



“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  
Monday, June 23, 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:** Horatio Skeete, City Manager; Sandra Findley, Executive Assistant; Ann Waite, Chief Financial Officer; Christine Fisher, Human Resources Director; Dennis Whisman, Interim Police Chief; Leanne McElroy, Library Director; Dustin Welker, Planning & Community Development Director; Eric Buckley, Utilities Director; Don Knight, Director FlexNet Meter Renewal Project; Randy Petty, City Engineer; and Georgia Luster, City Clerk. Dale Clark assisted with the audio/video recording of the meeting.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** James Bishop, Randa O McKinney, Jay Wright, Gale Hedges, Louisa Cabrera, Don Carter, Lisa Suter, Sally Holguin, Rose Gomez, Alice Barragon, Glen Orr, Richard Whitmore, Brandon Nite, Norman LaRue, Marion Gauna, Sam Napier, and Jon Johnson, Eastern Arizona Courier.

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Gibbs called the meeting to order at 6:00 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.
5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** NONE
6. **PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET AND TAX LEVY:** In compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes §§§42-17104, 42-17105, and 42-17107, Mayor Gibbs will open a public hearing for the purpose of hearing taxpayers on the Budget and Tax Levy for fiscal Year 2014-2015. Mayor Gibbs opened the Public Hearing at 6:04:15 p.m. for the purpose of hearing taxpayers comment on the Budget and Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

There were no public comments on the Budget and Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Mayor Gibbs closed the Public Hearing at 6:04:43 p.m. and reconvened a Special Council Meeting.

**7. CONSENT RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Consider approving and adopting Resolution Number 14-030 approving and adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015. (Roll Call Vote).** The City Clerk read Resolution Number 14-030 by number and title only. Mayor Gibbs asked for comments from the Council.

It was moved by Council Ortega, seconded by Councilman Howes, to approve Resolution Number 14-030 adopting and approving the City Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015.

Councilman Lopez asked if relieving the Inter-fund loans in this year's budget is allowed. Additionally, he referred to the salary survey that was complete last year - "some employees got a raise". Additionally, last year, the Council supported a 3% bonus. He recalled the Council said they would consider a three percent raise the following year if the plan and the goal worked. A three percent raise was the goal and the plan and he believes "we need to stick to the plan."

Vice Mayor Bingham reiterated what she said last week about the three percent salary increase. She believes the Council is being fair about a three percent raise because that was their goal that Council met. She stated the housing market has taken a downturn and the City is losing tax revenues because of the decrease in contractors at the mine. She believes Council is being fair with a three percent raise.

Councilman Seale stated that he basically said the same thing at the last meeting. He is concerned that all revenue increases may be temporary. He was never opposed to not giving a raise. Last year the Council talked about considering a three percent raise this year. He is willing to support a three percent raise this fiscal year.

Councilman Malloque commented that the economy is definitely in a downturn locally and across the whole state. "Phoenix just cut salaries because of their budget and the loss of 4,000 contractors will reduce city tax revenues". Local businesses are seeing a big downturn in their revenues at this time. He stated he is concerned about giving and sustaining a three percent raise.

Councilman Ortega stated that he believes the salary survey brought the salaries of some employees up to where they should be with other entities. He supports a five percent raise. Employees do a tremendous amount of work and will do a lot more work. He is comfortable with the projections made by the city manager and

staff - the budget projections are conservative (2% less from last year).

Councilman Howes stated that he is in favor of an eight percent raise. He stated doing a salary survey was way past due last year. He supports a five percent raise, but would even support a higher raise.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Bingham, seconded by Councilman Malloque to amend the five percent salary increase to a three percent salary increase. The motion carried 4-3. Councilman Ortega, Councilman Howes, and Mayor Gibbs opposed.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

It was moved by Council Ortega, seconded by Councilman Howes, to approve Resolution Number 14-030 as amended, adopting and approving the City Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015. Motion carried 6-1, on a roll call vote with the following Council members voting "aye": Mayor Gibbs, Councilman Seale, Vice Mayor Bingham, Councilman Howes, Councilman Malloque, and Councilman Lopez. Members voting "nay" were Councilman Ortega.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

2. **Consider approving and adopting Resolution Number 14-031 rescinding Resolution Number 13-027, Water Rates as recommended by Black and Veatch Study.** The City Clerk read Resolution Number 14-031 by number and title only.

It was moved by Councilman Howes, seconded by Councilman Malloque approving and adopting Resolution Number 14-031 amending Resolution Number 13-027, Water Rates as recommended by Black and Veatch Study.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

**8. ORDINANCES:**

1. **Second Reading: Consider approving and adopting Ordinance Number 14-008, Case Z-03-14 effectuating a map amendment to the Zoning Map of the City of Safford, Graham County Assessor's Parcel #101-09-057, a rezone from R-2 (Multi-Family Residential) to C-MH (Conventional and Manufactured Home).** The City Clerk read Ordinance Number 14-008 by number and title only.

Councilman Ortega recommended reviewing and updating the General Plan.

Mr. Skeete responded by stating staff will start the process of reviewing the General Plan this year which is required by the State..

It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Vice Mayor Bingham, and carried unanimously to approve and adopt Ordinance Number 14-008, Case Z-03

-14 effectuating a map amendment to the Zoning Map of the City of Safford, Graham County Assessor's Parcel #101-09-057, a rezone from R-2 (Multi-Family Residential) to C-MH (Conventional and Manufactured Home). **MOTION ADOPTED**

2. **First Reading: Consider approving and adopting Ordinance Number 14-009, amending Section 2.36.020 of the City of Safford Municipal Code concerning the appointment of officers.** \_

Mr. Skeete explained the proposed ordinance resulted from discussions in a previous work session. Council directed staff to draft an ordinance amending the Municipal Code regarding the hiring and dismissal of the Police Chief. This ordinance proposes the revision.

The City Clerk read Ordinance Number 14-009 by number and title only.

9. **CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND BIDS:**

1. **Consider approving Amended and Restated Telecommunications License Agreement between the City of Safford and Valley Connections, LLC.** It

was moved by Vice Mayor Bingham, seconded by Councilman Malloque, and carried unanimously to approve an Amended and Restated Telecommunications License Agreement between the City of Safford and Valley Connections, LLC.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

2. **Consider extension of Hangar CH-2 (Wilcox Hangar) Lease Agreement between the City of Safford and Mr. James A. Bishop for another five (5) years.**

It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilman Lopez to extend Hangar CH-2 (Wilcox Hangar) Lease Agreement between the City of Safford and Mr. James A. Bishop for another five (5) years.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

3. **Staff is recommending approving the revised terms and conditions of the smartworksplus contract. The City Council may adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 38.431.03(A)(3) and (4) to seek legal advice and to provide guidance for contract negotiation.** \_

Mr. Skeete explained Council directed staff to revise the terms and conditions of the smartworksplus contract. As a result, a team of five City employees was put together to review the existing contract and to develop recommendations to be considered in a contract going forward.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Bingham, seconded by Councilman Malloque, and carried unanimously to adjourn to executive session at 6:33:08 p.m. to seek legal advice and contract negotiation. **MOTION ADOPTED**

The Council reconvened open session at 7:45:01 p.m. Mayor Gibbs stated action is tabled and directed staff to rework the smartworksplus contract for a transition period. **TABLED**

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

**Mayor Gibbs & Eric Buckley:** will travel to Cottonwood Thursday and Friday concerning water delivery issues.

**Councilman Howes** acknowledged the Principals' of Lafe Nelson School, Ruth Powell School and Dorothy Stinson School for their letter thanking the City for the use of the city pool and park for year-end festivities.

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

**12. FUTURE MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July - Council Participation
- July 14, 2014 - Regular Council Meeting - Adopt Tax Levy
- July 28, 2014 - Council Work Session (Cancel this meeting)
- August 11, 2014 - Regular Council Meeting
- August 25, 2014 - Council Work Session
- August 26, 2014 - Primary Election

**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 7:49:37 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

STATE OF ARIZONA     )  
                                  ) ss  
County of Graham    )

CERTIFICATION

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, June 23, 2014, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, July 14, 2014. I further certify the meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

July 14, 2014 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Georgia Luster, MMC, City Clerk