

**THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA  
HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.  
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6TH STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor King called the Council to order at 7:05 p.m. and then welcomed the Boy Scouts Troop #406 and #420 who lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor King then introduced Pastor Ron York of the Peace in the Valley Lutheran Church who offered the invocation.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:**

The Mayor recognized Drayson Harris for 5 years of service with the City.

**PROCLAMATION:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Marchelle Keith, address not given, stated she was with the Benson Hospital and then spoke about a new Resource Council, the "BCRC" – Benson Community Resource Council. Ms. Keith stated the BCRC has over 25 agencies and resources to help loved ones and caregivers get an hour or two to themselves. Ms. Keith invited the Council and the public to come to the Benson Hospital to find out what the BCRC is all about.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

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

- |                              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Tuesday, February 27, 2018   | – | Community Watershed Alliance, 6:30 p.m., City Hall  |
| Tuesday, March 6, 2018       | – | Planning & Zoning Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall   |
| Monday, March 12, 2018       | – | Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall   |
| Saturday, March 17, 2018     | – | Historic Preservation Commission, 9:00 a.m., City Hall  |
| Wednesday, February 28, 2018 | – | Genealogy – Family History Workshop, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.<br>"Roots" and How to find them! Free to the Public<br>LDS Meetinghouse 381 N. Pomerene Road, Benson<br>Questions 602-888-3685 |
| Saturday, March 10, 2018     | – | Benson City Grille, San Pedro Golf Course<br>Will be having a Wine Tasting from 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.<br>Ranch Maria Vineyards - Benson  |
| Saturday, March 17, 2018     | – | Benson City Grille, San Pedro Golf Course<br>Will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day dinner from 5:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.<br>Corned Beef and Cabbage  |

Ms. Vivian then stated for a full list of events, activities, locations and times, the public could view the City's website at [www.cityofbenson.com](http://www.cityofbenson.com)

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

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

- 1a. Minutes of the February 12, 2018 Regular Meeting
- 1b. Minutes of the February 5, 2018 Special Meeting
- 1c. Minutes of the November 27, 2017 Regular Meeting
- 1d. Minutes of the October 23, 2017 Worksession
- 1e. Minutes of the September 25, 2017 Regular Meeting
- 1f. Minutes of the September 25, 2017 Worksession
- 1g. Minutes of the June 12, 2017 Regular Meeting
- 1h. Minutes of the June 5, 2017 Special Meeting
- 1i. Invoices processed for the period from February 5, 2018 through February 14, 2018

Councilmember Lambert moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Boyle. Motion passed 7-0.

### **2. Discussion and possible action to direct Staff to engage the Benson Future Business Leaders of Arizona (FBLA) for the benefit of the community and to further student education**

Interim City Manager Vicki Vivian stated this item is on the agenda at the request of Councilmember Dempster, who has served as a business advisor to the Future Business Leaders of Arizona (FBLA) in the past. Ms. Vivian then stated she reached out to the FBLA Sponsor Megan Moreno at the Benson High School who expressed interest in having the FBLA partner with the City for such opportunities and in being the liaison between the City and the FBLA. Ms. Vivian then stated Ms. Moreno also expressed interest in working with Ms. Lamb as an additional liaison/chaperone for the Youth Council, should it be approved. Ms. Vivian then stated she also contacted Mr. Micha Mortenson, the Superintendent of the Benson School District on Friday afternoon and she expects to receive a response that is supportive of this endeavor, adding she will notify the Council as soon as she receives a response.

After a brief discussion, Councilmember Dempster stated he would like to withdraw this item, which died for lack of a motion.

### **3. Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 5-2018 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, establishing a Youth Council and encouraging the participation of Benson and St. David High School Students**

Interim City Manager Vicki Vivian stated the City Council recently received a letter from Ms. Kaileigh Thompson requesting the creation of a Youth Council, adding Ms. Thompson feels a Youth Council would help the youth work closely with influential members of the community, gain leadership skills they could not get anywhere else, and understand the importance of working hard and being involved in their community. Ms. Vivian then stated in addition, Ms. Thompson feels it would provide the participating youth with volunteer opportunities that allow them to assist the City and learn how our City operates. Ms. Vivian then stated after the Council received Ms. Thompson's letter, several Councilmembers, including Mayor King, Vice Mayor Konrad and Councilmember Lambert contacted her about creating a Youth Council. Ms. Vivian then stated Councilmember Lambert championed this idea in 2011, but when she contacted the school at that time, the Administrator felt there would not be the needed participation due to the students being involved in many year-round activities. Ms. Vivian then stated when Councilmember Lambert received the letter, he contacted Ms. Linda Lamb, who offered to serve as a liaison for the Youth Council, adding Councilmember Lambert then had a meeting with Ms. Lamb and Ms. Thompson arranged to discuss the Youth Council in more detail. Ms. Vivian then stated she also communicated with Mr. Micha Mortenson, the Superintendent of the Benson School District and received a response that is supportive of the Youth Council. Ms. Vivian then stated the proposed resolution to create the Youth Council approves Ms. Thompson as the Chair and will allow her to work with City Staff and

School District personnel to formally establish the Youth Council and begin its operation. If approved, Staff will contact Ms. Thompson and the Council will be kept up-to-date on the progress and activity of the Youth Council.

Councilmember Lambert then opened the floor for discussion and stated Ms. Kaileigh Thompson is present for questions.

Mayor King asked Ms. Thompson why she feels she would like to start a Youth Council with Ms. Thompson stating she wants something to outlast her in her high school career and wants students to get involved in more than one club.

Vice Mayor Konrad asked if Ms. Thompson could give the Council a rundown on the process to create the Youth Council with Ms. Thompson stating there will be an application process for Benson High School, St. David High School, home schooled students and 8th graders who will be in High School next year, adding students will fill out the application and City Staff will choose members and officers. Vice Mayor Konrad asked about the timeline with Ms. Thompson stating she would like everyone appointed and to know what they're doing by the end of the summer. Councilmember Lambert stated it was put on the agenda now, so the Council can have it put together by the Legal of Arizona Cities & Towns Annual Conference.

Councilmember Garner stated until a couple weeks ago, he had never heard of a Youth Council and asked what Youth Councils do with Ms. Thompson stating the Youth Council is similar to a Student Council but is for the entire City and will do what their City will allow.

Councilmember Dempster asked how much money the Youth Council will need with Ms. Thompson stating she was not sure, but it wouldn't be very much. Councilmember Dempster asked if the expenditures could be a line item in the City's financials, then stated he was a little confused and asked if the school administration was fully aware of this and knew what it was. Councilmember Dempster then asked if the school supported it and was going to fund with Ms. Thompson stating Micha Mortenson approves of it, but the school will not be as involved as the City will and will not be funding it or be responsible for it, adding it will be up to the members of the Youth Council and the City.

Councilmember Dempster asked if the trips the Youth Council makes or the projects they will do be within the community, if they will come to Council meetings and what it is that the Youth Council will do with Ms. Thompson stating the Youth Council will do volunteer work for the City, they will be attending City meetings to learn how the City operates and to learn what the City Council does.

Mayor King stated the Youth Council will basically gain an outlook on what City government is all about and what happens in different areas of the City, adding they will learn about what each one of our jobs is all about and what the Council does.

Ms. Thompson said the Youth Council will be mimicking what the City Council does and will have officers and Councilmembers, adding they will learn through their own experience by following the Council. Mayor King asked Ms. Thompson if she was aware that some Council meetings could last until 10:00 p.m., adding he wants to make sure the students and their parents know with Ms. Thompson saying she is aware of that, and if students are willing to make the commitment to be on the Youth Council, they will have to make the commitment and stick by it.

Ms. Vivian stated that could be something addressed on the application process as well. Mayor King asked if the Youth Council could have an area by the dias to sit next to the City Council during the meetings with Ms. Vivian stating it was possible, if the Council chose to do so. Councilmember Boyle asked how the members would be elected and if it would be from campaigning or would be anyone who wants to volunteer with Ms. Thompson stating there will be an application process to go through. Ms. Thompson then stated the hope is that the City staff will appoint them, adding the students will have to apply and prove they are worth being part of the Youth Council. Councilmember Boyle asked if there will be a limit to how many people can participate with Ms. Thompson stating the details haven't been worked out yet, but she is hoping to pick 5-7 officers for an odd-number for voting and she was not sure how many members will be approved.

Councilmember Dempster stated he hopes the City gets a little bang for the buck and that the Youth Council won't mimic the City Council, but maybe be an improvement of it.

Vice Mayor Konrad asked if the Youth Council is being patterned off something that already exists and if there were other organizations or Youth Councils within the state to use as a prototype or if this is being created from the ground up with Ms. Thompson stating she got the idea from the Surprise Youth Council, adding she met one of their Youth Council members who said she loves the experience, that her City does something like that and how much of an impact the students can make. Ms. Thompson stated she is not exactly following Surprise because she wants to build from the ground up.

Councilmember Diaz recommended the Youth Council getting a copy of the United States Constitution and the Arizona Constitution.

Ms. Vivian stated another thing to remember is the Youth Council doesn't just shadow the City Council, they can take on their own projects, they can do youth outreach, they can do activities, they can do fundraisers and even travel to the state legislator. Ms. Vivian then stated she took a tour there and it was fascinating, adding there is a lot of things the Youth Council can do in the community.

Mayor King stated it really touches him to get the Youth Council started, adding he has always wanted the school to get involved and understand what the City Council does, noting a lot of people don't know what happens at the City. Mayor King then stated having young people coming in and seeing what happens is good, so they can spread the word. Mayor King then thanked Ms. Lamb for her willingness to take this on as well as everything else she already does.

Councilmember Lambert stated the Council had a couple questions on how the Youth Council was getting started but noted Ms. Thompson will be designing it her way as she will be the Chairman working hand-in-hand with Ms. Vivian, adding it will be a dual effort. Councilmember Lambert stated different cities and how their Youth Councils were started were looked at and Ms. Thompson agreed that the Town of Sahuarita is the one she would like to mold the Youth Council after. Councilmember Lambert then stated he wanted to commend Deputy City Clerk Denise Tapia for spending quite a bit of time on getting information on the Youth Council of Sahuarita and putting it together, so it could be presented to Ms. Lamb and Ms. Thompson.

Councilmember Lambert moved to approve the Resolution 5-2018. Seconded by Councilmember Diaz. Motion passed 7-0.

4. **Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 6-2018 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget**

Interim City Manager Vicki Vivian stated the creation of a Benson Youth Council was not contemplated when the 2017-2018 Final Budget was approved by Council and to fund the Youth Council, the City Council would need to approve a General Fund budget transfer. Ms. Vivian then stated Staff is recommending funding in the Community Enrichment Fund for Economic Development be reduced by \$3,500 and the Benson Youth Council under the City Council budget be reactivated and funded with \$3,500. Ms. Vivian then stated any revenue the Youth Council earns will be submitted under the Administration Revenue Budget in the miscellaneous line item, adding this revenue, if any, will be tracked, allowing the revenue to be allocated to the Youth Council in the upcoming budget year.

Mayor King asked if this was something needed now or if it could wait until the new budget with Ms. Vivian stating the League Conference is in August and the City pays for the registrations in May, adding should the Youth Council do any fundraising, it would be in the current fiscal year. Ms. Vivian then stated some expenses in the current fiscal year may include having shirts made and different things like that.

Mayor King stated that explains why the Council needs to move the funding now instead of waiting until the new fiscal year

Vice Mayor Konrad asked what the requested amount was based on and how many would be attending the conference with Ms. Vivian stating she talked to the League and only 6 Youth Council member will be allowed to

attend the conference, along with two chaperones. Ms. Vivian then stated an estimate was received from Sahuarita and included a hotel the night before because the Youth Conference starts at 7:30 a.m., adding the Youth Council can be a part of the flag parade and a part of the procession. Ms. Vivian then stated the amount estimated for the conference is \$1,500 and Staff is requesting an additional \$2,000 be budgeted in case something comes up or the Youth Council wants to do something. Ms. Vivian then stated if the Youth Council brings an idea to the City Council and was approved, the expense would be charged to that line item. Ms. Vivian then stated the Council could reduce the amount of funding, noting it was up to the Council's pleasure.

Vice Mayor Konrad asked if there was a way to fund the Youth Council without manipulating the current budget with Ms. Vivian stating this amendment to the budget is how the Youth Council must be funded, since there is no line item that was allocated for a Youth Council in the current budget. Ms. Vivian then stated State law doesn't allow the Council to increase the budget, so funding would have to be moved from an allocated line item and transferred over. Ms. Vivian then stated the amendment does not have to be done by resolution, but it does need to be approved by the City Council. Ms. Vivian then stated there is \$20,000 in the community enrichment fund that has not been spent, which is why she recommended taking it from there. Ms. Vivian then stated the City Council could also choose to reduce the carry forward amount projected at the end of the fiscal year but noted the community enrichment line seemed like the proper place to seek funding due to the Youth Council being something for the community.

Vice Mayor Konrad asked about delaying the funding request until the first meeting in May or just prior to making reservations for the League conference with Ms. Vivian stating the Council could wait to approve funding, but if the Youth Council held a carwash to raise revenue or wanted to buy shirts or have any other expense, it would have to wait until the Council approved the funding, but it could certainly be put it on a Council agenda at that time if the Council would like.

Vice Mayor Konrad stated he does like the idea of a Youth Council but does not like the idea of manipulating the budget at this stage in the game. Ms. Vivian stated a budget amendment doesn't happen often, but it has been done two other times in the past, adding she did speak to Pat Walker, the City's financial consultant, and Ms. Walker told her the Council doesn't really need a resolution, but the Council does need to take action on it, if they choose to amend the budget to fund the Youth Council at this time.

Councilmember Boyle asked if all the finances that would be spent by the Youth Council would be overlooked by City Staff with Ms. Vivian stating all financial aspects of the Youth Council would be monitored. Councilmember Boyle moved to approve the Resolution 6-2018. Seconded by Councilmember Lambert. Motion passed 5-2 with Vice Mayor Konrad and Councilmember Dempster voting nay.

5. **Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 7-2018 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, approving the application by the Benson Historic Preservation Commission for a Certified Local Government Pass-through Grant administered by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office for Assistance in Reviewing and Completing an Inventory of Structures on Fourth Street with the goal of Nomination to the National Historic Register**

Planning Technician/GIS Michelle Johnson addressed Council stating at the initiative of the City of Benson Historic Preservation Commission, an inventory of 52 structures along Fourth Street was conducted in 2014. Ms. Johnson then stated the inventory was drafted by a licensed architect, were partially grant funded and were submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) with the intent of evaluating the feasibility of creating a historic district for nomination to the Federal National Register. Ms. Johnson then stated an acceptable federal nomination package has never been submitted to SHPO and in the intervening years, at least one structure has been demolished and others have undergone minor changes. Ms. Johnson then stated though the City is mid-way through the fiscal year 2017 grant cycle, SHPO has grant funding available to continue the pursuit the formation of a historic district. The first phase will be to reevaluate some or all of the 2014 inventory forms and create the nomination strategy, that is, to begin to draft the story of who, how and why Benson's buildings are important and unique. The second phase, to be applied for in the next fiscal year grant cycle, is to create the final nomination package. Both phases will be performed by a licensed architect familiar with SHPO's requirements and having successful nominations in the past. Ms. Johnson then stated the grant application requires a Council resolution confirming support for the endeavor and that matching funds can be supplied, adding SHPO currently has \$10,000.00 available to fund the first phase and the City of Benson must provide a match of only \$1,500.00. Ms. Johnson then stated this will fund the first phase only; another grant application will be submitted to fund the

second phase.

Vice Mayor Konrad moved to approve Resolution 7-2018. Seconded by Councilmember Garner. Motion passed 4-3 with Councilmembers Boyle, Dempster and Diaz voting nay.

6. **Discussion and possible action regarding the safety and profitability of the Benson Municipal Airport to include direction to Staff to proceed with the AEPCO (Arizona Electric Power Cooperative) Revolving Loan Application with final application approval to come before Council in March, 2018**

Interim City Manager Vicki Vivian stated this item has been placed on the agenda at the request of Councilmember Dempster. Ms. Vivian then continued, stating there have been some discussions regarding both safety at the airport and making the airport profitable to include the City installing fuel tanks at the airport and the Airport Manager met with Mr. Geoff Oldfather to gather information on the Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., (AEPCO) Revolving Loan Program, which is a low-interest program made available to businesses located in the communities they serve, noting eligible entities include federal, state and local organizations, among others. Ms. Vivian then stated one of the goals of the program is to use the funding to foster economic development, adding loans are made in the amount of \$3,000 to \$300,000 depending on the nature of the project. Ms. Vivian then stated in order to qualify for the program funds, there are several requirements that are outlined in the application. Ms. Vivian then stated this item allows the Council to take action regarding the safety and profitability of the airport to include direction to Staff to proceed with the AEPCO (Arizona Electric Power Cooperative) Revolving Loan Application with the final application approval to come before Council in March, 2018.

Councilmember Dempster stated the loan would be for the tank fixed fuel facilities, which would be safer than what is in place now, adding it would be self-serve, so it would double or triple the fuel sales there and the City would gain more income. Councilmember Dempster then stated the loan at zero percent interest is only good a certain amount of time, so if the City starts the application now, the Council can still decide on the final approval later and can then decide on the approval of the facility.

Vice Mayor Konrad stated Mr. Brad Hamilton put a lot of work into this a couple of years ago, and asked Mr. Hamilton for information with Mr. Hamilton stating he did research on this subject in an effort to make the airport pay for itself, adding at the time, he was looking into trying to get the project approved through the FFA grant program, however a fuel farm is considered a money maker and there would be certain restrictions to have it funded with grant money. Mr. Hamilton then stated to do so, the airport air sight improvements must be already done, adding the FFA will not let the City put in tanks with grant funding until the fence and a couple of other project are done, which means the City is looking at least 3-4 years before tanks could be pursued with grant funding. Vice Mayor Konrad asked if the loan presented a more realistic way to get this done and to start bringing money into the airport with Mayor King asking if it would violate any FFA laws or jeopardize any future grants for the airport. Mr. Hamilton stated if the City funds the tanks, the only requirement is to have the project environmentally cleared just like anything else at the airport, then added the airport layout plan would have to be updated to show the facility. Mayor King asked about the cost with Mr. Hamilton stating the environmental clearance would cost approximately \$5,000 and the updated airport layout plan would cost approximately \$2,000. Mayor King asked about the cost of putting in tanks with Mr. Hamilton stating he believes it would be close to \$200,000. Mayor King asked if this was something that would require going through procurement with Mr. Hamilton stating it all depends on if the City has a cooperative purchase agreement. Mr. Hamilton then stated there would be a lot more research that needs to be done. Mayor King stated he just wanted to make sure the City follows policy directly and doesn't break any rules. Councilmember Diaz stated he has concern will already subsidizing the airport.

Councilmember Boyle moved to direct Staff to proceed with the AEPCO (Arizona Electric Power Cooperative) Revolving Loan Application. Seconded by Councilmember Lambert. Motion passed 6-1 with Councilmember Diaz voting nay.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Lambert moved to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Boyle. Motion passed 7-0.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk