

**THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2012, 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 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr., Vice Mayor Lori McGoffin, Councilmembers Ron Brooks, David Lambert, Chris Moncada and Al Sacco. Excused was Councilmember Nick Maldonado.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

None

PROCLAMATION:

None

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor King opened the public hearing to receive comments and questions from the public regarding the Home Rule Option (Alternative Expenditure Limitation) at 7:01 p.m. stating no one had signed up for the public hearing and asked if there were comments from any others present who wished to speak. After receiving no comments from the public, Mayor King closed the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

City Manager Glenn Nichols addressed Council, introducing Megan Moreno, the City's new Assistant Finance Director. Mr. Nichols stated Ms. Moreno is a local graduate of Benson High School who then went on to get a Bachelor of Science in Accounting before obtaining her Masters degree in Public Administration. Mr. Nichols then stated Ms. Moreno had been working for the Auditor General since 2007 and he was pleased she would be starting with the City on November 13, 2012. Mayor King then welcomed Ms. Moreno to the City.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager Glenn Nichols addressed Council, giving the dates of upcoming meetings and events.

- November 6, 2012 – Planning & Zoning Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- November 13, 2012 – Library Advisory Board, 4:00 p.m., Library
- November 17, 2012 – Historic Preservation Commission, 9:00 a.m., City Hall
- November 26, 2012 – City Council Worksession, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- November 27, 2012 – Community Watershed Alliance, 6:30 p.m., City Hall

- November 6, 2012 – Election Day
- November 12, 2012 – Veterans Day – City Offices Closed
- November 13, 2012 – City Council Candidate Packets Available
- November 22-23, 2012 – Thanksgiving Holiday – City Offices Closed

Mr. Nichols reminded those present of the continuing work on the Interstate 10/State Route 90 Traffic Interchange project, adding up-to-date information can be found at www.azdot.gov. Mayor King then reminded those present to vote on Election Day.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consent Agenda

1a. Invoices processed for the period from October 19, 2012 through October 26, 2012

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

2. Contract for Dispatch Services between St. David Fire District and the City of Benson

Chief of Police Paul Moncada addressed Council stating this is the third of three contracts for the fire districts in the area, adding Council approved the first two at the last Council meeting. Vice Mayor McGoffin asked if there was a line item in the budget for the income resulting from these contracts with Mr. Cox indicating there was. Councilmember Brooks asked if there were any differences from the other contracts with Chief Moncada stating the only differences were the services the City would provide as listed on Appendix A since Mescal Fire District provides EMS services and St. David and Pomerene do not, adding the contract is identical to the contract for Pomerene, and the amount being charged for the services. Councilmember Moncada then moved to approve the contract for dispatch services between the St. David Fire District and the City of Benson. Seconded by Councilmember Lambert. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Resolution 57-2012 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, proposing an extension of the Alternative Expenditure Limitation

Finance Director Jim Cox stated every 4 years, the City of Benson must hold an election to address Home Rule in order for the City to maintain its annual practice of approving expenditures equal to the City's annual budget, adding the alternative is to follow a State-imposed limitation. Vice Mayor McGoffin asked if the issue would be on the ballot during the upcoming 2013 election cycle with City Clerk Vicki Vivian stating the issue would be on the ballot for the Primary election held in March, 2013. Councilmember Moncada then moved to approve Resolution 57-2012. Seconded by Vice Mayor McGoffin. Motion passed 6-0.

4. Resolution 58-2012 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, designating the Election date and purpose of Election, designating the deadline for Voter registration and designating the place and the last date for candidates to file nomination papers

City Clerk Vicki Vivian addressed Council stating Resolution 58-2012 declares the upcoming election, the purpose for the election, gives voter registration deadlines and designates the place of the election. Ms. Vivian then stated the important dates to note for the election were November 13, when Candidate packets would be available at the Clerks office, December 12, when the Candidate forms were due to the City Clerk's office, the Primary election date of March 12, the General election date of May 23, as well as voter registration deadlines and deadlines for write-in candidates. Ms. Vivian then stated the resolutions and several display ads would be in the local newspaper informing the public and encouraging voter participation. Vice Mayor McGoffin asked if the City did anything to solicit candidates with Ms. Vivian stating she and the City Manager hold a candidate forum, which is announced and posted each election cycle, for anyone who may consider running for Council. Councilmember Sacco asked how many positions were up for election with Ms. Vivian stating in each election, 3 Councilmembers and the Mayor are elected. Councilmember Lambert asked about the candidate forum with Ms. Vivian stating the forum

was held on November 1, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., covering the services the City offers and the election process, adding 1 person attended. Councilmember Brooks verified candidate packets were still available with Ms. Vivian stating they would be available in the Clerk's office beginning November 13 and candidate forms must be submitted to the Clerk's office by December 12 at 5:00 p.m. Councilmember Brooks then moved to approve Resolution 58-2012. Seconded by Vice Mayor McGoffin. Motion passed 6-0.

5. **Resolution 59-2012 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, seeking Voter approval to adopt a Local Alternative Expenditure Limitation (Home Rule Option) to apply to the City of Benson for the next four years**

Finance Director Jim Cox stated this resolution contains the projection tables of the City's projected budget for the next 5 years along with the estimates of the State-imposed limitation for the next 5 years, adding the tables will be included in the application letter he will send to the Auditor General. Councilmember Brooks noted an increase in federal money revenues in Fiscal Year 2015-2016, asking if the City would be limited to the lower amount if the federal money is not received with Mr. Cox stating these are best faith estimates, but the actual budget limitation will be set by the Council each year through the Council approved budget. Councilmember Brooks then noted the increases each year with Mr. Cox stating there is a small increase in each annual budget from an operating perspective, but the larger numbers in Fiscal Years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 are actually based on some very large anticipated grants, particularly at the airport. Vice Mayor McGoffin then noted the General Fund in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 decreased from Fiscal Year 2015-2016, with Mr. Cox stating the changes there are related to anticipated grants and their allocation, adding there is an anticipated park grant in our Capital Improvement Plan. Councilmember Moncada then moved to approve Resolution 59-2012. Seconded by Councilmember Lambert. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Vice Mayor McGoffin asked City Attorney Mike Masee if she should remove herself from the issue with Mr. Masee stating that would be an excellent idea. Vice Mayor McGoffin then removed herself from the dais. Councilmember Moncada asked Mr. Masee if he should do the same and Mr. Masee stated Councilmember Moncada's father is an exempt employee, but due to Councilmember Moncada's brother being non-exempt, he should, as well. Councilmember Moncada then stated he would not participate in the item. City Manager Glenn Nichols then addressed Council, stating during the holiday season, Council decides what to do for employees, adding this year both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Tuesday and it was his recommendation to grant the Monday preceding those days as additional holidays for the employees. Mr. Nichols then stated the recommendation would be for each full-time and exempt employee to receive 8 hours of holiday pay, for part-time employees who work between 20-39 hours, to receive 4 hours of holiday pay and for part-time employees with less than 19 hours to receive 2 hours of holiday pay. Mr. Nichols then stated records from the first of the year to October 19 would be used to determine an employee's status. Mayor King stated this is something the Council has done over the last few years and he feels it is a big benefit to the employees, allowing them time to travel and be with their families. Councilmember Sacco agreed. Councilmember Lambert stated he also agrees, adding it helps build morale and is one of the things Council can do for their employees. Councilmember Brooks agreed. Mayor King then moved to approve the recommendation of additional holiday time as recommended by Mr. Nichols. Seconded by Councilmember Brooks. Motion passed 4-0.

7. **Discussion and possible action regarding the cancellation of the December 24, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting**

Councilmember Brooks moved to cancel the December 24, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Moncada. Motion passed 6-0.

8. **Additional discussion and possible action regarding the recent authorization of funds from the Community Enrichment Fund and direction to Staff to promote a Tree Lighting Ceremony and Light Parade in conjunction with the San Pedro Valley Arts & Historical Society**

City Manager Glenn Nichols stated Councilmembers Brooks and Sacco asked for this item to be back on the agenda. Mr. Nichols then stated he found out earlier tonight that the Chamber has decided to hold Christmas on Main Street at the corner of 4th Street and Land, but the City had moved forward with an agreement to hold the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at the museum since the Chamber had not decided anything earlier. Mr. Nichols then stated there was a schedule of planned activities at the museum and there had been talk of possibly being able to close off part of the street for the event. Mr. Nichols then stated the location of the tree lighting could be moved in future years, but due to the timeframe, he recommends leaving it as is for this year. Discussion then focused on where the event was being held with the discussion including the traffic and safety issues on 4th Street, the fact that 4th Street belongs to ADOT and the ability to close down other streets in the City. The consensus of the Council was to hold the event at the museum this year, but to look at other options in the future, to see if there was a place where the tree could be seen from 4th Street. Council then discussed decorations at the Visitor Center and placing lights and decorations on the trees along 4th Street, with Mr. Nichols stating Staff had considered lighting the trees along 4th Street, but there was no power close to those trees to make it viable on such short notice, adding the land there has a lease/park option with Union Pacific and the City was allowed to put trees up as a barrier against the noise. Mr. Nichols then stated he would look into bringing power in the future, but it was cost prohibitive at this time. Council then discussed having businesses sponsoring those trees in the future and directed Staff to place more decorations at the Visitor Center and to decorate the trees along 4th Street without using lights. Council also directed Mr. Nichols to look into the lighted wreaths bought for the City by Benson Clean and Beautiful and replace lights that weren't working.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Lambert moved to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. Seconded by Vice Mayor McGoffin. Motion passed 6-0.

Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk