



**“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, September 14, 2015 @ 6:00 PM
Safford Library Program Room, 808 S. 7th Avenue, Safford, Arizona**

PRESENT: Wyn “Chris” Gibbs, Mayor; Mary Bingham, Vice Mayor; Councilmembers, Kenneth Malloque, Gene Seale, Arnold A. Lope, James D. Howes and Richard Ortega.

STAFF PRESENT: Horatio Skeete, City Manager; Leslie Norton, Executive Secretary; Joe Brugman, Police Chief; Randy Petty, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Lance Henrie, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer; Dustin Welker, Planning and Community Development Director; Jenny Howard, Utilities Director; Alma Flores, Interim Finance Director; Leanne McElroy, Library Director; Cliff Davis, Human Resources Officer; Sam Napier, I.T. Administrator; Tamara Webster, Clerks Office Administrative Assistant, and Georgia Luster, City Clerk. Dale Clark assisted with the audio recording of the meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kurt Palmer, Chamber of Commerce Director; Randa McKinney; Donna McGaughey; Pastor Larry Semore; Dr. Cathy Romero; and, Ken Showers, representing Eastern Arizona Courier. Ralph Score, Valley TeleCom Group, video recorded the meeting.

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Gibbs called the meeting to order at 5:59:18 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:** Pastor Larry Semore offered the Opening Prayer.

5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

6. **NEW AND OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Review of and approval of August 10, Council Meeting Minutes.** A motion was made by Councilman Lopez, seconded by Councilman Malloque to approve the August 10, 2015, Council Meeting Minutes as published. **MOTION ADOPTED**

6 - Mayor Gibbs, Vice Mayor Bingham, Gene Seale, Kenneth Malloque, Richard Ortega, and James Howes. Councilman Lopez abstained because he did not attend the August 10, 2015 meeting.

2. **Consider approving August 10, 2015 executive session minutes. The Council may convene to executive session to discuss any revisions pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §38.431.03(A) (2).** A motion was made by Councilman Howes, seconded by Vice Mayor Bingham to approve the August 10, 2015, Executive Session Meeting Minutes.
MOTION ADOPTED

6 - Mayor Gibbs, Vice Mayor Bingham, Gene Seale, Kenneth Malloque, Richard Ortega, and James Howes. Councilman Lopez abstained because he did not attend the August 10, 2015 meeting.

3. **Consider approving a location and city staff participation for locating a Skate Park on the City of Safford property.** City Manager Skeete recalled the skate park committee was before the Council earlier to discuss and provide information for a Skate Park proposal. The committee asked the Council to consider a commitment for a place to put the Skate Park and to provide ongoing maintenance of the facility once it is constructed. The City provided a letter of support to the Committee so that they could apply for a grant through Freeport McMoRan. Mr. Skeete turned the time over to Dustin Welker, Planning and Community Development Director.

Mr. Welker stated the committee, headed by Dr. Cathy Romero, received a grant in the amount of \$105,000 from Freeport McMoRan, raised \$15,000 in donations, and just recently received \$25,000 from United Way (raised approximately \$140,000 - \$145,000) for the Skate Park. In meeting with a number of architects, the Committee has determined that based on the funding for the project, an approximate 10,000 sq. ft. Skate Park could potentially be constructed. He noted that the firms the Committee is considering are design/build firms (they design it and build it). Additionally, the Committee recently met with City staff to explore possible locations to place the Skate Park. City staff recommends placing the Skate Park on the west side of Firth Park (exhibit attached). Staff recommends this location because of the availability of restrooms, existing lighting, proximity to law enforcement, proximity to existing recreation amenities, existing drainage, and the centralized and familiar location of Firth Park to the community. In addition to recommending the location, staff also recommends approval from the Council for staff to participate in assisting the Committee in the design and construction phases of the project to assure that a product meeting Safford's expectation in quality, security, and future maintenance are met.

There was discussion about the proposed location. Suggestions to consider were:

- Putting the Skate Park at the east side of Firth Park to allow for extra seating for competition events, consider utilizing the facility for other activities, and consider areas for future development. South wall area may be considered for an entry way with landscaping, walking paths, and sidewalks.
- A drainage system is within close proximity of the proposed area.
- Fencing the facility.
- Insurance expense.

Dr. Romero stated the next step is the design of the skate park and that she will keep in contact with the Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Seale, seconded by Councilman Malloque approving a location and city staff participation for locating a Skate Park on the City of Safford property. **MOTION ADOPTED**

7 - Mayor Gibbs, Vice Mayor Bingham, Gene Seale, Kenneth Malloque, Arnold Lopez, Richard Ortega, and James Howes.

4. **Review and make a recommendation to the Arizona State Liquor Board for a Special Event Liquor License for the Graham County Chamber of Commerce.** A motion was made by Councilman Howes, seconded by Councilman Ortega to make recommendation to the Arizona State Liquor Board for a Special Event Liquor License for the Graham County Chamber of Commerce. **MOTION ADOPTED**

Dustin Welker, Planning and Community Development Director, stated the Chamber of Commerce submitted an application to the City of Safford for a Special Event Liquor License to be held during the Salsa Fest. He provided and reviewed the map of the area showing both locations of the Salsa Fest Event and the Beer Garden Event. The Beer Garden Event is a separate event promoted by the Graham County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber believes this event will compliment and not detract from the Salsa Fest Event. He noted that the alcohol must remain within a fenced area and also mandatory I.D. checking will be done at the gate. Safford Police Officers will staff the Event.

Mayor Gibbs recused himself from the discussion and voting on the item. Mayor Gibbs stated he is the Salsa Fest Chair-person and the President of the Lions Club. Even though the Salsa Fest Committee and Lions Club does not oppose the Beer Garden Event, he felt it would not be appropriate for him to comment. He asked Vice Mayor Bingham to preside over the meeting during the "Beer Garden" discussion.

Councilman Howes recognized Kurt Palmer, Chamber Director. He asked what the origin and the purpose of the event is?

Mr. Palmer stated he is new to the Chamber, but, understood over a year ago there was a discussion about creating a Beer Garden Event as part of the Salsa Fest. However, the event didn't happen at that time. Upon him becoming the Director of the Chamber, one of the initiations of the Board was to create a Beer Garden Event fundraiser for the Chamber. The purpose is to provide another venue and compliment the Salsa Fest. The Salsa Fest is a primary community event and is important to the Chamber. The Event will be a fundraiser for the Chamber. The Beer Garden will be in a secure, fenced area, beverages will be packaged to allow close alcohol monitoring and I.D. bracelets will be provided. Additionally, the Chamber will have a barbeque booth, and stage with local entertainment, along with the Beer Garden.

It was moved by Councilman Howes and seconded by Councilman Ortega to make a recommendation to the Arizona State Liquor Board for a Special Event Liquor License for the Graham County Chamber of Commerce. **MOTION ADOPTED**

6 - Vice Mayor Bingham, Gene Seale, Kenneth Malloque, Arnold Lopez, Richard Ortega, and James Howes. Mayor Gibbs recused from the discussion.

7. RESOLUTIONS:

1. **Request for the Mayor and City Council to approve and adopt Resolution Number 15-029 declaring October 16 and 17, 2015 Safford High School's All Bulldog Reunion.** City Manager Skeete introduced Resolution 15-029 declaring October 16th and 17th as Safford High School's All Bulldog Reunion. The City Clerk read the Number and Title of Resolution Number 15-029. A motion was made by Councilman Howes, seconded by Councilman Malloque to approve and adopt Resolution Number 15-029 declaring October 16 and 17, 2015 Safford High School's All Bulldog Reunion. **MOTION ADOPTED**

Mayor Gibbs recognized and thanked Randa Owens and Donna McGaughey for their hard work and for being part of the Committee.

7 - Mayor Gibbs, Vice Mayor Bingham, Gene Seale, Kenneth Malloque, Arnold Lopez, Richard Ortega, and James Howes.

2. **Request for the Mayor and City Council to approve and adopt Resolution Number 15-030 accepting the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, dated May 2015. The City Clerk read the Number and Title of Resolution Number 15-030.** The City Clerk read the Number and Title of Resolution Number 15-030.

Randy Petty, Public Works Director/City Engineer, presented the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for the Safford Regional Airport. Once the Plan is accepted, the document will be submitted to ADEQ who will issue the City a clean water act permit to cover storm water discharges at the Airport.

A motion was made by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Vice Mayor Bingham to approve and adopt Resolution Number 15-030 accepting the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for the Safford Regional Airport, dated May 2015. **MOTION ADOPTED**

7 - Mayor Gibbs, Vice Mayor Bingham, Gene Seale, Kenneth Malloque, Arnold Lopez, Richard Ortega, and James Howes.

8. ORDINANCE(S):

1. **First Reading, by Title only, of Ordinance Number 15-004, a proposed annexation of property to the east of Highway 191. The proposed annexation includes 3.5 acres currently under the jurisdiction of Graham County.** The City Clerk read the Number and Title of Ordinance Number 15-004. Dustin Welker, Planning and Community Development Director explained the annexation process began in June and the petition has been signed by all property owners. **FIRST READING**

9. CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BIDS:

1. **Request for the Mayor and City Council to consider awarding the 8th Avenue Substation Upgrade – (1) Tubular Steel Pole Northwest 70 Rebuild – (8) Tubular Steel Poles Project to Valmont Newmark of Mansfield, TX in the amount of \$47,036.00 as recommended by TOR Engineering and the Utility Director.** Jenny Howard, Utilities Director, explained the two bids are for capital projects. The first bid is for a steel structure to be located in the 8th Avenue substation as a bus support structure while the other is for eight steel poles to be replaced along Highway 70, between the shopping center and the Garden Motel.

Councilman Lopez recalled the discussion during the budget process was to consider constructing that section underground verses overhead because of the possible future developments along Highway 70. Ms. Howard replied that the cost to construct underground wiring is too high.

A motion was made by Councilman Howes, seconded by Councilman Lopez to award the 8th Avenue Substation Upgrade – (1) Tubular Steel Pole Northwest 70 Rebuild – (8) Tubular Steel Poles Project to Valmont Newmark of Mansfield, TX in the amount of \$47,036.00.

MOTION ADOPTED

7 - Mayor Gibbs, Vice Mayor Bingham, Gene Seale, Kenneth Malloque, Arnold Lopez, Richard Ortega, and James Howes.

2. **Request for the Mayor and City Council to consider awarding the Bonita Water Line Replacement, Phase III Material contract to Ferguson Water Works in the amount of \$162,908.43.** Jenny Howard, Utilities Director, explained the bid is for the pipe only to continue rehabbing the Bonita Creek pipe line. Staff expect to begin the project in

November and will be done in-house. A motion was made by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Councilman Lopez to award the Bonita Water Line Replacement, Phase III Material contract to Ferguson Water Works in the amount of \$162,908.43. **MOTION ADOPTED**

7 - Mayor Gibbs, Vice Mayor Bingham, Gene Seale, Kenneth Malloque, Arnold Lopez, Richard Ortega, and James Howes.

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

- September 23 at 6:30 p.m. - Joint Meeting with Graham County, Town of Pima, and Town of Thatcher, at the General Services Building
- September 28, 2015 – Council Work Session
- September 26-30, 2015 – City Manager attending ICMA Conference
- October 9 - Graham County Fair Parade – Council will participate.
- October 12 – Council Meeting
- October 17 - Harvest Festival
- October 24 - CORE Event to be held at City Hall
- October 26 – Council Work Session

City Manager Skeete will attend the ICM Conference, October 26th – October 30th.

11. COUNCIL OR STAFF REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

12. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

Council adjourned regular session and entered executive session at 6:53 p.m.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Staff will update the Council on negotiations of possible economic development opportunity Pursuant to *Arizona Revised Statutes* §38-431.03(A) (4). The Council may adjourn executive session and reconvene regular session to take action.

14. ADJOURN: It was moved by Vice Mayor Bingham, seconded by Councilman Lopez, and carried unanimously to adjourn at 7:24:00 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 Council Meeting Minutes of the Safford City Council, Graham County, Arizona held Monday, September 14, 2015, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, October 26, 2015. I further certify the meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

October 26, 2015
Date: _____

Georgia Luster, MMC, City Clerk