jay Wright, Louisa Cabrera, Ryan Watson Chuck Hicks, and Chad Hogle.

Councilman Howes thanked the employees' for participated and encouraged the them to attend Council Meetings just to keep up with what's going on.

5. **Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Update, July through December 2013.** Interim City Manager Buckley explained the Second Quarter FY 14 Financials:
 - a. Governmental Revenues/Expenditures to Budget
 - b. Utility Revenues/Expenditures to Budget
 - c. Local City Sales Tax Collections. Currently up 6% where we were last year at this time.

Mayor Gibbs commended staff for keeping expenses down.

6. **Second Reading of Ordinance Number 14-002:** Approving and adopting Ordinance Number 14-002, an Ordinance of the City of Safford amending Title 13 of the Municipal Code by modifying Chapter 13.20 Municipal Water System; Section 13.20.020, Installation Charges.

It was moved by Councilman Howes, seconded by Councilman Ortega, and carried unanimously to approve and adopt Ordinance Number 14-002, an Ordinance of the City of Safford amending Title 13 of the Municipal Code by modifying Chapter 13.20 Municipal Water System; Section 13.20.020, Installation Charges.

MOTION ADOPTED

7. **The Library Advisory Board and staff request consideration of a proposed new policy for the library regarding materials that are overdue, lost or damaged beyond repair. This policy would replace a section in the current CIR-7 Fines and Fees.** It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilman Lopez, and carried unanimously to approve a new policy, CIR-6 Materials: Overdue, Lost or Damaged Beyond Repair. CIR-6 will replace Section 2 of Policy CIR-7 Fines and Fees.

MOTION ADOPTED

8. **Consider renewing the Mount Graham Safe House, Inc. Lease Agreement for another five year term according to Section 8 of the current Agreement.** It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Vice Mayor Bingham, and carried unanimously to renew the Mount Graham Safe House, Inc. Lease Agreement for another five year term according to Section 8 of the current Agreement.

MOTION ADOPTED

9. **The Council will discuss Dean Krieg's request for parking ordinance change on Entertainment Avenue.** Mr. Dean Krieg approached the Council stating the area is a commercial area and not residential area. He explained his request for parking on Entertainment Avenue and a portion of 4th Street is to accommodate commercial vehicles.

Councilman Malloque stated that he sympathizes with Mr. Krieg and understands there is a parking issue in that area, but he is concerned about allowing parking in the area will open up other commercial properties.

It was moved by Councilman Howes, seconded by Vice Mayor Bingham, and carried unanimously to deny Mr. Krieg's request for parking ordinance change on Entertainment Avenue.

MOTION ADOPTED

10. **MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES HELD BY COUNCIL OR CITY STAFF:**

- Meet the Mayors Forum: Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Lincoln Day Luncheon- Monday, Feb. 17, 2014
- Golf Course House officially out to bid - closes March 12, 2014
- Planning & Zoning Commissioner position closes Feb. 19, 2014
- Councilman Ortega will attend a SEAGO Meeting, Feb. 28, 2014

11. **COUNCIL OR STAFF REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

12. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETING(S):**

- Monday, February 24, 2014 - Work Session
- Monday, March 10, 2014 - Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, March 24, 2014 - Council Work Session

13. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

14. **ADJOURN:** It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilman Howes, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:02.14 p.m.
MOTION ADOPTED

APPROVED:

Wyn "Chris" Gibbs, Mayor
City of Safford

ATTEST:

Georgia Luster, MMC, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss
County of Graham)

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Regular Council Meeting of the Safford City Council, Graham County, Arizona held Monday, February 10, 2014, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, March 10, 2014. I further certify the meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

March 10, 2014

Date:

Georgia Luster, MMC, City Clerk