



**“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
Wednesday, September 17, 2014 @ 3:00 PM
City Annex Community Room, 808 8th Avenue, Safford, Arizona**

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

ABSENT: Councilman, Gene Seale

STAFF PRESENT: Horatio Skeete, City Manager; Sandy Findley, Executive Assistant; Joe Brugman, Chief of Police; Randy Petty, City Engineer; Dustin Welker, Planning and Community Development Director; Christine Fisher, Human Resources Director; Eric Buckley, Utilities Director; Jenny Howard, Utilities Director; Kelly Owens, Administrative Assistant for Public Works; Terry Quest, Finance Director; LeAnne McElroy, Library Director; Clark Bingham, Fire Chief; and Georgia Luster, City Clerk. Sam Napier and Dale Clark, I.T.

OTHERS PRESENT: John Howard

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Gibbs called the meeting to order at 3:05:16 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** A quorum of the Council was present (6-1 absent)
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Mayor Gibbs led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
4. **OPENING PRAYER:** Dustin Welker offered the opening prayer.
5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** NONE
6. **Emergency Preparedness Discussion and Preparation.** Horatio Skeete, City Manager, commented about the possibility of the City of Safford facing a storm system as a result

of Hurricane Odile. If the storm doesn't hit the City, this has been a good exercise for staff. Key staff was called to meet Monday morning to discuss the situation and to begin making preparation for activating an Emergency Operations Center. Also, a Proclamation declaring an emergency is being presented to the Council this afternoon for approval, in the event the storm hits Safford. He asked the Incident Commander, Police Chief, Joe Brugman to provide an overview.

Incident Commander Brugman provided an overview:

- ✓ Safford Schools were contacted and lines of communication were open in the event of notification.
- ✓ Established alternative radio frequencies
- ✓ Monitoring reservoirs
- ✓ Emergency notification sirens; current/accurate information on City website
- ✓ Sandbags made available through the City, Safford Builders, and Home Depot
- ✓ City provided free sand
- ✓ City equipment ready to go
- ✓ City staff in place and ready to respond
- ✓ Communication with Graham County Emergency Services was established

Jenny Howard provided a brief synopsis of how the Public Works Department prepared for in the event the storm hits Safford.

- ✓ Checking dams and spillways
- ✓ Swept Streets
- ✓ Cleaned drainages within the City
- ✓ Cleaned boxes and grates down Main Street
- ✓ Worked with Utilities to address future needs
- ✓ Filled 1,600 sand bags on Tuesday for the public
- ✓ Filled 1,000 additional sand bags with the help of Public Works, Utilities, DOC, and Safford Fire Department
- ✓ Today began alternate shifts of staff
- ✓ Today, cleaning, checking, and sandbagging some areas.
- ✓ Stockpiled sand at Yard II, Public Works Yard
- ✓ Equipment ready to go if necessary (backhoe, loaders, trucks & trailers loaded with traffic control barricades)
- ✓ Phones manned at Public Works, City Hall
- ✓ Staff are ready to respond to an emergency

Eric Buckley provided a brief synopsis of how Utilities prepared for in the event the storm hits Safford.

- ✓ Vehicles/equipment fueled and ready
- ✓ Service equipment placed across the River in case of washouts at the approach of the bridge
- ✓ Contacted CKC and Tri-County Material to assist in case of emergency
- ✓ Alternate shifts of staff
- ✓ Contacted/interacted with Town of Thatcher
- ✓ Mitigate rumors regarding contaminated water/broken levies/shutting down utilities
- ✓ Staff are ready to respond

Clark Bingham, Fire Chief, added that the fire trucks and firemen are prepared to respond if necessary. He noted that the Safford Fire Department covers 105 square miles. Currently, having flood issues on Highway 191 and Artesia Road.

Dustin Welker stated that the Building Officials are working with the Public Works Department identifying problem areas. They are alert, on call and ready to assess any damages and to respond if necessary.

Mr. Skeete stated that if this storm because a true disaster, an Action Plan with Incident Command System are necessary strategies to apply for state and federal assistance. He reviewed the order of the Incident Command System. Leanne McElroy will coordinate and prepare Press Releases and provide public communication. Kim Lackner will act as the Staging Area Manager and Terry Quest, Finance Officer.

Chief Brugman stated that if this storm because a true disaster, Graham County Emergency Operations Center becomes the command center. At that time he and Dustin Welker would shift to Graham County Emergency Operations Center to provide communication between the County and the City. Dennis Whisman shifts to Incident Commander; Randy petty would shift to Planning Officer.

Mr. Skeete recommended the Council approve the Proclamation declaring an emergency just in case an emergency is called. He feels the City of Safford is ahead of the storm.

Mayor Gibbs noted that Graham County has called a meeting today at 4:00 p.m. to discuss opening up an emergency center. The Council expressed their appreciation to staff for being pro-active and doing a great job of preparing for the storm.

It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Councilman Malloque, and carried unanimously to approve and adopt Proclamation 14-001, a Proclamation of the Mayor of the City of Safford, Graham County, Arizona, proclaiming an emergency. **MOTION ADOPTED**

7. **ADJOURN:** It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Councilman Howes, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:44:11 p.m. **MOTION ADOPTED**

APPROVED:

Wyn "Chris" Gibbs, Mayor
City of Safford

ATTEST:

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 Special Council Meeting Minutes of the Safford City Council, Graham County, Arizona held Wednesday, September 17, 2014, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, October 13, 2014. I further certify the meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

October 13, 2014

Date:

Georgia Luster, MMC, City Clerk