

**THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA  
HELD DECEMBER 10, 2007 AT 7:00 P.M.  
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

**MAYOR FENN  
OPENED THE MEETING AT 7:00 P.M WITH  
THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**PRESENT WERE: MAYOR FENN, VICE MAYOR KING,  
COUNCILMEMBERS LODZINSKI, McGOFFIN, SACCO,  
SUAGEE (arriving at 7:10 p.m.) and TIPTON**

Invocation: Mayor Fenn introduced Pastor Larry Pondoff who gave an invocation.

EMPLOYEE  
RECOGNITION:

Mayor Fenn recognized Albert Alvarez for 20 years of service with the City of Benson.

Mayor Fenn then recognized Leon Vassar for 25 years of service with the City of Benson.

Call to the Public: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: Councilmember McGoffin moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice Mayor King. Motion passed 6-0.

- 1a. Approval of Minutes of the November 26, 2007 Regular Meeting, including Executive Sessions Minutes
- 1b. Resignation of Gary Maluf from the Benson Arts Commission
- 1c. Bills – Authorization for Payment

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action  
regarding the City Employee  
Christmas Bonus; may include  
Whether to award a bonus and  
the amount and type of the  
bonus:

Vice Mayor King addressed Council stating he would like Council to close City Hall offices and give December 24, 2007 (Christmas Eve) off to City Employees as a Christmas bonus. Councilmember Lodzinski agreed. Mayor Fenn then spoke and asked Finance Director Jim Cox to address Council regarding the financial impact of this action. Mr. Cox stated the budgetary effect would be approximately \$1500.00. This would be the equal compensation pay for essential emergency services personnel whom work on December 24, 2007. Councilmember Lodzinski moved to give December 24, 2007 as a full day (8 hours) off for City personnel. Seconded by Councilmember Sacco. Motion passed 5-0 with Councilmember McGoffin abstaining.

Canceling or Rescheduling the  
December 24, 2007, Regular

Council Meeting: Mayor Fenn reminded Council of the work sessions scheduled for December 17, 2007 and asked City Manager Martin Roush if there were any pressing items that needed to be brought forward to Council for action. Mr. Roush stated action items could be brought to Council in January. Vice Mayor King moved to cancel the December 24, 2007 Regular Council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Sacco. Motion passed 7-0.

Presentation to the Council by  
the City Attorney concerning  
parliamentary procedure and  
protocol at Council meetings; this  
may include discussion on open  
meeting law and other laws concerning  
municipal corporate authority:

City Attorney Thomas Benavidez addressed Council stating Attorney Christopher Wencker would be making a power point presentation primarily focusing on parliamentary procedure and that both he and Mr. Wencker would answer any questions Council had. Mr. Benavidez stated that following parliamentary procedure and stating clear motions protects the integrity of Council decisions and helps avoid open meeting law problems. Mr. Benavidez also stated he would like to give presentations to Council in the near future on Conflicts of Interest and Open Meeting Law.

Approval of Change Order with  
K & B Asphalt Company for  
City of Benson, Community  
Development Block Grant #113-07  
Street Improvement (Phase 2) for  
\$29,600.00:

Public Works Director Brad Hamilton addressed Council stating this change order would allow for installation of more access ramps, driveways curbs, drainage splash pads and vertical curbing in the current phase of the street improvements in North Benson. Councilmember Suagee moved to approve the Change Order with K & B Asphalt Company for City of Benson, Community Development Block Grant #113-07 Street Improvement (Phase 2) for \$29,600.00. Seconded by Councilmember McGoffin. Councilmember Sacco noted the date change on the change order and Mr. Hamilton stated this was a change agreed to by both the City and the contractor. Motion passed 7-0.

Authorizing the purchase of  
Personal Protective Clothing for  
the Benson Fire Department from  
LN Curtis and Sons and FDC

Rescue Products: Fire Chief Spangler addressed Council stating this item was the second part of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Grant the Fire Department received. Councilmember Suagee moved to approve Resolution 48-2007. Seconded by Vice Mayor King. Motion passed 7-0.

Extension of Existing Fixed  
Base Operator (FBO) Contract  
for the Benson Municipal

Airport: Public Works Director Brad Hamilton addressed Council requesting the extension of the existing fixed base operator contract to allow staff time to work on a renewal contract. Mr. Hamilton stated several contracts are being examined and he would like to have the airport technical advisory committee

and legal review as well as the current FBO review and comment on the contract before it is brought to Council for action. Councilmember McGoffin moved to approve the extension of the fixed base operator (FBO) Contract for the Benson Municipal Airport. Seconded by Councilmember Tipton. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding the formation of an Economic Development Subcommittee; the appointment of a chairman and other members of the subcommittee; the goals, policies and procedures of the Subcommittee may be discussed:

Councilmember Tipton stated she would like to see the formation of an economic subcommittee for the planning of the strategic plan for the City. Councilmember Tipton stated the Council should be involved in planning the direction that the Council and the City want to go with economic development.

Vice Mayor King stated he would prefer not to take any action regarding a subcommittee until a work session could be had with the Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group, questioning if two committees or groups would be the best option for economic development.

Councilmember Sacco then addressed Council beginning by asking the proposed members of the subcommittee to state their expertise in economic development. Councilmember Sacco then stated he is an advocate of economic growth that would not only expand our existing business base, but also create good paying jobs to keep our existing population from leaving the City, including our children and grandchildren. Councilmember Sacco stated anything to make that happen would have his support, however, his reservations about the proposed subcommittee included the lack of expertise that is needed in the area of economic development if they are to succeed. Councilmember Sacco stated Council needed the best team they could put together that will enhance and work with any organization that would bring business and industry to Benson citing Benson would be competing with other cities for businesses and jobs and therefore to succeed in the quest for economic growth, the City would need outside help. Councilmember Sacco then discussed past economic development committees and if the proposed subcommittee would have the needed time and expertise to succeed. Councilmember Sacco concluded saying the Council should wait on this matter until endorsement of support of the Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group is decided. Councilmember Sacco then moved to table the item until that decision is made and the Council could research subcommittee members that would have networking contacts, business experience and economic development expertise. Motion died for lack of second.

Councilmember Lodzinski then addressed Council stating many economic development prospects are not in the best interest of the City and that Council should do their homework before jumping into economic development opportunities. Councilmember Lodzinski stated his goal was to have a specific strategic plan for economic development, beginning by analyzing the City and one option to accomplish this was to start with a subcommittee. Councilmember Lodzinski stated he felt it would not be wise to spend money on a professional to assist Council yet. Councilmember Lodzinski stated the

subcommittee should meet with existing local businesses and find out what their needs are and to analyze the City's situation. Councilmember Lodzinski stated the subcommittee could be amended, expanded or changed, but he felt it needed to get started. Councilmember Lodzinski stated this subcommittee could work with any Economic Development group.

Councilmember Suagee stated she envisions this subcommittee as a means of defining what it is the Council wants and feels this is an important step before Council contracts, employs or merges with anyone else. Councilmember Suagee then stated she had attended a session on economic development at the League of Arizona's Cities and Towns Conference and recited what could be done to improve downtown economic development. Councilmember Suagee stated Council did not know if this was a concern of the Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group. Councilmember Suagee stated at the conference session, it was noted there were things a private group could do that would benefit a community, but she felt until the Council established goals, they would only be responding to every opportunity brought before Council. Councilmember Suagee then suggested collaboration with League personnel and other community members that would have expertise in economic development.

Councilmember McGoffin stated she was for the subcommittee and it could assist in determining the Council's focus for economic development. Councilmember McGoffin stated Council needed to look at what we could do before committing the Council.

Councilmember Tipton moved for this committee to form an Economic Development Subcommittee with Councilmember John Lodzinski as the chairman. Seconded by Councilmember Suagee. Councilmember Sacco asked Councilmember Tipton what committee was forming the subcommittee. Councilmember Tipton then amended her motion to the City Council forming the Economic Development Subcommittee with Councilmember John Lodzinski as the chairman. Amended motion seconded by Councilmember Suagee.

Mayor Fenn addressed Council regarding the perception of the two economic development entities, the Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group and the proposed subcommittee. Mayor Fenn stated he had recently met with the Governor's office, where economic development presentations were made to Mayors addressing the State's and Municipality's roles in this area also noting that economic development should be looked at regionally. Mayor Fenn stated the Governor's office and staff realize an important resource in this area; the separate 501 entity. The State feels this is the new model for economic development and hopes cities and towns will follow suit. Mayor Fenn stated the City needs to forge working relationships with other entities, citing these entities can be a resource to the City. Mayor Fenn stated the proposed subcommittee would be to establish policy. Mayor Fenn stated the Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group and the proposed subcommittee should work together. Mayor Fenn continued saying the Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group does not have the authority over issues to be brought before Council, such as zoning issues. Only the Council can decide these issues and could follow their constituents' wishes. Mayor Fenn stated a private entity only looks for opportunities and tries to bring economic development to the City and the Council. Mayor Fenn stated the subcommittee was not in competition with the Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group.

Motion passed 5-2 with Vice Mayor King and Councilmember Sacco voting nay.

After discussion regarding the open meeting law and a City Council quorum, Councilmember Suagee moved to appoint Councilmember John Lodzinski as chairman and Councilmember Tipton, Councilmember McGoffin, City Manager Martin Roush, Finance Director Jim Cox and an at large Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group as members. Seconded by Councilmember Lodzinski. Motion passed 5-2 with Vice Mayor King and Councilmember Sacco voting nay.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

Mr. Roush informed Council of the following upcoming events:

The Toy Drive sponsored by the Junior Women's Club and assisted by the Benson Volunteer Fire Department began on November 24, 2007 and will continue until December 15, 2007.

The City of Benson Employee Council held an open house for the Salvation Army Angel Giving Tree on November 28, 2007. The Employee Council still has angels that can be adopted until December 21, 2007.

The City of Benson Employee Council is sponsoring a winter food drive to help the Benson Food Bank. Items may be taken to the Benson Police Department, the Benson Fire Department, City Hall, the Library, the Visitor Center and the Community Center.

On December 11, 2007 Benson's Animal Control is participating at the Movie Gallery/Dollar General Store customer appreciation and will offer a DVD training tape for adopted dogs and cats and the FEMA Animals in Disaster Program. At the last program, two dogs were adopted and food was donated to the Benson Animal Shelter.

**COUNCIL DIRECTIVES:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Councilmember McGoffin moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Tipton. Motion passed 7-0.

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Mark M. Fenn, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Vicki L. Vivian, City Clerk