

**THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA  
HELD NOVEMBER 13, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.  
AT THE BENSON COMMUNITY CENTER, 705 W. UNION STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present were: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr., Vice Mayor Joe Konrad, Councilmembers Pat Boyle, Larry Dempster, Lupe Diaz, and David Lambert. Absent was: Levi Garner.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** None

**PROCLAMATION:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Barbara Nunn, E. La Cuesta Drive, Benson stated she would like to speak about the UPS driver, Mr. Frank Tallie, who has been serving the Benson community for the last 17 years. Ms. Nunn stated Frank's young two-year-old twin son has brain cancer and she would like the community to open their hearts and think about whatever silly thing they have wasted money on and instead, throw money his way, adding there will be an account set up for him at National Bank of Arizona.

Stephen Insalaco, Pinto Place, J6, stated he would like to address Council this evening on agenda item 3, adding the reason Council should vote to approve this grant award is since December 1999, the Benson Municipal Airport has provided the community of Benson with a rich source of general aviation services and employment opportunities which includes AV Gas 100LL and Jet-A refueling services, aircraft rental services, aircraft repair services, and primary and advanced flight instruction, in both fixed-wing and rotor-wing aircraft. Mr. Insalaco stated in addition, many responsible people have earned their pilot wings at Benson's airport, including himself. Mr. Insalaco stated Benson has gained the reputation as one of the premier aircraft repair stations in the state, with pilots bringing their aircraft to Benson from neighboring states. Mr. Insalaco stated the airport has been, and continues to be, the base operations of many fixed-based operators, including numerous aerial photography organizations, past and current; unmanned aerial vehicle operators, and more recently as an alternative site for future manned space-balloon operations. Mr. Insalaco stated the Benson Municipal Airport also serves an important community function for emergency response services in saving lives by providing timely refueling services for air ambulatory flights, in federal, state and county law enforcement aerial support operations, and has many times over, served as the preferred base of operations for federal and state aerial fire-fighting operations, centralized in the Coronado National Forest District; bringing to the airport many unique one-of-a kind fire-fighting aircraft, while saving natural resources. Mr. Insalaco stated the Benson Municipal Airport, continues to function as a source of community recreation in the form of recreational flying, the many airport fly-in events, airport open house events, and as a source of aviation outreach to young members of this community, through mediums like EAA's Young Eagles and free airplane rides to young adults. Mr. Insalaco stated Council has many reasons to feel proud of this airport, not just as a community asset, but also as an important regional asset. Mr. Insalaco stated the ADOT resurfacing proposal presented to Council this evening will preserve the quality of the airport's taxiways and parking aprons, prevent expensive damage to aircraft propellers and turbine ingestion due ground-based foreign object debris and emphasize the community's continued commitment to grow the airport commerce base and contribution to the local community's economic growth. Mr. Insalaco stated he is hopeful that the Council will vote to accept this ADOT

Aeronautics Group grant award. Mr. Insalaco then stated he would like to express many thanks on behalf of Benson's aviation community in the continued support of this vital regional asset.

Paul Lotsof, a non-resident and business owner of the Cave FM radio station in Benson stated the Council is having a Tuesday evening Council meeting for the first time in years and questioned why the regular Council meetings are held on Monday. Mr. Lotsof then stated it turns out that he had some involvement in the selection of Mondays so he's in a good position to deliver a brief history lesson. Mr. Lotsof stated he got interested in the City Council meetings in about 1985 when meetings were held on Wednesdays, adding he was pretty sure the meetings had been conducted on Wednesdays for many years. Mr. Lotsof then stated one of the things he noticed was that because the local newspaper came out on Wednesdays, it took the paper an entire week to report on what the Council had done, adding in George Washington's day there were daily newspapers and it wasn't necessary to wait a week to get the news. Mr. Lotsof stated he figured that he could perform a valuable community service by covering Council meetings and reporting on them six days before the newspaper's report came out, so he began doing just that, adding he also promoted the fact that Benson residents no longer had to wait an entire week to find out what the Council had done. Mr. Lotsof then stated it didn't take long before the newspaper's management found out that they had been outclassed, adding at the time the paper's publisher was a man named Greg LaFreniere, who then came to a Council meeting during the call to the public and appeared to be quite irate. Mr. Lotsof stated Mr. LaFreniere didn't request that Council meetings be moved; he demanded that they be moved to an earlier day. Mr. Lotsof stated the Council wasted no time in moving the Council meetings from Wednesday evenings to Tuesday evenings, adding the switch to Tuesdays took away a lot of his time advantage, reducing it from a week to a day but he continues to cover Council meetings. Mr. Lotsof then stated Tuesdays proved to be a problem and those problems continue to this very day; then asked why the Council meets on Mondays. Mr. Lotsof then stated he never thought he would see the day when the newspaper discontinued covering City Council meetings on a routine basis, adding the paper's new management apparently thinks that it costs more than it is worth to send a reporter to Council meetings. Mr. Lotsof then stated his best suggestion is to switch the meetings back to Wednesdays and be done with all the problems that Monday meetings pose and he hopes the Council will consider his proposal. Mr. Lotsof then thanked the Council for listening.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

Public Works Director Brad Hamilton addressed Council, giving the dates of upcoming meetings and events.

Saturday, November 17, 2018 – Historic Preservation Commission, 9:00 a.m., Long Realty  
Monday, November 19, 2018 – Planning & Zoning Commission, 6:00 p.m., Community Center  
Monday, November 26, 2018 – City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Center

Thursday & Friday  
November 22 & 23, 2018 – **Thanksgiving Holiday, City Offices Closed**

Saturday, December 1, 2018 – Festival of Lights – Light Parade, Floats that best represent the Theme “Winter Wonderland”, will be awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes!

Win prizes by donating non-perishable food items for the Benson Food Bank – Drop off items anytime at City Hall, the Visitors Center, the Community Center and the Tree Lighting.

The Light Parade starts at 6:00 p.m. Santa will be attending the Christmas Tree Lighting at Benson City Hall, 120 W. 6th Street. The Christmas Tree Lighting starts immediately following the Light Parade.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Discussion and possible action on the Consent Agenda**

- 1a. Authorization of expenditures to lease/purchase Police Department Patrol vehicles under approved budget CIP Project PD 19-01
- 1b. Invoices processed for the period from October 12, 2108 through November 2, 2018

Vice Mayor Konrad moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Boyle. Motion passed 6-0.

2. **Recognition of City Council from Benson Youth Council for League of Cities Participation**

Mayor King invited the Youth Council to come forward. Youth Council Chair Kaileigh Thompson stated the Youth Council would like to say “thank you” to the Council for the opportunity to attend the Arizona League of Cities and Towns annual conference.

The Youth Council then presented Council with a signed photograph.

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 34-2018 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, to participate the state of Arizona Department of Transportation Aeronautics Group Airport pavement management system program for improvements at the Benson Municipal Airport**

Public Works Director Brad Hamilton stated this grant is a 90/10 matching grant for the State of Arizona’s Airport Pavement Management System (APMS) for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. Mr. Hamilton then stated the grant from the State of Arizona is to complete the Resurfacing of the Taxiways and Apron at the Benson Airport, adding the City would be responsible for 10 percent of the cost (\$29,248.10). Mr. Hamilton then stated this project would take place in this budget year and would be administered by ADOT.

Mayor King asked if the funding was in the budget with Mr. Hamilton stating the City had anticipated the grant to be approved about 3 years ago and has had the funding in each budget waiting for the approval.

Councilmember Boyle moved to approve Resolution 34-2018. Seconded by Vice Mayor Konrad. Motion passed 6-0.

4. **Discussion and possible action to Cancel the Regular Council meeting scheduled for November 26, 2018**

Public Works Director Brad Hamilton stated the second regular Council meeting falls on November 26 and due to the Thanksgiving Holiday being observed on Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23, there would be limited time to prepare a Council packet and limited time for Council to review said packet. Mr. Hamilton then stated the Council could choose to cancel the regular meeting and as in the past, if any pressing issues need to come before the Council, a Special Meeting could be called.

Councilmember Lambert moved to approve the cancellation of the November 26, 2018 Regular Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Dempster. Motion passed 6-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) & (7), for discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body and discussions or consultations with the Mayor and Council’s designated representatives to consider its position and possibly instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of city-owned real property, including discussion of a possible land swap.

Councilmember Dempster moved to enter into an executive session with the Mayor and Council, the Deputy City Clerk, with the City Attorney on the phone and Acting City Manager Brad Hamilton at 7:24 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Diaz. Motion passed 6-0.

Council reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** No comments from Council.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice Mayor Konrad moved to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Dempster. Motion passed 6-0.

ATTEST:

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Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

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Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk