

**THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA  
HELD SEPTEMBER 10, 2013, AT 10:00 A.M.  
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6TH STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present were: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr., Vice Mayor Al Sacco, Councilmembers Ron Brooks and Peter Wangsness. Absent were Councilmembers Jeff Cook, Chris Moncada.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Kathy Suagee addressed Council regarding the City Manager interviews. Ms. Suagee's comments will be retained with the Council packet. Councilmember Brooks asked Ms. Suagee where she had previously suggested looking for City Managers with Ms. Suagee stating she had mentioned looking for City Attorneys by advertising the County bar sites.

Dianne Tipton stated the City Council paid \$5,000 to the League of Arizona Cities and Towns to do a search for a City Manager, giving anyone that wanted to, the opportunity to throw their hat in the ring and Mr. Cox chose not to, adding this was understandably so since Mr. Cox has reached point in his life where he would like to focus on being able to retire. Ms. Tipton then stated she felt had Mr. Cox submitted his application in the beginning of the process; he would have been eliminated due to a lack of experience. Ms. Tipton then stated the fact that Mr. Cox has spent a few months as Interim City Manager to help the City because there was no one to serve in that position does not mean Mr. Cox is qualified to be the City Manager, adding she did appreciate him stepping in temporarily. Ms. Tipton then stated according to Mr. Cox's own statement, his desire is to retire, which is relevant because the City will have to repeat this process shortly down the road if Mr. Cox is chosen for this position. Ms. Tipton then stated the City needs someone who can truly lead this City out of the quandary it appears to be in, someone who can focus on economic development for our community and someone who can work with the Council, adding the Council needs to move forward. Ms. Tipton then stated if the Council should choose to start the process all over again and if Mr. Cox is interested in this position at that point, she would encourage him to throw his hat in the ring, but to allow it at this point is side-stepping the process and is not the right thing for the Council to do. Ms. Tipton then urged the Council to inform Mr. Cox that it would be improper and inappropriate to accept his application under these circumstances, noting once again, if the Council decides to open the RFP again, Mr. Cox has every right to apply, but his credentials should be compared to everyone else's and if he is not willing to do that, the Council should not be willing to consider him.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** As per A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(1), Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of public officer, appointee or employee of any public body. The Committee will discuss City Manager interviews.

No executive session was held.

**1. Interview of Stephen Gunty for the position of the City Manager**

The Council interviewed Mr. Stephen Gunty for the position of the City Manager. Mayor King called for a 10 minute recess at 11:00 a.m. Council reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

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No executive session was held.

**2. Interview of Donald Howard for the position of the City Manager**

After Mayor King called the meeting back to order, Councilmember Brooks stated he would be present for part of the interview with Mr. Howard, but would have to leave the meeting due to another commitment. The Council interviewed Mr. Donald Howard for the position of the City Manager. Mayor King then noted Mr. Holsinger would not be available and asked to see if Mr. Jim Cox would be available at 12:00 p.m., then called for a recess until 12:00 p.m. Council reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

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No executive session was held.

**3. Interview of Stephen Holsinger for the position of the City Manager**

No interview was held. Mr. Holsinger had notified the Council he would not be available on this date. (See previous item.)

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No executive session was held.

**4. Interview of Jim Cox for the position of the City Manager**

The Council interviewed Mr. Jim Cox for the position of the City Manager. Mayor King asked for the City Clerk to get the audio of this meeting to all Councilmembers.

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No executive session was held.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Wangsness moved to adjourn at 12:19 p.m. Seconded by Vice Mayor Sacco. Motion passed 3-0.

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Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk