



“The mission of the City of Safford is to make Safford
a great place to live, work, and visit”

**CITY OF SAFFORD - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2012 @ 6:00 PM
PHELPS DODGE ROOM - LIBRARY**

PRESENT: Wyn “Chris” Gibbs, Mayor; Jason Kouts, Vice Mayor Council Member’s Ken Malloque, Mary Bingham, Jacque Attaway, Gene Seale, and Arnold A. Lopez (April 2, 2012 appointed to fill the Council Seat Vacancy created by Danny Smith).

STAFF PRESENT: David Kincaid, City Manager; Sandra Findley, Executive Secretary; Christine Fisher, Personnel Director; John Griffin, Police Chief; Don Knight, Director Management & Budget; Ann Waite, Finance Director; Jan Elliott, Library Director; Randy Petty, City Engineer; Dustin Welker, Planner/Downtown Manager; and Georgia Luster, City Clerk. Tom James, IT Specialist, assisted with the audio/video recording of the meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Stewart, Steve McGaughey, Kenny McKinney, Jan Holder, George Lemon, Greg Brockmier, Don Carter, James D. Howes, William Wilson, William Civish, Janine Barney, Darlene Alder, Kimberly Rhodes, Danny Smith, Deanna Smith, Johnny Glassgow, Don Grady, DeeDee Mautner Watkins, Brittany Peacock, A.J. Peacock, Shari Sutorka, Hunter Winsor, David Winsor, Donna Orbegoso, Ceasar Orbegoso, Evelyn Hallford, Stephany & Niki Robinson and others who did not sign in. Jon Johnson, Eastern Arizona Courier was present. The meeting was video-taped by Van Shaar Productions.

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Gibbs called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. He welcomed Mayor George Lemon from Pima and all those present.
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:** Reverend Ann Johnson of the Episcopal Church offered the opening prayer.
5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

6. **RECEPTION:** Welcome Arnold A. Lopez to the Safford City Council.

Recognize Danny Smith for serving eleven years as a Councilman. Refreshments will be served.

Mayor Gibbs welcomed Arnold A. Lopez to the Council. He stated that the Council unanimously appointed Mr. Lopez on April 2, 2012 at a Special Meeting of the Council. A photo of Mr. Lopez was taken. Mayor Gibbs recognized Danny Smith for serving on the City Council for eleven years. He presented him with a City of Safford monogrammed clock and council photo. (Audience applause)

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kouts, seconded by Councilman Malloque and carried unanimously to take a short recess to welcome Arnold A. Lopez to the Council and to recognize Danny Smith, outgoing Councilmember.

MOTION ADOPTED

Regular Session reconvened at 6:22:18 p.m.

7. **CONSENT ITEMS:** The Mayor and City Council may wish to consider approving Items 1 through 11 as Consent Agenda Items.

1. March 12, March 26, and April 2, 2012 Council Minutes
2. Police Report
3. Building Inspection Report
4. Public Works Report
5. Business License Report
6. Library Report
7. Utilities Consumption Report
8. Summary of Projects Planning and Grants Administration
9. Airport Report (February/March 2012)
10. Prosecution Report (not available)
11. Expense over \$5,000 Report

City Manager Kincaid noted that the Prosecution Report is not included. He added that the Expense Report Over \$5,000 has been included with the Consent Items. He reminded the Council that the new report was initially added to the agenda at the last meeting. He pointed out revenues and expenses noted in the Utilities Consumption report are tracking as expected with the exception of the Landfill.

It was moved by Councilmember Attaway, seconded by Councilmember

Bingham, and carried unanimously (7) to accept the Consent Agenda Items as presented with the exception of the Prosecution Report which was not available.

MOTION ADOPTED

8. **PURCHASING CARD REPORT:** Consideration and approval of Purchasing Card Report for 12/19/2011 through 1/20/2012. It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilmember Attaway, and carried unanimously (7) to accept and approve the Purchasing Card Report for the period of 12/19/2011 through 1/20/2012.

MOTION ADOPTED

9. **SPAY/NEUTER HOTLINE:** Presentation/discussion on the startup of a spay/neuter hotline for Safford/Graham County. Stephaney Robinson introduced her daughter, Mckayla Robinson. Mckayla read an article she submitted to the local newspaper several years ago encouraging a larger animal shelter with longer hours in an attempt to adopt more animals.

Stephany Robinson addressed the Council at this time regarding their hope to raise awareness for animal care/cruelty. She introduced Evelyn Hallford. Evelyn Hallford explained their goal is to provide educational, preventative and general care for pets of the Gila Valley by holding an awareness event on Saturday, April 28th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the northeast soccer fields/gazebo at the Graham County Park. Their main goal is to raise funds for the Spay/Neuter Hotline and to raise awareness for animal care/cruelty. Also, they hope to keep the project going by raising money for a Graham County Dog Park and to support the county animal shelter.

Mayor Gibbs recommended discussing this item the during budget work sessions.

10. **SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS:** Kathy Grimes, Program Coordinator for Graham County Substance Abuse Coalition, will present appreciation to the Mayor and Council for supporting and proclaiming the month of April as Substance Abuse Awareness Month. Kathy Grimes was not present.

11. **PROCLAMATION :** Proclaiming Saturday, May 12, 2012, National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive Day: It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilmember Attaway, and carried unanimously (7) proclaiming Saturday, May 12, 2012, National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive Day.

MOTION ADOPTED

12. **PROCLAMATION** : Proclaiming May, Older Americans Month: It was moved by Vice Mayor Kouts, seconded by Councilmember Bingham, and carried unanimously (7) proclaiming May, Older Americans Month.

MOTION ADOPTED

13. **PROCLAMATION** : Proclaiming April 29-May 5, 2012, Municipal Clerks Week: It was moved by Mayor Gibbs, seconded by Vice Mayor Kouts, and carried unanimously (7) proclaiming April 29-May 5, 2012, Municipal Clerks Week.

MOTION ADOPTED

14. **GILA WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP** : The Gila Watershed Partnership will provide a presentation on projects, programs, and seek the City's continued financial support. Jan Holder, Director of the Gila Watershed Partnership, provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the projects and programs that the Gila Watershed Partnership provided. She pointed out the goals of the watershed which are to conserve natural resources, enhance environment for all users, to improve the local economy, to increase recreational opportunities, increase water quantity, and improve water quality and to plan an act to avoid and minimize damage from large storms, floods and other natural disasters.

15. **FIXED BASE OPERATION** : Consider approving Fixed Base Operation (FBO) Lease Agreement-Safford Regional Airport, between the City of Safford and Ponderosa Aviation Inc. City Manager Kincaid explained the Fixed Base Operation (FBO) is a non-exclusive right to operate an FBO at the Safford Regional Airport. The FBO Lease Agreement is between the City of Safford and Ponderosa Aviation Inc.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kouts, seconded by Councilman Malloque, and carried unanimously (7) to approve Fixed Base Operation (FBO) Lease Agreement-Safford Regional Airport, between the City of Safford and Ponderosa Aviation Inc.

MOTION

ADOPTED

16. **TRANSFER, UTILITY CONTINGENCY BUDGET**: Consider authorizing transferring budget amount of \$35,138.75 from Utility Contingency to the Water Fund for Capital Expense. Expenditure was for an unbudgeted WIFA Grant (#820063-12) for the Morris Solar Project. City expensed funds and received

reimbursement of these funds in March 2012.

It was moved by Councilmember Attaway, seconded by Councilmember Bingham, and carried unanimously (7) to authorize transferring budget amount of \$35,138.75 from Utility Contingency to the Water Fund for Capital Expense. Expenditure was for an unbudgeted WIFA Grant (#820063-12) for the Morris Solar Project. City expensed funds and received reimbursement of these funds in March 2012.

MOTION ADOPTED

17. **HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS:** The City of Safford pursued Request for Proposals on employee health insurance benefits to compare nine (9) products/services which included agent services, medical stop loss, PPO network, administrator, FSA, prescription, dental, vision and life. It is staff recommendation to continue participation with RAGHT and request another three (3) year renewal period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015. City Manager Kincaid stated the contract with Rural Arizona Group Health Trust expires June 30, 2012. He reminded the Council that three years ago when the contract for health insurance benefits was up for renewal, Vice Mayor Kouts requested staff go out to bid for health insurance. Proposals for employee health insurance benefits were solicited. Three proposals were received. One proposer could not meet the reinsurance requirement in a timely manner and therefore did not submit a proposal. He stated that it is **staff's** recommendation to continue participation with RAGHT for another three year renewal period. He pointed out the savings with RAGHT is substantial when comparing rates to the other two proposals. He noted a three year commitment is required which has been outstanding in terms of keeping insurance cost stable. He pointed out that a three year commitment maintains stable insurance costs. It prevents companies from bouncing in and bouncing out.

Vice Mayor Kouts asked if the premium is increasing. (Yes, 2.7% the first year)

Councilmember Attaway asked how the proposals compare to Thatcher, Pima and Graham County.

City Manager Kincaid responded that **it's** hard to compare different organizations because experience and loss history have a significant impact on the rate structure.

Vice Mayor Kouts opposes renewing the insurance contract another three years

because of the high increase. He believes a work session to review the proposal is necessary.

Councilman Malloque recommended tabling the insurance item and call a work session to figure out what is going on.

City Manager Kincaid asked the Council what their questions and concerns are - type of coverage, level of coverage?

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kouts, seconded by Councilmember Attaway, and carried unanimously (7) to **TABLE** the health insurance items and to schedule a Council Work Session on Monday, April 16, 2012 to discuss Health insurance benefits.

18. RESOLUTION NUMBER 12-013: Consider approving and adopting Resolution Number 12-013, a Resolution of the City of Safford, authorizing the renewal of the City of Safford's Membership in the Rural Arizona Group Health Trust and appointing a Trustee and an Alternate Trustee to serve during the renewal period.

19. RESOLUTION NUMBER 12-014: Consider approving and adopting Resolution Number 12-014, a Resolution of the City of Safford, approving the amendments to the Rural Arizona Group Health Trust Agreement and Declaration of Trust Dated July 01, 2012.

TABLED Items 17, 18 & 19

20. MEETING/ACTIVITIES HELD BY COUNCIL OR CITY STAFF:

Mayor Gibbs: Tour of the Shooting Range facility was fantastic.

21. COUNCIL OR STAFF REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS:

Vice Mayor Kouts: Implement ordinance prohibiting synthetic drugs/marijuana.

City Manager Kincaid stated the item will be brought back to the Council.

22. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Charles Smith, 3840 West Golf Course Road, Thatcher: Mr. Smith stated that he is not a city of Safford citizen, but is a member of the Golf Course. He stated that over the past two years, he and other members of the Golf Course have watched the golf course go downhill under the direction of Springbok. He commented that the members believe that if the City of Safford does not take action soon, the "course could become unrecoverable before too long." He is concerned that Springbok

knows nothing about running a golf course and is concerned about what will happen when Burt Watkins leaves. (Applause by audience)

Dr. Tom Jensen lives just outside the city limits. He stated that he plays golf a lot. He believes the Council dropped the ball and did not perform their due diligence prior to leasing the golf course to Springbok. “**The** course means a lot to us golfers and believes it means a lot to the **City.**” The golf course is an asset which **doesn’t** mean that it brings income to the city, but people come and shop here and bring income from that. His personal opinion is that the City got hoodwinked, scammed, bamboozled with the Springbok deal. “**The** golfers, as a group, are unhappy with the golf course. **We’ve** seen it going down hill for the past few **years.**” (Applause by audience)

It was moved by Councilmember Attaway, seconded by Councilmember Malloque, and carried unanimously (7) to enter executive session at 7:21 p.m. to discuss and review lease agreement with Springbok Development.

MOTION ADOPTED

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. **Golf Course Lease:** Enter executive session pursuant to Arizona Revised Arizona Revised Statutes §38-431.03.A.7 to discuss and review lease agreement with Springbok Development

The Council returned to open session at 8:37:35 p.m. There was no discussion or action taken in open session.

- 24. ADJOURN:** It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilmember Bingham and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:37:48 p.m.

MOTION ADOPTED

APPROVED:

Wyn “Chris” Gibbs, Mayor
City of Safford

ATTEST:

Georgia Luster, MMC
City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss
County of Graham)

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Meeting of the City of Safford, Graham County, Arizona held Monday, April 9, 2012, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting on May 14, 2012. I further certify the meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

Dated: May 14, 2012

Georgia Luster, MMC
City Clerk