



CITY OF SAFFORD • CITY COUNCIL MEETING • MONDAY, JUNE 10, 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 (7).
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; Lydia Newkirk, Human Resource Officer; Tamara Webster, Deputy City Clerk; Sam Napier, I.T. Officer; Dan Braatz, Electric Division Supervisor; Raymond Osornio, Gas Division Supervisor; Morgan Seale, Wastewater Division Supervisor;.

OTHERS PRESENT: Vance Bryce, Bri Morris, Jeff Gott, Jamie Brown, Richard D. Thomas, Justin Layton, Nancy Shuman, David Sowders, Paul David; and, others who did not sign in.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice Mayor Ortega led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **OPENING PRAYER:** Councilman Taylor offered the opening prayer and a moment of silence in memory of Sally Holquin.
5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Jeff Gott addressed the Mayor and City Council regarding the Truth in Taxation.
6. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Shirley Turner addressed the Mayor and City Council wanting to bring awareness to the community in regards to suicide and asked council to view a website at dontgiveupsigns.com. Morynoi Abackshyna addressed the Mayor and City Council stating that she would not be in favor of a homeless shelter within Safford City limits.
7. **Mayor Kouts adjourned the regular meeting for public hearing: It was moved by Vice Mayor Ortega, seconded by Councilman Andazola and carried unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into a public hearing at 6:12 p.m.**
8. **PUBLIC HEARING: A Public Hearing was opened for the purpose of hearing comments from the public on the following items:**
 1. **BUDGET AND TAX LEVY FISCAL YEAR 2019/20: Proposed Budget and Tax Levy for the City of Safford for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.**

2. TRUTH IN TAXATION: In compliance with Section §42-17107, Arizona Revised Statutes, the City of Safford is notifying its property taxpayers of the City of Safford's intention to raise its primary property taxes collected over last year's level. City of Safford is proposing an increase in primary property taxes of \$4,521 or 1.84%.

9. MAYOR KOUTS closed the public hearing and reconvene special meeting to adopt FY 19/20 budget at 6:21 p.m.:

Roll Call: Jason Kouts, Mayor
Richard Ortega, Vice Mayor
Gene Seale, Councilmember
Arnold Lopez, Councilmember
Steve McGaughey, Councilmember
Chris Taylor, Councilmember
Michael Andazola, Councilmember

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items: None

Pursuant to *Arizona Revised Statutes* §42-17105, Adoption of Budget. The Public Hearing will be closed and a special meeting will be opened to vote on Fiscal Year Budget 2019/2020.

10. **FINAL BUDGET ADOPTION:**

1. RESOLUTION R19-016: Request for Mayor and City Council to approve and adopt Resolution R19-016, a resolution adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020. The Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 sets a maximum expenditure for the year at \$60,348,058. Included in the maximum expenditure is \$9,000,000 of contingencies spread across all funds. MOTION ADOPTED

11. Mayor Kouts closed the special meeting and reconvened the regular meeting at 6:21 p.m.

12. **PRESENTATION:**

1. Jamie Brown will provide a presentation on the 53rd Annual Western States Corrosion Seminar he attended May 7 through the 9th.

13. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Councilman Taylor requested reviewing and discussing amendments to Chapter 9.16 – Weapons and Explosives of Title 9 of the City of Safford Municipal Code.

2. Councilman Seale requested discussing traffic issues on El Paso Boulevard.

3. Discussion of Procedures for Fee Waiver and Assistance through the Economic Development Fund Encouraging New Construction within the City.

4. MINUTES: Request for the Mayor and City Council to review and approve May 3, 2019 Council Work Session Minutes. MOTION ADOPTED

5. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER IGA: Request for the Mayor and City Council to approve an extension of an Intergovernmental Agreement for School Resource Officer by and

between the City of Safford (City) and the Safford Unified School District (District) for a two year term, July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. MOTION ADOPTED

6. FIRE DISTRICT AGREEMENT: Request for Mayor and City Council to approve an amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Safford and the Rural Fire District No. 1, adding terms to formalize the shared cost of the purchase of Capital Equipment (Ladder Fire Truck & Skeeter Brush Truck). MOTION ADOPTED

14. **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. RESOLUTION R19-017: Request for Mayor and City Council to approve and adopt Resolution R19-017, a resolution renewing a 5-year Valley Communications License Agreement for the 2.5% tax collected on receipts paid by subscribers for telecommunication services. MOTION ADOPTED
2. RESOLUTION R19-018: Request for Mayor and City Council to approve and adopt Resolution R19-018, a resolution encouraging employee recruitment and retention; and, encouraging new construction within the City of Safford. MOTION ADOPTED
3. RESOLUTION R19-019: Request for Mayor and City Council to approve and adopt Resolution R19-019, a resolution modifying Landfill User Fees to be effective July 1, 2019. MOTION ADOPTED
4. RESOLUTION R19-020: Request for Mayor and City Council to approve and adopt Resolution R19-020, a resolution supporting the Gila River Alliance in pursuit of an equitable settlement to pending litigation that threatens water supplies necessary for the economic stability of business, agriculture and residents throughout the Upper Gila River Valley and Southeastern Arizona. MOTION ADOPTED

15. **ORDINANCES:**

1. ORDINANCE O19-002: Second reading of and request for Mayor and City Council to approve and adopt Ordinance O19-002, an ordinance amending section 2.40.060 of the Safford Municipal Code concerning the qualifications and benefits of the Safford Fire Department membership. MOTION ADOPTED

16. **REPORTS:**

1. P-CARD REPORT
2. OVER \$5,000 REPORT
3. PROSECUTION REPORT

17. 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.

- Graham County Chamber of Commerce Summer Block Party June 14th & 15th
- July 4th Parade

- League of AZ Cities and Towns Conference – Safford Youth Participation
- Contest for Tree Lighting Ceremony

18. **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)

- CIP Status Update (Staff, Randy Petty)
- Water Table Level Update (Staff, Morgan Seale)
- Downtown Parking (Staff, Chief Brugman)
- Entertainment District Update (Staff, Horatio Skeete)
- Planning and Community Development Workshops (Staff, Horatio Skeete)

19. **ADJOURN:** It was moved by Vice Mayor Ortega, seconded by Councilman Andazola and carried unanimously to adjourn regular council meeting at 8:00 p.m. **MOTION ADOPTED**