

**THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA  
HELD NOVEMBER 23, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.  
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6TH STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor King then introduced Pastor Lupe Diaz of Grace Chapel who offered the invocation.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present were: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr., Councilmembers Jeff Cook, Joe Konrad, David Lambert and Chris Moncada.

Absent were: Vice Mayor Lori McGoffin and Councilmember Pat Boyle

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** None

**PROCLAMATION:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Suzanne Van Skike, Empire Road, Mescal, stated she was upset with the article printed in the San Pedro News Sun as she felt it questioned her integrity. Ms. Van Skike stated the article also reported that the current Animal Control officer has help from the Department of Correction workers, adding while it is true a worker comes in four times a week, that worker or any other volunteer can't do everything the Animal Control officer does. Ms. Van Skike then expressed concern over how she felt the current Animal Control Officer is being treated since people have spoken at the Call to the Public, but noted she is glad to see the part-time job for the animal shelter had been posted internally.

Angela Roberts, Pearl Street, Benson, Arizona, stated the two-day suspension given to the Animal Control Officer was unjust and unfair.

Stephen Insalaco, a non-resident of Benson, expressed his doubts over the Villages of Vigneto being able to deliver 23,000 new homes over the next twenty years. Mr. Insalaco also expressed concerns about the ground water supply should 23,000 new homes be built, adding this will not only affect the residents of the City of Benson, but will affect everyone in the local area. Mr. Insalaco stated he also wondered if the local businesses had considered the need for housing and other supplies that would be needed by construction workers.

Jeanette Robichaud, Duane Street, Benson, stated her and her family like the sound of the train whistles; she also gave examples of the safety issues around having quiet zones and questioned whether the City of Benson has the money available to fund this kind of project. Ms. Robichaud stated she is not in favor of quiet zones in the City of Benson.

Randy Robichaud, Duane Street, Benson, stated he loves the sound of the train and the whistle from the train going through town and questioned the safety of a quiet zone. Mr. Robichaud also had concerns about the ongoing costs and stated it is his opinion that most of the citizens of the City of Benson like the sound of the train whistle. Mr. Robichaud stated he is not in favor of quiet zones.

Barbara Nunn, La Cuesta Drive, Benson, stated at the last Call to the Public there was a veiled threat about Stage Coach Trails and how a local business here might turn into just that, adding three months ago she stood here and said the Council should tread with great caution or the said business could become the next Stage

Coach Trails. Ms. Nunn then stated the City has a very professional Attorney who she believes will not lead the Council down the wrong path if they follow his advice. Ms. Nunn then stated it was also mentioned that the City of Benson will not let a business improve its property.

Dave Thompson, La Cuesta Drive, Benson, Arizona, stated three months ago he stood here and mentioned that a local business was having trouble getting themselves legal and organized, adding he mentioned the fact that the Mayor had asked the business owner if he had received an offer from a local contractor to help him through the issues and the local business owner said he did not recall. Mr. Thompson then stated he talked to the local contractor who had made the offer and the offer still stands. Mr. Thompson then asked why the local business has not taken advantage of this offer.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

City Manager William Stephens addressed Council, giving the dates of upcoming meetings and events.

Tuesday, December 1, 2015	– Planning & Zoning Public Hearing & Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
Wednesday, December 2, 2015	– Benson Economic Development Committee, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
Tuesday, December 8 2015	– Library Advisory Board, 4:00 p.m., City Library
Monday, December 14, 2015	– City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
Wednesday, December 16, 2015	– Community Watershed Alliance, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
Monday, December 28, 2015	– City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall

Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27, 2015	– Thanksgiving Holiday – City Offices Closed
Saturday, December 12, 2015	– Festival of Lights – Light Parade, Floats that best represent the theme “The Musical Magic of Christmas” will be awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes! This year’s theme was chosen by the Congregate Meals Program participants. The Parade starts at 6:30 p.m. Following the parade, Santa will be attending the Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Benson Museum located at 180 S. San Pedro Street in Benson.

Thursday and Friday, December 24 & 25, 2015	– Christmas Holidays – City Offices Closed
Thursday, December 31, 2015 and Friday January 1, 2016	– New Year’s Holidays – City Offices Closed

Mr. Stephens then stated for more events in Benson, the public could visit the City’s website: [www.cityofbenson.com](http://www.cityofbenson.com) under “What to do Today.”

Mayor King stated the Benson Bobcats had won their last football game and that the football team would be leaving the City this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and urged the citizens of Benson to line the streets and support them. The High School will be running a free bus to the game and the cost to get in the game will be \$10. Councilmember Moncada stated that there will be a prep rally at 6:30 p.m. on November 25 at the High School.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

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

- 1a. Minutes of the October 12, 2015 Regular Meeting
- 1b. Appointment of Andrew Abernathy to the Benson Planning & Zoning Commission
- 1c. Invoices processed for the period from October 30, 2015 through November 12, 2015

Councilmember Moncada moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Lambert. Motion passed 5-0.

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding adoption of the Planning & Zoning Commission Bylaws**

City Attorney Gary Cohen stated this item is the bylaws of the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission that were adopted by the commission in January, 2005, adding his understanding is there have been no issues in the nine years that the bylaws have been in existence, however, the bylaws should be brought before Mayor and Council for formal approval. Mr. Cohen stated it was brought to his attention that even though the P&Z Commission has been following all the laws, it should point out who is responsible for taking minutes and posting agendas. Mr. Cohen then asked the Mayor and Council to approve the bylaws, adding he would then advise the P&Z that the bylaws be reviewed and if any changes or updates are recommended, they would be brought back before Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Moncada moved to approve the adoption of the Planning & Zoning Commission bylaws. Seconded by Councilmember Konrad. Motion passed 5-0

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 29-2015 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, approving an application for a Fair/Festival License for Rancho Maria Vineyards, for December 12, 2015 at Quarles Art Gallery, 196 E. 4th Street, Benson, Arizona**

After a brief discussion, Councilmember Moncada moved to approve Resolution 29-2015. Seconded by Mayor King. Motion passed 5-0.

4. **Discussion and possible action regarding a budget for the Benson Economic Development Committee**

This item was put on the Agenda by Councilmember Moncada. Councilmember Moncada stated in a conversation with the Benson Economic Development Committee, he had been made aware that they have been traveling to various meetings/appointments at their own expense and he thinks the City should have a budget of \$500 for the Benson Economic Committee to use for incurred expenses.

Mayor and Council discussed the types of expenses that would be reimbursable and how the expenses would be monitored. Council also discussed liability of the Benson Economic Development Committee using their own vehicles for City business.

Mayor King moved to approve up to \$500 to the Benson Economic Development Committee for reimbursement by the City Manager in his discretion to be consistent with the policies the City Manager will draft. Seconded by Councilmember Moncada. Motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Cook voting nay.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3) and/or (4), discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney(s) of the public body, and/or discuss or consult with said attorney(s), about its position and instructing its attorneys about contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation, or in settlement discussions to avoid or resolve litigation involving operations at the Benson Municipal Airport.

Councilmember Moncada moved to enter into an executive session with Mayor and Council, the City Manager, the City Attorney, the Public Works Director, Finance Director and the Deputy City Clerk at 7:57 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Konrad. Motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Lambert voting nay.

Council reconvened at 9:11 p.m.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Moncada moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Lambert. Motion passed 5-0.

ATTEST:

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Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

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Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk