



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

**CITY OF SAFFORD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2011 @ 6:00 P.M.
ANNEX MEETING ROOM, 808 8TH AVENUE, SAFFORD**

PRESENT: Wyn “Chris” Gibbs, Mayor; Jason Kouts, Vice Mayor; Councilmember’s Danny Smith, Mary Bingham, Gene Seale, Jacque Attaway and Ken Malloque.

STAFF PRESENT: David Kincaid, City Manager; Don Knight, Director Management & Budget; Dennis Whisman, Police Captain; Sandra Findley, Executive Secretary; Christine Fisher, Personnel Director; Rob Chesley, Public Works Director; Dave Faulkner, Streets Supervisor; Gale Hedges, Water Division Manager; James Bryce, Utilities Electrician; Jan Elliott, Library Director; Randy Petty, City Engineer; and Georgia Luster, City Clerk. Tom James, I.T. assisted with the audio/video recording of the meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve McGaughey; Kenny McKinney; Bill Harmon and Tom Engel representing ADOT; and Jon Johnson, Eastern Arizona Courier.

- 1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Gibbs called the meeting to order at 6:00:25 p.m.
- 2. ROLL CALL:** A quorum of the Council was present (5-2).
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** Mayor Gibbs led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- 4. OPENING PRAYER:** Pastor Dan Rohm offered the opening prayer.
- 5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT:** The Mayor and City Council may wish to consider approving and adopting Resolution Number 11-021, a Resolution of the City of Safford authorizing the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Graham County, Arizona in order to proceed with submittal of a competitive grant application to the Arizona Department of Housing for CDBG Colonias Set Aside competitive funding to replace the water infrastructure located in Solomon, Arizona.

City Manager Kincaid stated it’s critical the Council act tonight on the intergovernmental agreement so that Graham County may act on the IGA at their

Monday meeting in order to complete a grant application within the designated timeframe. He explained the execution of the IGA authorizes the City and Graham County to proceed with the submittal of a grant application with CDBG for a Colonias Set Aside. If awarded, the entire water infrastructure in the Solomon area will be replaced. It is a very worthy and much needed project. Graham County will be the grant applicant. Two public hearings will be conducted giving the public the opportunity to voice any concerns or comments. Mr. Kincaid pointed out that the project will not move forward if the City does not receive the grant.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kouts, seconded by Councilman Malloque and carried unanimously (7) to approve and adopt Resolution Number 11-021, a Resolution of the City of Safford authorizing the Mayor to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Graham County, Arizona to proceed with submittal of a competitive grant application to the Arizona Department of Housing for CDBG Colonias Set Aside competitive funding to replace the water infrastructure located in Solomon, Arizona. **MOTION ADOPTED**

6. **PRESENTATION ON ADOT'S US 70 SAFFORD TO SOLOMON IMPROVEMENTS**: The intent of this presentation is to discuss and seek guidance from the Council concerning ADOT's planned improvements to the intersection of US 70 and Hollywood Road and East 8th Street. The City and ADOT have been in discussions concerning this intersection and we would like to update the Council on these discussions and request guidance going forward.

City Manager Kincaid stated Randy Petty will provide a brief presentation with the assistance of Bill Harmon representing ADOT. He noted the concept and design of the project is being presented. The proposed schedule of the project is 2012/2014.

Randy Petty, City Engineer, stated ADOT is in the process of designing improvements to US Highway 70 to construct a five lane highway from Safford to Solomon. ADOT is seeking input from the City regarding the intersection at Hollywood Road and 8th Street which intersects with Highway 70. Aerial views were reviewed and discussed: Aerial view of Existing Condition; Aerial View of a proposed realignment of the intersection; Aerial View of a proposed realignment with roundabout; and Aerial View of improvements of East 8th Street showing Cul-de-Sac. He noted 8th Street was the original Highway 70 back in 1920, constructed of concrete and is eighteen feet wide; some areas of the street are not eighteen feet wide. Eighth Street is currently a collector street and acts as a bypass because it connects to Highway 70. Large trucks utilize the street because it is a bypass. Street traffic is rough because the concrete slabs of the street are independent on each other and the street gets softer every time it rains. Eliminating the 8th Street connection

on to Highway 70 would eliminate big truck traffic. He stated he proposes changing 8th Street from a collector to a residential street resulting in the elimination of the Highway 70 connection and to construct a cul-de-sac at the east end of 8th Street making the street a residential street. The right of way of the street is a concern because on the north side of the street is residential property and railroad property on the south of 8th Street.

In reference to the aerial view of the proposed cul-de-sac, Bill Harmon commented that there are a lot of issues and tradeoffs associated with this particular intersection and as the area grows and in-fills, it is anticipated that sometime in the future this intersection will require signalization. There could be traffic movement and distance issues.

Mayor Gibbs suggested ADOT consider the impact of constructing a three way traffic circle instead of signalizing the area. He suggested conducting community meetings.

City Manager Kincaid stated staff prefers the concept of a cul-de-sac and three -way round-about because it encourages traffic to move that way rather than on 8th Street. Additionally, improvements to 8th Street will never occur if the street remains a collector street because of truck traffic, the railroad and the base of the street.

Bill Harmon pointed out that ADOT is more constrained about where to construct the intersection if 8th Street remains connected to Highway 70. Otherwise, if 8th Street is closed off from joining Highway 70 there would be more flexibility constructing an intersection that will minimize the impact of the surrounding homes, businesses and right of way purchases. He stated he will attend a progress meeting tomorrow and will share **Council's** suggestions. He will ask ADOT to consider an option to close 8th street and to consider constructing aroundabout somewhere in that area.

7. PRESENTATION ON GRAHAM COUNTY'S REQUEST TO CHANGE 10th AVENUE: The

intent of this presentation is to discuss and seek guidance from the Council concerning Graham County's request to make changes to 10th Avenue from Main Street to US 70.

This street is bordered on the west by Firth Park and on the east by the County Jail and the County's General Services Building. The County is requesting the City to make 10th Avenue a one-way street (northbound) so as to revise the parking along the street from parallel to angle parking.

Randy Petty stated Graham County has provided a proposal to make 10th Avenue a one-way street and to change the parking alignment from parallel parking to angle parking. Their proposal would require one-lane traffic because 10th Avenue is not wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic. He pointed out the proposal

indicates one-way northbound traffic.

City Manager Kincaid stated Graham County's plans are based around its jail expansion and additional recreation yard(s) required by Federal Law. Graham County is requesting the City make 10th Avenue a one-way street (northbound) so parking may be revised along the street from parallel to angle parking. He pointed out that staff and the Police Department have several issues/concerns with their proposed plan. Captain Whisman is available for questions and comments. At this time, plans are very preliminary and there are many unanswered questions regarding the County's proposal. He asked the Council to provide direction to staff concerning Graham County's request to make changes to 10th Avenue from Main Street to US Highway 70. He pointed out some of the issues/concerns:

- Proximity and the possible interaction of the offenders with the public due to the jail extension/recreation yard so near to the park/swimming pool.
- Traffic issue: traffic will back out of 45 degree parking stalls into incoming traffic.
- How is traffic controlled from eastbound traffic on Highway 70 turning onto 10th Avenue. Does the State require modifications?
- 10th Avenue is a City street. (80 ft. street which runs into the city-owned park).
- Unknown size of recreation yard(s).

Captain Whisman approached the Council and presented the latest revised plans that he just received. He noted revisions include southbound traffic instead of northbound traffic and constructing a block wall around the recreation yard(s).

City Manager Kincaid recommended there be no further discussion until Graham County and staff have had additional time to discuss their plan. He stated once the revised plan is received, another work session will be scheduled to continue the discussion.

8. **PRESENTATION ON ADOT'S US 191, 11th ST. to US 70 IMPROVMENTS:** The intent of this presentation is to discuss with the Council ADOT's plans to make improvements to US 191 from 11th Street to US 70. These improvements will revise the traffic striping to have 5 lanes south of 8th Street and 4 lanes north of 8th Street. They will stripe a continuous left turn lane throughout the project. They also will revise the striping at the US 70 intersection to include 2 left turning lanes from northbound to westbound. This project also includes some minor curb improvements to enhance turning movements.

Randy Petty started the discussion beginning on Page 5 which identifies proposed construction beginning at the intersection at U.S. Highway 70 and Highway 191, south to intersection at 8th Street.

Bill Harmon noted that according to the 30-year growth outlook for this community is downtown around Highway 191 and on Highway 70. If nothing else is done to this area, three lanes of traffic, each direction, with a raised median is anticipated. He commented that ADOT is trying to avoid a traffic meltdown of the area and figure out how to improve traffic conditions, minimize congestion and help people get to where they are going safely. He stated design may start within the next two years. At that time, interaction with the public will begin and meetings will be held.

City Manager Kincaid commented that as traffic volume grows, parking on Highway 191 does become a concern and will impact businesses. He asked the Council to convey any comments to him or Randy so that they can pass it on to Mr. Harmon (ADOT).

9. **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB:** Possible discussion regarding the Boys and Girls Club budget:
Mayor Gibbs stated he asked that this item be put on the agenda because the Tentative Budget identifies a budget of \$130,000 for the Boys and Girls Club. He believes the Council should adhere to the budget and then close the doors if the Club does not initiate a plan to operate and maintain the Club. If an organization does agree to operate the Club, the City has the option provide the building, pay utilities, and consider a financial donation.

City Manager Kincaid stated the budget for the Boys and Girls Club will be presented in the Final Budget.

10. **REDISTRICTING:** Discussion of State Legislative redistricting map: City Manager Kincaid stated redistricting can be very damaging to the City's leveragability at both State and Federal levels. He provided maps identifying existing and proposed Legislative District No. 5 - slight change in northwest section adding the Camp Verde area and Cortez Junction. He noted Scenario 3 (map attached) has been proposed by one of the independent redistricting commissions. The City Council of Flagstaff has approved Scenario 3 which significantly changes their legislative influence; but, significantly changes Safford's sphere of influence because it includes half of Cochise County, swinging into northeast Pima County and up into Pinal County. Mr. Kincaid stated he is working with the **managers'** of Pima, Thatcher and Graham County to move forward with a uniform voice in an attempt to get the best redistricting for Safford. He stated he is suggesting supporting the "red" redistricting map provided in the packet. He referred to two proposed maps just received - Arizona Congressional District map indicating eight districts and a proposal by Pinal County Governmental Alliance proposing nine Congressional District. The proposal includes Safford in the ninth district. He stated based on what has been presented to date, community managers are leaning towards the proposed "red" map and Pinal's proposed District 9. As other proposals will be provided to

the Council as they are presented. He asked the Council to provide their feedback.

City Manager Kincaid provided an article in the Arizona Republic regarding a variety of ways of how council's get something put on the agenda.

11. **ADJOURN:** It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilmember Attaway and carried 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:16:16 p.m.

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 true and correct minutes of the regular council meeting of the City of Safford, Graham County, Arizona held Monday, July 25, 2011, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting on September 12, 2011. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated: September 12, 2011

Georgia Luster, MMC
City Clerk