

**THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD FEBRUARY 8, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6TH STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Fenn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Fenn then introduced Steve Medeiros of the First Baptist Church who offered the invocation.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Mayor Mark M. Fenn, Vice Mayor Toney King, Sr. and Councilmembers Jo Deen Boncquet, David Lambert, John Lodzinski, Lori McGoffin and Al Sacco.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: None

PROCLAMATION: None

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Fenn opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. to receive comments from the public in opposition or support of the proposed project for which financial assistance is being sought from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Grant funds will be used to purchase three handicap accessible public transportation vehicles, to operate a dial-a-ride van service for elderly and disabled and to operate a deviated fixed public transit route available to the general public. Mayor Fenn stated Finance Director Jim Cox would be addressing Council giving more details on the proposed project followed by comments from those who signed up for the public hearing.

Finance Director Jim Cox gave the background of the project stating that Catholic Community Services (CCS) informed the City several months ago that they are ceasing their dial-a-ride program in October. Last year CCS provided approximately 7,600 rides to elderly and disabled persons in the City, which was to pick them up at their home and take them to specific locations. Mr. Cox then stated that the City recognizes the importance of continuing this type of service so they immediately started investigating alternatives. Mr. Cox stated the City has met with the Rural Transportation Manager for the Arizona Department of Transportation who strongly encouraged the City to do a study and follow up with seeking grant funds and to expand our service to a public transportation deviated route system, which is bus service in the City and surrounding area. Mr. Cox stated that the study showed that the City currently has demand for about 27,000 rides a year not just the 7,600 rides that have been provided in the past. The City has moved forward with the grant applications and they are doing well at this point. Mr. Cox stated the City will meet with the state representatives and federal representatives in Phoenix next month to demonstrate the ability to operate such a program. Mr. Cox stated that the City has been encouraged by all parties and that it looks like the City of Benson may have a very nice rural transportation program in the very near future. Mr. Cox added that this program will be at no more cost than the City is currently donating. Mr. Cox stated the City currently donates \$24,000 per year and the goal is to stay within that amount or less.

Mr. John Whiteside offered comments in regards to the public transportation grant funds, stating he is in favor of the transportation program; it is something that the City should definitely do and that it is a good thing for government to be doing. Mr. Whiteside then stated that it is a lot better place to put money than the some projects that have been chosen in the past.

Mayor Fenn then closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager Glenn Nichols addressed Council, giving the dates of upcoming meetings and events.

February 9, 2010 – Library Advisory Board, 4:00 p.m., City Library
February 20, 2010 – Historic Preservation Commission, 9:00 a.m., City Hall
February 22, 2010 – City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
February 23, 2010 – Community Watershed Alliance, 6:30 p.m., City Hall

February 13 & 14, 2010 – Territorial Days, Arena Bar
February 15, 2010 – HOLIDAY, City Offices Closed

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consent Agenda

- 1a. Minutes of the January 25, 2010 Regular Meeting
- 1b. Invoices processed for the period from January 16, 2010 through February 1, 2010

Councilmember Boncquet moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Sacco. Motion passed 6-0, with Mayor Fenn abstaining.

2. Resolution 9-2010 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, approving a Special Event Liquor License for Helping Hands @ Cochise Terrace of Benson, for February 20, 2010 at Cochise Terrace, 1030 S. Barrel Cactus Ridge, Benson, Arizona

Mayor Fenn turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor King with the explanation that Cochise Terrace, who is petitioning for a Special Event Liquor License, has a contractual relationship with Mayor Fenn for construction. Mayor Fenn states he will abstain even though he does not believe it is related to the special event at all.

Mr. Dennis Moore spoke for Cochise Terrace and stated that they are requesting approval for two Special Event Liquor Licenses. One is for the Dallas Memorial Animal Charity on February 20th and the other on March 26th, the End of the Season Jimmy Buffet theme benefit for Helping Hands @ Cochise Terrace, which is a charity that they use for this benefit. The monies will go to Meals on Wheels, the San Pedro Family Resource Council, All the Kings Horses Children's Ranch and various others that they have donated to over the years. Vice Mayor King stated he believes this is something they have done in the past with Mr. Moore stating the events are the same that they have done for the past two years.

Councilmember Lodzinski moved to approve Resolution 9-2010. Seconded by Councilmember McGoffin. Motion passed 6-0, with Mayor Fenn abstaining.

3. Resolution 10-2010 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, approving a Special Event Liquor License for Helping Hands @ Cochise Terrace of Benson, for March 26, 2010 at Cochise Terrace, 1030 S. Barrel Cactus Ridge, Benson, Arizona

Councilmember Lodzinski moved to approve Resolution 10-2010. Seconded by Councilmember Boncquet. Motion passed 6-0, with Mayor Fenn abstaining.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember McGoffin moved to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Sacco. Motion passed 7-0.

Mark M. Fenn, Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk