



WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

CITY OF SAFFORD • CITY COUNCIL MEETING • MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019 at 6:00 pm
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”

Mayor Kouts called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- 2. ROLL CALL:** A quorum of the Council was present.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Jason Kouts, Mayor; Richard Ortega, Vice Mayor; Councilmembers’ Gene Seale, Arnold Lopez, Steve McGaughey, Chris Taylor and Michael Andazola.

STAFF PRESENT: Horatio Skeete, City Manager; Joe Brugman, Chief of Police; Randy Petty, City Engineer; Lance Henrie, Public Works Director; Susan Anderson, Planning and Community Development Director; Pam Frost, Administrative Assistant; Alma Flores, Finance Officer; Victoria Silva, Library Director; Georgia Luster, City Clerk; Sam Napier, I.T. Officer; Raymond Osornio, Gas Division Supervisor.

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul R. David, Board of Supervisor’s Graham County; David Sowders; Chad Crockett; Nancy Schauman; Rob & Jennifer Chesley, Carey Cleland, and others who did not sign in.

- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Councilman Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

- 4. OPENING PRAYER:** Councilman Andazola offered the opening prayer.

- 5. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:** NONE

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

- 7. NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENTS: Request for the Mayor and City Council to review and approve the annual special events for 2019. The request consists of 15 special events that have been previously approved and one new annual special event request.** Susan Anderson, Planning & Community Development Director, reviewed the annual special events for 2019. She presented the new event, Field of Honor & Veteran’s Day Parade of which the Safford Lion’s Club/City of Safford is sponsoring. The event will be held during the week of November 9th through November 16th on City Hall lawn. The Lions Club is to post United States flags (200) on City Hall Lawn as a Field of Honor of Flags honoring veterans. The Lions Club would like to sell the flags to members of the community in honor of past service of a veteran or for family members currently serving. Signage designating a veteran will be attached to

each flag staff. Flags will remain all week on the City Hall lawn. They plan to have informational booths, Veteran Resource Expo booths, patriotic music program and Veteran's Day Parade leading up to the Courthouse for the American Legion's Veteran's Day Ceremony. Lions Club will host a luncheon after the parade for all the veterans. This is the first event and the Lions Club and City of Safford are excited to recognize its veterans.

List of Events:

- ◆ Wine, Art, History & Music Festival
- ◆ CORE Community Organized Resource Event
- ◆ National Day of Prayer
- ◆ Cinco de Mayo Parade
- ◆ Gila Valley 4th of July Parade
- ◆ Eastern Arizona Hispanic Heritage
- ◆ Salsa Fest
- ◆ Safford High School Homecoming Parade
- ◆ Graham County Fair Parade
- ◆ Harvest Festival
- ◆ Potter's House Fall Festival
- ◆ Veteran's Day Ceremony
- ◆ Merry Main Street & Tree Lighting
- ◆ Holiday Light Parade
- ◆ Safford Sparkles
- ◆ Field of Honor/Veteran's Day Parade

The Special Olympics event will resume in 2020. Councilman Lopez asked the Council to consider sponsoring the local participants who attend the State Special Olympic event. Pam Frost and Susan Anderson will look into it and provide a report to the Council.

The Council is excited to see the addition of the Field of Honor/Veteran's Day Parade to honor our veterans. It will be a great community event.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Ortega, seconded by Councilman Andazola and carried unanimously to approve fifteen (15) special events previously approved and one new annual special event request (Field of Honor/Veteran's Day Parade). **MOTION ADOPTED**

2. **EIGHTH STREET CUL-DE-SAC: Discussion with the Mayor and City Council regarding the closure of Eighth Street and creation of a cul-de-sac.** Randy Petty, City Engineer, provided an update on the current improvement projects that ADOT is starting in the areas of Walgreen's, Hollywood Road, and the 8th Street cul-de-sac. He said staff will install a road closure sign on HWY 191 in the area of the Graveyard Wash crossing to inform traffic that the 8th Street cul-de-sac is currently under construction. The cul-de-sac should be completed in mid-March. Next fiscal year, he said the new Pine Avenue connection will be constructed that will serve 8th Street to Highway 70. The main improvements to this project are to upgrade the lights on to US Highway 70.

Mayor Kouts thanked staff and Mr. Skeete for looking into the improvements to 8th Street and for finding a way for egress/ingress from 8th Street.

City Manager Skeete explained the (new proposed parcel indicated on a map) was necessary for the City to purchase the property to make the Pine Avenue connection. Once the street is designed and constructed the surplus property will be sold as quickly as possible.

8. **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.
- ◆ Councilman Lopez stated that Graham County will hold a 2019 STAND Spring Regional Youth Leadership Workshop in Safford on February 16 from 10AM – 3PM at the General Services Building. Toni Palomino, Health Program Coordinator, is inviting the Council to attend and to provide support to the participating youth.
 - ◆ Councilman Seale requested an update regarding flooding issues in the area of Allred's Insurance located on HWY 70. Mr. Skeete stated that this item will be included in the CIP update next month.
9. **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)

- **Update on Water Table Levels:** Tabled report.
- **Update on Capital Improvement Projects (CIP):** Randy Petty presented the Capital Improvement Projects including the status of the top six projects in implementation/design/and under construction. Also, a status report of all the CIP Projects is included. (see attachment)
 - Five (5) completed projects
 - Fourteen (14) projects not started
 - Fourteen (14) projects planned
 - Four (4) projects in design
 - Eleven (11) projects in construction/in progress

Councilman Lopez asked for an update on the following projects:

- ◆ 14th Avenue (area by High School) – Listed in CIP and pending funding
- ◆ 50/50 Sidewalk Program – suggested staff provide notice to property owners in advance so that they can plan funding
- ◆ Red Fuel Tanks – Existing tanks are non-compliant and are required to upgrade fuel tanks
- ◆ Cemetery Water Line – Materials have been received and will require the assistance of the water crew once they complete two other critical projects
- ◆ Frye Mesa Dam Study – ADWR is reviewing the draft and Study indicates Dam is stable and is of no significant threat
- ◆ Substation security – possible flooding of canal

City Manager Skeete stated that he has challenged the electric utility crew to complete, in-house, the fifty (50) remaining poles identified in the Priority Poles Project by the end of the fiscal year. He believes the completion of this project by the end of the fiscal year will provide significant savings to the City. If the crew completes the project on time, incentives will be provided to the electric utility group.

It was moved by vice Mayor Ortega, seconded by Councilman Andazola and carried unamously to adjourn regular session and to enter executive session at 6:27 p.m. to discuss Items 10-1 & 10-2. **MOTION ADOPTED**

The Council adjourned executive session and returned to regular session at 7:20 p.m.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. **LAND ACQUISITIONS: Discuss with the Mayor and City Council on land acquisition negotiations.** It was moved by Vice Mayor Ortega, seconded by Councilman Andazola, and carried unanimously to direct City Manager Skeete to continue land acquisition negotiations. **MOTION ADOPTED**

2. **PROPERTY OFFER: Discuss with the Mayor and City Council a response from Graham County on property offer.** It was moved by Councilman McGaughey, seconded by Councilman Seale, and carried unanimously to direct City Manager Skeete to continue property negotiations with Graham County. **MOTION ADOPTED**

11. It was moved by Vice Mayor Ortega, seconded by Councilman Andazola and carried unanimously to adjourn the council meeting at 7:23 p.m. **MOTION ADOPTED**

APPROVED:

Jason Kouts, Mayor

ATTEST:

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 City Council Meeting Minutes of the Safford City Council, Graham County, Arizona held Monday, February 11 2019, and approved at a Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, March 11, 2019. I further certify the meeting was duly called, held and that a quorum was present.

Georgia Luster, MMC, City Clerk

March 11, 2019

Date: