



**“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, February 9, 2015 @ 6:00 PM  
Safford Library Program Room, 808 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, Arizona**

**PRESENT:** Wyn “Chris” Gibbs, Mayor; Mary Bingham, Vice Mayor; Council Member’s, Arnold A. Lopez, Kenneth Malloque, Gene Seale, Richard Ortega, and James D. Howes.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Horatio Skeete, City Manager; Leslie Norton, Executive Secretary; Joe Brugman, Chief of Police; Randy Petty, City Engineer; Dustin Welker, Planning and Community Development Director; Jenny Howard, Public Works Director; Eric Buckley, Utilities Director; Terry Quest, Finance Director; Leanne McElroy, Library Director; Cliff Davis, Human Resources Officer; and Georgia Luster, City Clerk. Sam Napier assisted with the audio/video recording of the meeting.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cathy Romero, Sophia Romero, E. J. Romero, Luke Romero, Josh Romero, Sam Flood, Randa Owens McKinney, Justin Caldwell, Amber Caldwell, Casey Johnson, Jack Johnson, Lucy Johnson, Stephanie Abril, Cameron Abril, Keegan McKinney, Abram Mendez, Markus Bejarano, Mikayla Lopez, Destiny Driver, Matt Hunter, Mason Hunter, Miles Laudenslager, Felicia Padilla, Arvi Bajardo, Amadeo Fajardo, David M. Driver, Peggy Hunter, Ed Hunter, Carlos Aguilar, Brandon McIntosh, Kyler Smith, Brody Wayne, Danny Smith, Guy Donham, Jamie Terrazas, Kody Hrastnik, Robert Guarino, Alexander Wood, Shaun Jalamillo, Shallon Barringer, Lori Alva, Richard Bejarano, Aaron Carr, Aniken Aguilar, Kayson McKinney, Justin Torrio, Heidi Torrio, Justine Bay, Mikayla Lopez, Chase Umphries, Dishoun Robinson, Joshuaa Mazon, Jacob Palominio, Jesse Contreras Joey McClain, Austin Skinner, Austin Kouts, Daniel Ramirez, Jose Contreras, Brandon Reynolds, Angelina Desaulniers, Brinley Kempton, Brad Olsen, Madison Pudelek, Justice R., Mickey Hawkins, Jeremiah Best, Tyso N. Coleman, Nate Palomino, Cody Trostle-Ballou, Jon Wesley McNutt, Jacob Moreno, Chris Nabor, Damian Alaniz, Alexi S. Nabor, Alec Judd, Isaih Carrasco, Santiago ??, Dax Gonzalez, Mikayla Slabrni, Jessica Bright, Cameron Slater, Jackie Slater, and others who did not sign in. Kelly Van Shaar, video recorded the meeting. Ken Showers was present representing Eastern Arizona Courier.

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Gibbs called the meeting to order at 6:12 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:** Councilman Lopez offered the Opening Prayer.
5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** NONE
6. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**
  4. **Dr. Cathy Romero would like to continue the discussion of a skate park proposal. They are asking the City Council to consider a commitment for a place to put the skate park and to provide maintenance of the park.**

Because of a large attendance, Item 6.4 was moved for discussion at this time. City Manager Skeete briefly recapped previous discussions of a proposed Skate Park. He stated discussions have included merits and costs associated with a Skate Park. The City was assured that the funding for the construction of a Park would come from funds donated and or collected by interest groups. The City is to identify the land and once the Park is constructed, maintenance and operation of the Park would be given to the City of Safford. He noted that additional liability insurance would cost the City of Safford between \$3,000 and \$4,000 annually. Another expense that was overlooked is the lighting of the Park. Additionally, a location has not yet been identified. The interested group is suggesting the El Paso Park located on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Although, he believes the community should be involved in the discussions and other locations be considered. He introduced Dr. Cathy Romero and supporters for the Skate Park.

Dr. Cathy Romero stated they have been spreading the word of this proposal and have a number of people present to express their interest in a Skate Park. After the last meeting, she felt that a part missing was convincing the Council that this Skate Park is important. She asked a few of the kids to speak to and to provide a brief video so that the Council can get a "feel for" what a Skate Park is like.

Luke Romero, Shaun Jalamillo and Abram Mendez (all of Safford) approached the Council and expressed their interest and excitement of a Skate Park. A Skate Park is a priority to them and they believe it would be a great way to get the kids off the street and to help kids stay out of trouble. They believe a Skate Park should be a priority of the Council. They showed a brief video of kids skating at a Skate Park. This Skate Park in the video is located at Rita Ranch on the east side of Tucson.

Dr. Romero stated they are not asking the citizens of Safford to pay for the construction of the Skate Park; they are going to apply for funding through Freeport and will accept donations. She realizes the Council has a lot of concern about the upkeep and the maintenance of a skate park; but, believes the upkeep and the maintenance of the Park should not be an issue for the Council because if it's built right, it shouldn't be a concern. They are asking the Council to support the concept of a Skate Park in Safford, donate the land for the Skate Park and agree to maintain the Park after it is built and given to the City. She asked the Council to consider a few things: The health of the kids (video games has contributed to the obesity of our youth), the safety of our youth (accidents that are serious with skateboards and scooters happen when they interact with a vehicle). "Skate parks, when built properly and used according to rules are very safe, much safer than interacting with vehicles". They believe a Skate Park would be appealing to the City. A skate park would contribute to our tax base and be a family attraction. She recapped what they are asking the Council: agree to the concept of a Skate Park in Safford, donation of the land for the Skate Park and agree to maintain the Park after it is built and given to the City. They will apply for funding through Freeport (Cycle is Feb. 1 through May 1) to build the skate park. She noted they have received pledges of approximately \$2,500 from local businesses. The concept right now is hypothetical, but once the funding is approved, discussions will begin on location, what type/size of a facility to build, hours of operation, construction of facility, etc.

The Council stated they support the concept of a skate park, but at this point there are many unknowns and without a plan the concept is hypothetical.

Mayor Gibbs asked Police Chief, Joe Brugman, because of his experience with skate parks in Chandler and Coolidge, to speak about skate parks. Chief Brugman stated a skate park is an amenity and is a benefit to the youth because it gives them a place to go to. He referred to some of the challenges of having a skate park (high visibility area, location is a concern, is it tied into a park, the affect it would have on the neighbors, is location easy to patrol, skate boarders, BMX, skaters, fenced area, age restrictions, difficulty levels, staff support/maintenance, littering, etc.).

Austin Kouts stated they are not asking for much, just asking for a piece of cement, metal or wood area with a few ledges and a few ramps, just somewhere to hang out and ride.

Alexander Wood said he came from the small town of Page who has a small skate park. He believes they can all get along and share a Park, but if needed, a day may be designated for the skaters, the boarders, and the BMXers. They will do their part and be responsible and help maintain and keep the area clean. He noted that in Page, if there was trouble within the Park, the City would close the Park for a while as discipline to the youth. Closing the Park got the attention of the youth. (Applause from the audience)

It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Vice Mayor Bingham, and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to provide a letter of support outlining conditions, contingent on funding and subject to final approval by the City Council. The Letter of Support will be included with the Application to be submitted to Freeport McMoRan. **MOTION ADOPTED**

(Applause and many “thank you’s” came from the audience). A short break in the meeting allowed the audience to leave the meeting at this time.

1. **Presentation of Quarterly Financial Report.** Terry Quest, Finance Director, reviewed the second quarter financial overview for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. He noted total revenues received for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter were 45% of budgeted revenues for this same time period last year. Secondly, expenditures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter were 40% of the budget. He explained City management continues to monitor the receipt of its revenues and will control expenses in accordance with the receipt of revenues. Finally, overall enterprise operations are performing fair. However, revenues for gas and electric operations were down for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter.
2. **Review and approval of annual special events for 2015.** Dustin Welker, Community Development Director, reviewed the list of the annual special events for 2015. He explained the list this year includes twelve (12) special events that have been previously approved by Council, one new annual special event request (Tri Community Tri) and a one-time special event request for the Safford High School’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

There was discussion about re-evaluating and reviewing the expenses of the special events during the budget process.

It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilman Seale, and carried unanimously to approve the annual special events for 2015. **MOTION ADOPTED**

3. **Consider awarding a Bid to Banning Creek Enterprises, LLC in the amount of \$38,998.94, for the installation of underground electric conduit at the Valley Apartments, portions of Cluff Addition and a small section at the Graham County Health Department.** Eric Buckley, Utilities Director, explained the underground electric conduit project. He noted the installation of this conduit will replace all of the old direct buried cable in the system.

It was moved by Councilman Howes, seconded by Councilman Lopez, and carried unanimously to award a contract to Banning Creek Enterprises, LLC in the amount of \$38,998.94, for the installation of underground electric conduit. **MOTION ADOPTED**

**7. CONSENT ITEMS: The Mayor and City Council may wish to consider approving Items 1 through 12 as Consent Agenda Items.**

1. January 12, January 23, and January 26, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes
2. Police Report
3. Building Inspection Report
4. Public Works Report
5. Business License Report
6. Library Report
7. Utility Consumption/Water Production Reports
8. Summary of 8.Projects Planning and Grants Administration
9. Prosecution Report
10. Airport Report **(Not Available)**
11. Expense Report over \$5,000
12. Purchasing Card Report

It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Councilman Howes, and carried unanimously to approve Items 1 through 12 as Consent Agenda Items. **MOTION ADOPTED**

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

- Councilman Lopez will attend a Transportation Board Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor and Mr. Skeete will attend the Economic Development Conference in Phoenix, February 18 – 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Council Work Session: Beginning of Budget discussions - Capital Projects
- Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting: Budget Presentation-Revenue Projections & Grant Revenues
- Monday, March 23, 2015 Council Work Session: Departmental Budget Presentations

**9. COUNCIL OR STAFF REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

**10. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

City Manager Skeete introduced Leslie Norton as the Executive Secretary to the City Manager.

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Mayor and City Council will enter executive session to review the January 12, 2015 executive session minutes. Executive session minutes were provided to the Council prior to the meeting to review. Therefore, there was no need to adjourn to executive session.
12. **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:** Not needed.
13. **Approve the January 12, 2015 executive session minutes.** It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Councilman Malloque, and carried unanimously to approve the January 12, 2015 executive session minutes. **MOTION ADOPTED**
14. **ADJOURN MEETING:** It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilman Howes, and carried unanimously to adjourn regular session at 7:40:55 p.m. **MOTION ADOPTED**

APPROVED:

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Wyn "Chris" Gibbs, Mayor  
City of Safford

ATTEST:

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Georgia Luster, MMC  
City Clerk

STATE OF ARIZONA    )  
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County of Graham    )

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of the Safford City Council, Graham County, Arizona held Monday, February 9, 2015, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, March 9, 2015. I further certify the meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

March 9, 2015  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Georgia Luster, MMC, City Clerk