



**“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, March 10, 2014 @ 6:00 PM  
Safford Library Program Room, 808 S. 7<sup>th</sup> 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; Christine Fisher, Human Resources Director; 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:** Dennis Whisman; Aimee Staten; James Bryce; Marie Freestone; Matt Busby; 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 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:** Chief Griffin offered the opening prayer.
5. **CONSENT ITEMS:** The Mayor and City Council may wish to consider approving Items 1 through 11 as Consent Agenda Items.

- Session
1. February 10, Council Minutes and February 24 Council Work
  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 February
11. Expense Report over \$5,000

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

**MOTION ADOPTED**

6. **Consider approving Purchasing Card Report ending December 2013.** It was moved by Councilman Howes, seconded by Councilman Ortega, and carried unanimously to approve the Purchasing Card Report ending December 2013 as presented.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

7. **Recognize Amber Hogle for earning and receiving her Certified Municipal Clerk Certification.** Georgia Luster, City Clerk commended Amber Hogle for earning and receiving her certification as Certified Municipal Clerk. She received her CMC Certificate, CMC lapel pin, and a Plaque from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.
8. **Consider approving a request by the Boys and Girls Club of the Gila Valley to place a concession stand trailer at Firth Park during swimming pool hours this summer. It is recommended that the trailer be removed from the park each evening and only be operated during swimming pool hours.** Dustin

Welker explained the Boys and Girls Club of the Gila Valley is requesting the Council consider allowing the Club to run a concession at the Safford Swimming Pool in the summer. The Club would purchase all supplies and be responsible for the inventory, insurance, etc. Club members would assist in running the stand but would be supervised by an adult staff member at all times.

It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Councilman Lopez, and carried unanimously to approve the Boys and Girls Club of the Gila Valley to place and run a concession at the Safford Swimming Pool during the summer.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

9. **The City of Safford received the “Gold” Award of Excellence for 2012/2013 from the Arizona Municipal Risk Retention Pool in recognition of outstanding achievement and continued excellence in Risk Management and control of losses.** Interim City Manager Buckley stated the City received the Gold Award of Excellence for 2012/2013 from the Arizona Municipal Risk Retention Pool in recognition of outstanding achievement and continued excellence in Risk Management and control of losses. He provided the plaque to Mayor Gibbs.

**INFORMATION**

10. **Approval of recommended restricted parking spaces (13) within the new parking lot at Firth Park.** Interim City Manager Buckley stated staff is asking the Council to approve restricting thirteen parking spaces to two hour parking in the new parking lot at Firth Park. Signage will be installed designating parking spaces. He explained the City’s Municipal Code allows for the restriction by resolution. It was the consensus of the Council for staff to bring back a resolution for approval.
11. **Review and consider approval of the Annual Special Events for 2014.** Dustin Welker explained Events 1 through 12 are the same requests as approved in years past. Item No. 13, Main Street Family Festival, was approved for the first time last year for two festivals. However, the festival committee is requesting the Council consider approving four (4) Main Street Family Festivals this year. No firm dates are confirmed at this time. The cost of event to the City averaged \$430 per event. He stated any event held downtown is great for the community. There was a brief discussion about how successful the events were and if the events bring in revenue to the city. Additionally, the Council would like to see the proposed dates for the 2014 events.

Councilman Seale suggested the committee consider allowing other businesses that are not on Main Street to participate in the activities (set up booth, etc.). Also, he mentioned the committee agreeing to reimburse the City if they had successful sponsorships supporting the events last year.

It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Vice Mayor Bingham, and carried unanimously to approve the special events, limiting the Main Street Family Festival to two events for 2014. List of events below:

**MOTION ADOPTED**

1. Special Olympics, March 28 and March 29
2. Cinco de Mayo Parade, May 3<sup>rd</sup>
3. Relay for Life, May 2 - May 3
4. Fourth of July Parade, July 4<sup>th</sup>
5. Salsa Fest, September 26 - September 27

6. Salsa Walk, September 27 (during Salsa Fes)
7. Graham County Fair Parade, October 10<sup>th</sup>
8. Homecoming Parade, October 17<sup>th</sup>
9. Harvest Festival, October 18<sup>th</sup>
10. Veteran's Day Ceremony, November 11<sup>th</sup>
11. Merry Main Street and Tree Lighting, November 28<sup>th</sup>
12. Holiday Light Parade, December 6<sup>th</sup>
13. Main Street Family Festival (**Limited to two events with dates to be announced.**)

12. **Consider approving and adopting Resolution Number 14-014, a Resolution of the City of Safford pertaining to the submission of Police Traffic Services Project for consideration in Arizona 's 2015 AzGOHS Highway Safety Plan .**

It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilman Lopez and carried unanimously to approve and adopt Resolution Number 14-014, a Resolution of the City of Safford pertaining to the submission of Police Traffic Services Project for consideration in Arizona's 2015 AzGOHS Highway Safety Plan.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

13. **Consider approving and adopting Resolution Number 14-015, a Resolution of the City of Safford establishing New Opt-Out Policy and fees for Electric, Gas and Water Meter Billing and Services to be effective May 1, 2014, and declaring document to be a public record.**

It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Councilman Howes and carried unanimously to approve and adopt Resolution Number 14-015, a Resolution of the City of Safford establishing New Opt-Out Policy and Fees for Electric, Gas and Water Meter Billing and Services to be effective May 1, 2014, and declaring document to be a public record.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

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

Feb. 28, 2014: Councilman Ortega attended a SEAGO meeting. He briefly commented about SEAGO adopting a resolution in support of a Trade Zone. Every city in Arizona, except one, support the proposed Trade Zone. He encouraged the city to support SEAGO in their effort because retail taxable sales could be a boost to neighboring communities. He noted the Mexican Consulate may visit the Safford area. He thanked Councilman Howes for attending the meeting and for agreeing to be an alternate for SEAGO meetings.

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

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

17. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETING(S):** NONE

- Monday, March 24, 2014 - Council Work Session
- Monday, April 14, 2014 - Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, April 28, 2014 - Council Work Session
- Friday, March 14 & Saturday, March 15: The Council will be interviewing candidates for the position of City Manager.

It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Vice Mayor Bingham, and carried unanimously to adjourn regular session and to enter executive session at 6:37:29 p.m.

**MOTION  
ADOPTED**

18. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** : The Mayor and Council may enter executive session regarding the following:

1. Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §38-431(A) (1) (5) to discuss the Chief of Police position.
2. Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §38-431.03(A)(3) and §38-431.03(A)(4), for to provide an update regarding Golf Course Operations.
3. Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §38-431(A)(1)(5) to discuss and review interview questions for the position of city manager.

19. The Mayor and Council may adjourn executive session, return to open session, and may take action in open session.

20. **ADJOURN:** It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilman Howes, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:56:24 p.m.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

APPROVED:

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Wyn "Chris" Gibbs, Mayor  
City of Safford

ATTEST:

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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, March 10, 2014, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, April 14, 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