



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

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

**ABSENT:** Mary Bingham, Vice Mayor (participated in executive session by phone); James D. Howes, Councilman.

**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; Terry Quest, Finance Director; Leanne McElroy, Library Director; Cliff Davis, Human Resources Officer; and Georgia Luster, City Clerk. Dale Clark assisted with the audio recording of the meeting.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Pastor Larry Seymore, Phillip Tutor, James Bryce, Brian Montoya, Kelly Van Shaar

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Gibbs called the meeting to order at 5:59:46 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 Larry Seymore offered the Opening Prayer.
5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Rex Bryce, regarding FBO.
6. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mayor Gibbs opened the Public Hearing at 6:02:15 p.m. in compliance with *Arizona Revised Statutes* §38.431.02 to hear public comments regarding items 6.1 and 6.2:

- 1) **A rezone from R1-6 (Single Family Residential) to C-MH (Conventional and Manufactured Home) on Graham County Parcel # 101-19-043, 1213 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, Arizona. (Staff, Dustin Welker)**
  
- 2) **Amendment to Title 17.16.020 of City of Safford Municipal Code, Nonconforming Buildings and Uses, eliminating restrictions to the use of properties in the event of a fire, flood, or other calamity or act of nature. (Staff, Dustin Welker)**

Dustin Welker, Community Development Director, introduced a rezone request regarding property located at 1213 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The case was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission and they unanimously made a recommendation to the City Council to approve the rezone of the property to C-MH as requested. There has been no opposition from the neighbors. He noted that the owner will remove the house and place a manufactured home on a permanent foundation on the property. Secondly, Mr. Welker explained the proposed amendment to Title 17.16.020 of the Municipal Code. Section 17.06.020B was added to the Code to encourage nonconforming buildings to conform to the zoning code they lie within if a structure was destroyed beyond repair. The issue that has arisen over the past couple of months is that property owners are not able to sell their properties because lenders will not assume a loan on properties that are applicable to the new section. The intention of the new language was not to prevent the sale of the properties and has taken an undesirable effect on the property owners. It is recommended to strike Section 17.16.020(B) of the Municipal Code.

**Public comments were accepted at this time.** There were no comments from members of the public. Mayor Gibb closed the Public Hearing and convened the Regular Council Meeting at 6:07:43 p.m.

**7. NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Approve February 9 and February 23, 2015, Council Meeting Minutes. (Staff, Georgia Luster)** It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilman Ortega and carried unanimously to approve February 9 and February 23, 2015, Council Meeting Minutes. **MOTION ADOPTED**

**8. CONSENT RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Request for the Mayor and City Council to consider approving and adopting Resolution Number 15-009 pertaining to the submission of projects for consideration in Arizona's 2016 AzGOHS Highway Safety Plan. (Staff, Joe Brugman)** Chief Brugman explained the Police Department annually applies for this grant through the Government's Office of Highway Safety. The amount of the grant is \$26,041.00 and will be used for DUI overtime, selective enforcement overtime, and equipment.

It was moved by Councilman Ortega, seconded by Councilman Lopez to approve and adopt Resolution Number 15-009 pertaining to the submission of projects for consideration in Arizona's 2016 AzGOHS Highway Safety Plan. **MOTION ADOPTED**

**9. ORDINANCES:**

1. First Reading of Ordinance Number 15-001, a rezone from R1-6 (Single Family Residential) to C-MH(Conventional and Manufactured Home) on Graham County Parcel # 101-19-043, 1213 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Safford, Arizona. (Staff, Dustin Welker)
  
2. First Reading of Ordinance Number 15-002, an amendment to Title 17.16.020 of *City of Safford Municipal Code*, Nonconforming Buildings and Uses, eliminating restrictions to the use of properties in the event of a fire, flood, or other calamity or act of nature. (Staff, Dustin Welker)

City Clerk, Georgia Luster read the Title and Number of Ordinance Number 15-001 and 15-002 into the record. First readings - Both ordinances will be presented at the next council meeting for adoption.

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

- Monday, March 23 – Work Session – Budget: Revenue and Grant Projections.
- Monday, March 23 – Purple Heart Proclamation – Graham County Board of Supervisor's Meeting. Meeting starts at 8 AM.
- Monday, April 13 – Regular Council Meeting – Budget: Department Presentations.
- Monday, April 27 – Work Session – Budget: Department Presentations.

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

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

Rex Bryce addressed the Council at this time regarding the FBO Agreement. Mayor Gibbs that the Council could not discuss the item with Mr. Bryce because it will be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Bryce stated that he has had interactions off and on with Dustin Welker and Mr. Skeete. Tonight he wants to highlight a few things that he would like the City to consider. First, he thanked the City of Safford for having such a good relationship with Ponderosa. He hopes to continue a mutually beneficial relationship going forward. He pointed out that Ponderosa is the "go to resource" on the Airport when problems arise and is functioning largely in a managerial capacity even though they do not have designation as such, nor any authority as such. Ponderosa currently performs several of the functions that an airport manager would, but not all. He noted that Mr. Welker pointed out that the City performs some of the duties as airport manager including premises maintenance, record keeping, engineering and reporting to the FAA, and some billing

for ground leases and hangars. Mr. Bryce stated that Ponderosa Aviation could handle most of these duties currently with the exception of facility maintenance and engineering. Ponderosa is usually considered in projects done at the Airport. He noted that Ponderosa could do the facility maintenance under contract with the City if the City wanted to. He noted that several things such as runway inspection, runway cleaning of items that can damage departing and landing aircraft are not being done on a regular basis. One important consideration for the City to consider is that Ponderosa has no authority to address airport safety, pilot or community concerns that arise, but yet they receive those calls. He pointed out that the current bylaws refer to an airport manager and if any problems arise to contact the airport manager. However, there is no contact information or phone number to contact. Ponderosa is there daily, day and night, (except Christmas Day) and always available to accept calls. He said the current agreement provides exactly the same benefit to every tenant and transient. He researched the salary of an airport manager and stated that the average manager will receive between \$50,000 -\$70,000 annually plus benefits. He encouraged the Council to consider the business proposition he provided to Mr. Welker and Mr. Skeete.

It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilman Ortega, and carried unanimously to adjourn regular session and to enter executive session at 6:21:30 p.m. **MOTION ADOPTED**

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pursuant to *Arizona Revised Statutes* §38-431.03 the City Council will enter executive session to:

- 1) Discuss and provide guidance to the City Manager regarding contract negotiations on the Fixed Base Operator. (Pursuant to *Arizona Revised Statutes* §38.431.03(A) (4).
- 2) Performance evaluation of City Manager, Horatio Skeete. (Pursuant to *Arizona Revised Statutes* §38.431.03(A)(1).

The Council adjourned executive session at 7:19 p.m. and reconvened regular session. There was no action taken regarding Items 13.1 and 13.2.

**14. ADJOURN:** It was moved by Councilman Malloque, seconded by Councilman Lopez, and carried unanimously to adjourn regular session at 7:20:08 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    )  
                                  )    ss  
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, March 9, 2015, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, April 13, 2015. I further certify the meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

April 13, 2015 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Georgia Luster, MMC, City Clerk