

**THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD NOVEMBER 25, 2019 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 7:01 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 Barbara Nunn. Absent was: Councilmember Nick Maldonado.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

Mayor King recognized Racheal Flick for 5 years of service with the City. Mayor King thanked Ms. Flick for her service; then presented a plaque to her.

Mayor King then recognized Gary Douglas for 20 years of service with the City and presented a plaque to Mr. Douglas, thanking him for his service.

PROCLAMATION: None

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager Vicki Vivian addressed Council, giving the dates of upcoming meetings and events.

Monday, December 2, 2019 – Public Forum - City Projects, 6:00 p.m., Community Center
Tuesday, December 3, 2019 – Planning & Zoning Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Community Center
Monday, December 9, 2019 – City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Center
Monday, December 16, 2019 – City Council Worksession, 1:00 p.m., Community Center
Monday, December 23, 2019 – City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Center

Thursday & Friday
November 28 & 29, 2019 – Thanksgiving Holiday, City Offices Closed

Friday, December 6, 2019 – Benson City Grille
Hosting Mr. & Mrs. Claus Storytime Dinner, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Adults \$20 and Kids \$15
Menu includes Rosemary Turkey with Cranberry Sauce or Honey Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Bean Casserole with House Salad or Soup and a Roll. Kids get to make a keepsake ornament and get a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Reservations required – Seats are limited.

Saturday, December 7, 2019 – Benson City Grille
Hosting Mr. & Mrs. Claus Storytime Breakfast, 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Adults \$15 and Kids \$12
Pancakes or French Toast, your choice ham or bacon and scrambled eggs.
Get a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus and make a keepsake ornament.

Reservations required – Seats are limited.

Saturday, December 7, 2019 – Festival of Lights – Light Parade, Floats that best represent the Theme “Christmas Movie”, 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 at 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.

Benson /San Pedro Chamber of Commerce is hosting Christmas Off Main at Apache Park from 9 am to 4 pm Saturday, Free carriage rides, photo booths, plenty of family activities, vendors and food.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and possible action on the Consent Agenda

- 1a. Minutes of the September 23, 2019 Regular Meeting
- 1b. Minutes of the October 14, 2019 Regular Meeting
- 1c. Minutes of the October 29, 2019 Regular Meeting
- 1d. Invoices processed for the period from October 17, 2019 through November 3, 2019
- 1e. Invoices processed for the period from November 4, 2019 through November 13, 2019

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

2. Recognition from the Benson/San Pedro Valley Chamber of Commerce for the Butterfield Stage Days and Christmas Off Main Sponsorship

City Manager Vicki Vivian stated Ms. Najayyah Many Horses from the Benson/San Pedro Valley Chamber of Commerce requested to be placed on the agenda to recognize the City Council for their sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce events: Butterfield Stage Days and Christmas Off Main.

Ms. Many Horses stated she would like to thank Council for believing in the Chamber and the sponsorship donation. Ms. Many Horses then presented the City with a plaque for the Butterfield Stage Days, adding the City of Benson was named a Stagecoach Handler. Ms. Many Horses then stated the City’s support allowed the Chamber of Commerce to showcase the history of Benson while bringing the community together for great fun and entertainment and because of the City Council’s support, their goal of community unity has been strengthened.

Mayor King accepted the plaque on behalf of the Council.

There was no Council discussion.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the cancellation or rescheduling of the December 23, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

City Manager Vicki Vivian stated the second Regular Council meeting falls on December 23, the week of Christmas, adding in the past, the Council has cancelled the regular meeting when it falls this close to Christmas.

Ms. Vivian then stated if there are any pressing issues that need to come before the Council, a Special Meeting could be called.

Mayor King stated Council has canceled meetings in the past that are so close to Christmas and agreed that if something urgent comes up, the Council could have a special meeting. Mayor King then stated he feels it's the right thing to do. After no questions or Council discussion, Mayor King moved to approve the cancellation of the December 23, 2019 Regular Council Meeting. Seconded by Vice Mayor Konrad. Motion passed 6-0.

4. **Discussion and possible action regarding additional time off for the holidays in recognition of City Employee Service**

City Manager Vicki Vivian stated during this holiday time of year, the City Council gives direction on how to thank Staff for their service to the City of Benson and the service they provide to the Community, adding in recent years, the City Council has recognized Staff's service with an additional day off at Christmas and New Year's. Ms. Vivian then stated as normal, the essential services would still be covered, then noted this year Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Wednesdays. Ms. Vivian then stated a possibility would be to approve Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31 as additional time off, noting this was done in 2013 when the holidays fell on Wednesdays.

Mayor King stated this is Council's way of saying thank you to the City employees and it is something they employees appreciate most, adding they get to spend time with their families.

Councilmember Nunn stated it's a good way to recognize employees for the good job they have done all year; then moved to approve additional time off. Finance Director Seth Judd asked if the motion could specify the hours for full-time and part-time employees, adding it would be very beneficial for the payroll department in administering payroll. City Attorney Gary Cohen then asked if Mr. Judd could further explain his request with Mr. Judd stating last year, the Council approved granting 8 regular hours to full-time employees and 4 regular hours to part-time employees and closed City offices on December 24 and December 31.

Councilmember Nunn so moved. Mayor King asked for clarification on the dates with Mr. Judd stating the dates could be Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31. Councilmember Nunn stated her motion was as Mr. Judd stated. Seconded by Councilmember Dempster. Motion passed 6-0.

5. **Discussion during and/or after presentation by City staff of City Finances, with emphasis on September 30, 2019 financial results and the City's financial position on September 30, 2019**

Finance Director Seth Judd stated he would be presenting financials for September 2019, adding as a point of reference that only 25 percent of our Fiscal Year, which runs from July 1 thru September 30, had passed at that time. Mr. Judd then stated in September, Citywide collections were \$752,098, compared to \$713,045 which was an increase of \$39,053 from September of 2018. Mr. Judd then stated some of the increase could be attributed to an increase in sales tax, grant money and the lantern festival which was more successful this year. Mr. Judd then reported year-to-date City collections were \$3,278,583, adding last September, the collections were \$2,636,468, noting the significant increase of \$1,386,747. Mr. Judd then reported expenses for the month of September were \$978,197, which was \$219,566 more than September of last year and year-to-date were \$2,636,468 which increased \$143,046 over last year at this time. Mr. Judd explained the City's net position for the month of September was -\$226,099 and in September of 2018 was -\$45,586 which is a higher deficit than 2018 at this time, however, the year-to-date net position for September 2019 is \$642,115, up from -\$601,585, which is an increase of \$1,243,700. Mr. Judd then reported the City audit was complete, but noted the auditors are still collecting information and the results will be coming to Council at a future meeting

There was no Council discussion.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Boyle moved to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Nunn. Motion passed 6-0.

ATTEST:

Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk