



CITY OF SAFFORD • CITY COUNCIL MEETING/WORK SESSION • MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
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 pm.
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; Michael Andazola; and Brad Hemphill

STAFF PRESENT: John Cassella, City Manager; Glen Orr, Police Chief; Brian Avila, Police Captain; Lance Henrie, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Susan Anderson, Planning and Community Development Director; Alma Valles, Finance Officer; Victoria Silva, Library Director; Sam Napier, IT Director; Tamara Webster, City Clerk; Lydia Newkirk, Human Resources Officer; Matthew Hoshal, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Morgan Seale, Water Division Supervisor; Dan Braatz, Electric Division Supervisor; Raymond Osornio, Gas Division Supervisor; and Justin Green, Senior IT Specialist.

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooks and Corley Knight, Kim Lackner, Lori and Jason Knight, Vance Bryce, Susan Elsberry, Paul R. David, and others that did not sign in.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice Mayor Ortega led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **OPENING PRAYER:** Councilman Andazola offered the opening prayer.
5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None
6. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** Susan Elsberry addressed Council regarding Loose Dogs and CREW.

Chief Glen Orr presented Officer Brooks Knight with the Officer of the Year award from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)

7. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **MINUTES:** Request for Mayor and City Council to review and approve February 22, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes. **MOTION ADOPTED**
2. **P&Z COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENT:** Request for the Mayor and City Council to recommend a Planning and Zoning Commission appointment to City Council and for City Council to approve the recommendation. **MOTION ADOPTED**
3. **SPECIAL EVENT:** Request for the Mayor and City Council to approve the 2021 Safford Spring Festival and the mitigation plans. **MOTION ADOPTED**

8. **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **RESOLUTION R21-005:** Request for Mayor and City Council to authorize the Mayor to approve and adopt Resolution R21-005, a resolution approving to renew the City of Safford's contract for three (3) years with the Rural Arizona Group Health Trust (RAGHT) as the health insurance plans offered to the City of Safford Employees. **MOTION ADOPTED 6-1 (Mayor Kouts Opposed)**

2. **RESOLUTION R21-006:** Request for Mayor and City Council to authorize the Mayor to approve and adopt Resolution R21-006, a resolution adopting the City of Safford Organizational Expectations and Guidelines document. **MOTION ADOPTED**

9. **BUDGET:**

1. **FY2022 BUDGET- CIP PROJECTIONS:** Present to the Mayor and City Council an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2022.

10. **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.

11. **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)

- Chief Orr provided an update on the new City of Safford Police Station

12. **CLOSED REGULAR MEETING AND RECONVENED INTO A COUNCIL WORK SESSION:**

13. **WORK SESSION:** The Mayor and City Council entered into a work session to discuss the following items:

1. **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:** Discuss and update the Mayor and City Council regarding City of Safford employee benefits.

14. **ADJOURN:** It was moved by Vice Mayor Ortega, seconded by Councilman Andazola and carried unanimously to adjourn City Council Meeting at 9:11 pm. **MOTION ADOPTED**