

**THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD JUNE 6, 2011 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.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Mayor Mark M. Fenn, Councilmembers Jo Deen Boncquet, (arriving at 7:02 p.m.) Nick Maldonado, Lori McGoffin and Al Sacco. Absent were: Vice Mayor John Lodzinski, Councilmember David Lambert.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 35-2011 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, canvassing, declaring and adopting the Results of the General Election held on May 17, 2011

City Clerk Vicki Vivian addressed Council stating this resolution was a requirement that must be completed no later than 20 days after any election and simply canvasses the election results. Councilmember McGoffin moved to approve Resolution 35-2011. Seconded by Councilmember Sacco. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Resolution 36-2011 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, approving a Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Finance Director Jim Cox addressed Council stating the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 is the product of the Council budget worksessions, adding all changes made have been incorporated into the version presented for approval with one exception. Mr. Cox then stated the Police Department uniforms were not increased from \$26,000 to \$32,000 for vests as Council requested, but will be done in the final budget. Mr. Cox then stated the important thing about the Tentative Budget, is once it is approved, revenues and expenditures can not be increased in the Final Budget, adding the budget can be decreased and line items can be moved around, but revenues and expenditures can not be increased.

Councilmember McGoffin stated she had done some research on the Governor's Alliance Recreation Programs and found that the City Council started the program about 13 years ago. Councilmember McGoffin then stated she doesn't remember the funding for this program ever being reduced to \$3,000 in the budget and she doesn't feel it's appropriate to decrease the funding from \$5,000 the City has paid in the past to \$3,000 as proposed. City Manager Glenn Nichols then addressed Council stating the budgeted amount has been \$3,000 in the budget the last few years, but the City has continued to pay the invoices, which have been approximately \$5,000. Mr. Nichols then stated since the City has had to cut back, he did send a letter to the Governor's Alliance notifying them of the budgeted amount of \$3,000 for the program. Councilmember McGoffin stated she would like the funding to remain at \$5,000. Councilmember Boncquet stated she could see both sides of the issue with funding an issue for both families and entities such as the City. Councilmember elect Chris Moncada asked if the Governor's Alliance Program acknowledged Mr. Nichols' letter with Mr. Nichols stating they did not. Councilmember Maldonado then stated he was on the City Council when the program was started and recalled funding for \$5,000 but did not know what may have happened since then. Mayor Fenn asked Mr. Cox what was usually expended for the program with Mr. Cox stating historically, the City has paid invoices in excess of \$3,000, adding the excess was not large. Mayor Fenn then stated a compromise could be to budget the program at \$4,000, with Council concurring. Mr. Cox then confirmed the Governor's Alliance Recreation Program would be increased by \$1,000 to \$4,000.

Councilmember McGoffin then stated she noticed the Employee Council was dropped from \$2,000 to \$800 and asked if the projected amount included the City picnic. Mr. Cox stated it did, but there was a final expenditure he was not aware of, which would bring the projected amount to approximately \$1,300. Councilmember McGoffin then stated she would like the budgeted amount increased to \$1,500. Councilmember Boncquet agreed, adding the Council doesn't get to do much for the employees with the current economy. The consensus among the Council was to increase the budgeted amount for the Employee Council to \$1,500.

Councilmember McGoffin then stated the Police Department vehicle maintenance needed to be increased by \$2,000 to include the 2007 Chevy Impala, which was left out of the vehicles proposed for repainting. Chief of Police Paul Moncada then addressed Council stating he obtained funding from Ford to cover part of the new paint on the 2007 models, and supplemented for the difference in the proposed budget, however, when he did so, he did not include the 2007 Chevy Impala. Chief Moncada then stated he felt all the 2007 models should be done, noting the Impala will be kept for at least 5 years. Mayor Fenn asked if all the vehicles would then have the new schematic with Chief Moncada stating all vehicles 2007 and newer would, but the older vehicles would have to be done as money became available. Mayor Fenn then confirmed the increase in vehicle maintenance would be from \$21,000 to \$23,000.

Councilmember McGoffin then stated her comment was regarding the undercompensated employees getting a 3% increase, stating she felt it should required that the employees have received a good evaluation in the last 6-9 months. Mayor Fenn stated holding back any raise was part of the normal evaluation process.

Mayor Fenn then asked if there were any other comments. After no comments were received, Mayor Fenn questioned staggering the election process and the budget process, adding the outgoing Mayor and Council is involved in the budget process for a budget they may have no part in. City Manager Glenn Nichols then addressed Council stating changing the election cycle to November will be brought to the new Mayor and Council, adding if the election was moved, the new Mayor and Council would be seated on January 1 and would then be involved in the budget process prior to the adoption of the final budget in June. Mayor Fenn asked if moving the election to a fall schedule could help the City with City Clerk Vicki Vivian stating it could possibly cut costs to hold the elections in conjunction with another election being held at the same time.

Councilmember McGoffin then stated in the next budget process she would like to see any proposed changes to line items in color. Finance Director Jim Cox then stated he felt that was a good suggestion and would make any proposed decreases in red and any proposed increases in blue or green so the proposed changes would be easily identifiable.

Mayor Fenn then asked Mr. Cox if he was happy with the budget with Mr. Cox stating he was very pleased with the budget this year and it came out much better than he originally anticipated. Mr. Cox then stated he was very concerned our health insurance costs would increase dramatically, but we were able to again keep the costs down, so now he can start worrying about it increasing next year dramatically. Mr. Cox then stated he believes our revenue streams are sufficient in that we haven't had to make any of the really hard choices and if the revenue streams stay as projected, the City will make it through this year without having to make any drastic changes, adding he hopes we can go into the next year looking the same way.

Mayor Fenn then thanked Mr. Cox and his staff for their work and Department Heads for their input and stated the budget was lower than last year. Mr. Cox confirmed the budget was \$19,541,000 down from \$22,006,000, adding the basic difference is the addition of the golf course and transit system, which increased our expenditures, but noted in the last budget the City had a \$5.5 million bond issue with only the expenditures of the bonds remaining in the current budget. Mr. Cox then stated he would like to summarize the changes Council directed with the Police Department uniforms increased from \$26,000 to \$32,000, the Police Department vehicles repairs and maintenance increased from \$21,000 to \$23,000, the

Governor's Alliance Recreation Program increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000 and the Employee Council increased from \$800 to \$1,500, adding the increases will be offset by decreasing the unallocated contingency, leaving it at approximately \$742,000. Councilmember Sacco moved to approve Resolution 36-2011. Seconded by Councilmember Maldonado. Motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember McGoffin moved to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Seconded by Mayor Fenn. Motion passed 5-0.

Mark M. Fenn, Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk