

**THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD DECEMBER 12, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M.
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6TH STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Toney D. King, Sr. called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr., Councilmembers Ron Brooks, David Lambert, Nick Maldonado, Chris Moncada and Al Sacco. Excused was Vice Mayor Lori McGoffin.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor King stated a public hearing is being held for the purpose of considering the continuation of the City transit system project for which financial assistance is being sought from U.S. Department of Transportation and grant funds will be used to provide general public transit to the residents and visitors of the City and surrounding communities. Mayor King also stated the Public Hearing affords the opportunity for interested persons to be heard with respect to the social, economic and environmental aspect of the project. The information including grant applications is available for inspection on the table at the back of the room. Mayor King stated Jim Cox, the Finance Director and Denise Wolford, the Transit Manager are available for questions. Mayor King then opened the Public Hearing at 6:06 p.m. Mayor King stated there was no one signed up to speak during the public hearing and then asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak.

Councilmember Moncada asked if Mr. Cox or Ms. Wolford had any comments. Finance Director Jim Cox stated there is an item on the Regular Council Meeting agenda requesting Council approval to proceed with the 5311 Grant. Councilmember Brooks asked how the ridership was going on the bus with Transit Manager Denise Wolford stating ridership started out slow, however in August it averaged 22 people a day, the month of October was up to 30 riders a day and the month of November was up to 32 riders a day. Ms. Wolford then stated she could produce a memo showing these figures. Mayor King stated he had a chance to ride the BAT (Benson Area Transit System) this week during the Chamber event and he was advised there are riders using it to go to and from work which he thinks is exciting. Ms. Wolford stated there are two riders from City Hall who ride to and from work. Councilmember Maldonado asked if the bus goes out to J-Six, Pomerene and St. David with Ms. Wolford stating they do. Mayor King added they also go to the College. Councilmember Lambert asked if the information on ridership was readily available and could be produced before the Regular Council Meeting and if there were days with a spike in ridership. Ms. Wolford stated there were 78 riders on June 3rd and 65 riders each day during Christmas on Main Street. Ms. Wolford then stated the BAT won first place vendor at Christmas on Main Street. Councilmember Lambert stated Mr. Tom Fitzgerald had come in during this discussion. Mayor King asked Mr. Fitzgerald if he would like to speak. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he has a hearing problem during meetings and is not able to hear any one of the Councilmembers when they speak and he hopes it is getting fixed. Mr. Fitzgerald stated when he read what was printed on the internet he thought there was a lot more the funds could be used for and he has friends that would like to have their homes rehabbed and may qualify. City Clerk Vicki Vivian stated this Public Hearing is regarding the Transit System. Ms. Vivian then stated the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Hearing is at 7:00 p.m. if he would like to address Council with the comments for that public hearing. Councilmember Brooks also explained that this Public Hearing was for Transit funds. Mr. Fitzgerald stated when he read it he thought the transit was going to run all the way out to Kartchner Caverns but understands more now.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Fitzgerald for speaking. Mayor King then closed the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Maldonado moved to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Moncada.
Motion passed 6-0.

Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk