

**THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD JANUARY 11, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6TH STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Mayor Konrad called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr. (arriving at 6:04 p.m.), Vice Mayor Joe Konrad, Councilmembers Pat Boyle, Levi Garner, David Lambert, Crystal Lewie and Lori McGoffin.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: No report was given.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding an Emergency and/or Special procurement of a 500 KW used Cat 3456 Packaged Genset for the Benson Wastewater Treatment plant for \$140,000**

City Manager Bill Stephens stated the City has a contract with CAT to maintain and repair the current backup generator at the wastewater treatment plant, but during some routine maintenance, it was found that the generator has a cracked radiator, a cracked air-to-air cooler and the list keeps going on and on. Mr. Stephens then stated because a backup generator is needed to keep the wastewater treatment plant running should SSVEC be unable to provide power, a backup generator was rented to have during the normal repairs that have now become a problem, adding the rental cost is approximately \$1,300 a week. Mr. Stephens then stated the routine maintenance is usually quick and simple, but as the technician dug into the engine, multiple problems, such as burned heads and bent valves were found, adding the engine, which is a V-12 natural gas powered engine, needs to be completely rebuilt. Mr. Stephens then stated CAT does have a used diesel engine that doesn't have many hours on it and comes with a 1-year warranty that is available for purchase, adding the listed price for the engine is \$79,000, but CAT is willing to sell it to the City for \$59,000. Mr. Stephens then stated there would be some other costs, such as the shipping and installation, but should the City keep the current backup generator engine, the costs of the repairs, parts that could take up to 6 months to get and the rental of the backup generator could be nearly the same amount as purchase of the used diesel engine. Mr. Stephens then stated the purchase would ensure there is a city-owned backup generator on site and would be a better value for the City, adding Staff recommends approval of the purchase of the used, but newer genset. Mr. Stephens then stated Public Works Director Brad Hamilton was available to answer detailed questions the Council may have and Finance Director Dustin DeSpain was available for any questions in relation to the budget, adding if the purchase is approved, the City would postpone a few projects for a year.

Vice Mayor Konrad turned the meeting over to Mayor King. Mayor King apologized for being late.

Councilmember McGoffin asked about converting the engine from natural gas to diesel and if the diesel engine would be more expensive in the long run with Mr. Hamilton stating the conversion is easy and while the cost of operation may be a bit more expensive, the backup generator has only run a little over 300 hours in 14 years, adding the difference may be about \$1,000 over 14 years. Councilmember McGoffin then asked about the current engine have only 300 hours on it and the engine being proposed that has about 500 hours on it with Mr. Hamilton stating a natural gas engine is a good option if the engine is going to run long periods of time, adding there are hundreds of irrigation engines around Willcox that start and run from the spring to the fall, but when starts and stops, coming on and off for 20 minutes at a time to make sure it's operational, it's worse on the engine. Mr. Hamilton then stated the the diesel engine is also built better and the parts are much more common in all kinds of CAT equipment.

Councilmember Boyle asked how long it would take to get the new engine with Mr. Hamilton stating it is waiting in Mesa and the timeframe all depends on the electrician's schedule to rewire the new generator. Councilmember Boyle then asked if the City would still have the current genset with Mr. Hamilton stating he contacted the Cummins dealer and neither Cummins nor CAT wants the current genset. Councilmember Boyle asked if the generator could be separated from the engine, giving the City surplus equipment with Mr. Hamilton stating the generator would have to be bolted back to a V-12 or something that would be at least 800 horsepower and it would have to be converted if it were going to a different engine.

Councilmember Lambert stated he spent a couple hours with Mr. Hamilton this morning at the wastewater treatment plant and saw the generator and the damage. Councilmember Lambert then stated he has about 20 years of automotive background and noted Mr. Hamilton brought a piston from the engine in, adding anyone can see the top of the piston is completely burned and there is a lot of damage to the inside of the piston walls. Councilmember Lambert then stated his opinion was that the engine was irreparable, adding after the repairs were made, everyone would have to hope it would last and then advised Council to purchase the used CAT engine.

Mayor King asked what projects would have to be postponed with Finance Director Dustin DeSpain stating the current budget contained a line item in the amount of \$200,000 for the UV system at the wastewater treatment plant that would be postponed until the next fiscal year. Mayor King asked what would be done with the current engine with Mr. Hamilton stating he will figure out something, such as selling it for scrap or selling it on the surplus auction site, adding the technician got too deep into it not knowing how bad it was. Mayor King then asked about the timeframe with Mr. Hamilton stating if the Council approved the purchase, he would contact CAT Empire tomorrow morning and the timeframe would depend on the schedules for the truck delivery, the crane and the electricians, adding CAT does understand the urgency due to rental costs, which is why they offered the discount. Mayor King then asked Mr. Hamilton to keep the Council informed on the project.

Councilmember Lambert thanked Mr. Hamilton for the tour of the wastewater treatment plant and urged each Councilmember to tour the facility. Mayor King stated he had been to the treatment plant a few times and it was quite interesting.

Councilmember Lambert moved to approve the emergency and/or special procurement of a 500 KW used Cat 3456 Packaged Genset for the Benson Wastewater Treatment plant for \$140,000. Seconded by Councilmember McGoffin. Motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember McGoffin moved to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Seconded by Vice Mayor Konrad. Motion passed 7-0.

Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk