



CITY OF SAFFORD • CITY COUNCIL MEETING • MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm
MEETING LOCATION: SAFFORD LIBRARY PROGRAM ROOM • 808 S. 7TH AVE SAFFORD, ARIZONA
“The mission of the City of Safford is to make Safford a great place to live, work, and visit”

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Kouts called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** A quorum of the Council was present.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Jason Kouts, Mayor; Richard Ortega, Vice Mayor; Councilmembers’ Gene Seale, Arnold Lopez, Steve McGaughey, Chris Taylor and Michael Andazola.

STAFF PRESENT: Horatio Skeete, City Manager; Joe Brugman, Chief of Police; Randy Petty, City Engineer; Lance Henrie, Public Works Director/Assistant City Engineer; Susan Anderson, Planning and Community Development Director; Alma Valles, Finance Officer; Kabrina Romero, Finance Administrator; Victoria Silva, Library Director; Lesley Talley, Library Operations Supervisor; Tamara Webster, Deputy City Clerk; Sam Napier, I.T. Officer; Dan Braatz, Electric Division Supervisor; Gale Hedges, Water Division Supervisor; Raymond Osornio, Gas Division Supervisor; and Morgan Seale, Wastewater Division Supervisor.

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul R. David and others who did not sign in.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Councilman Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **OPENING PRAYER:** Randy Petty offered the Opening Prayer
5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** NONE
6. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** NONE
7. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

1. PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARIES: Present to Mayor and City Council the FY 2020 preliminary budget. This budget includes: The General Fund departments, the Enterprise funds and Special Revenue Funds. Included in each fund are the capital projects expected to be undertaken during the fiscal year. Alma Valles, Finance Officer, explained that she will be covering the 2020 preliminary budget. The proposed calendar for budget meetings starts with March 25, continuing on April 5, April 8, April 15, and April 22, 2019. On Monday, May 13th meeting, the tentative budget will be presented for approval, June 10th will be the public hearing and adoption of the final budget, and at the June 24th meeting the property tax levy will be presented for adoption. Mrs. Valles continued to explain the established principals that are used during the budget preparation which were established back in 2015. In January, budget discussions with council started. Some of the council initiatives that have been included in the proposed FY 2020 budget include the design and build of a new police station, a conceptual design

of a new fire station site, sidewalk/gutter improvements on 10th Ave., a retention basin on 10th Ave., the purchase of a small area on 3rd St. and Central Ave. for a new playground and retention basin. Included in the proposed capital budget are funds to secure and expand water resources, connection of 8th Street and Pine, and repairs to 8th Street. Other initiatives in the general fund included in the budget are improvements on the El Paso Blvd. and 14th Ave. park, La Tierra pocket park, ADA improvements at the Glenn Meadows park, and the creation of the 3rd Street park. With all these improvements, also included in the budget is an additional FTE in the parks department. The water department and sanitation will also be adding new FTE's. The general fund will also include camera's in the downtown district, a free little library at the La Tierra park, funding for the youth basketball program, trail lighting on the walking path, possible employee recognition program, continuing support of the sixteen community events, and a summer youth program. A detailed discussion will occur as each department is discussed at future budget meetings. For the Enterprise Fund, the Utility Supervisors have teamed up with the I.T. staff to locate all meters and map out all utilities to have an accurate gps map. This project will include hiring two temporary full time employees for a twelve month period. A new capital project for the landfill will include a receiving area for the public use. The sanitation department will be reclassified as an enterprise fund beginning in the FY 2020 budget. Ms. Valles provided a preliminary budget summaries, (see attached) which includes the five year capital budget summary, the general fund revenue and expenses summary, economic development fund and street funds followed by all the summary pages for each one of the departments. Ms. Valles continued with asking Council for any comments or recommendations on the Sanitation Department and the changes made to be reclassified as an enterprise fund beginning in the FY 2020 budget. Council agreed to move forward with the reclassification. Mayor Kouts and Council continued by relaying to staff items that they would like to discuss during the budget process. These items included the new compactor for the landfill, landfill rates, police staffing, merit increases/bonuses, and cycle billing for utilities.

8. REPORTS:

1. P-Card Transaction Report
2. Over \$5,000 Report
3. Prosecution Report

Councilman McGaughey commented that items on the p-card report show miscellaneous as the description and asked that staff put a more detailed description.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CURRENT EVENTS: The Mayor or any member of Council may at this time present a brief summary of current events and provide future agenda items. However, no discussion shall take place on such items except for clarifying comments related to substance, time and location.

- Vice Mayor Ortega attended a SEAGO Meeting

- Mayor Kouts attended the local March Mayors Breakfast

10. REPORT ON OPERATIONAL ITEMS: The city manager, members of city staff or those individuals designated by the manager may present information pertinent to items under consideration or information related to the operation of the City. There shall however be no discussion at this time except for clarification inquiries. (If not listed below)

- Alma Valles updated the Mayor and Council on the status of the Caselle Software system implementation.
- City Manager Skeete updated the Mayor and Council on the progress of the Landfill Rate Study.

11. ADJOURN: It was moved by Vice Mayor Ortega, seconded by Councilman Taylor and carried unanimously to adjourn the council meeting at 7:24 p.m. **MOTION ADOPTED**

APPROVED:

Jason Kouts, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tamara Webster, CMC, Deputy 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 City Council Meeting Minutes of the Safford City Council, Graham County, Arizona held Monday, March 25, 2019 and approved at a Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, July 22, 2019. I further certify the meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

Tamara Webster, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

July 22, 2019
Date: