

**THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD MARCH 28, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
AT THE BENSON COMMUNITY CENTER, 705 W. UNION STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Barbara Nunn and Nick Maldonado.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(3), discussion and consultation for legal advice with the City's attorneys about the San Pedro Golf Course.

Vice Mayor Konrad moved to enter into an executive session with the Mayor and Council, the City Manager, the City Attorney and the Deputy City Clerk, at 6:01 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Diaz. Motion passed 7-0.

Council reconvened at 6:48 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 8-2019 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, that authorizes a reduction in force at and reorganization of its San Pedro Golf Course**

City Manager Vicki Vivian stated section 1.22 of the City of Benson Human Resources Administrative Policy authorizes reduction in force. Ms. Vivian stated she is recommending a reduction in force and reorganization of the San Pedro Golf Course operation. Those recommendations are all detailed in Resolution 8-2019.

Ms. Vivian stated while this matter is entirely at the discretion of the Mayor and Council, Ms. Vivian is recommending approval of Resolution 8-2019. Ms. Vivian stated the City is looking at a reorganization of the operations purely for the financial conditions of the golf course, it is recommended to eliminate the Director of Golf Operations position effective April 1st. Ms. Vivian stated she is also recommending to eliminate 4 positions on the food and beverage side, 3 from the waitstaff and 1 proposed from the dishwasher/prep cook; these changes to be effective April 1st. Ms. Vivian stated putting practices and procedures into place to reduce the losses at the golf course is purely a financial decision and to make the golf course as sustainable as it can be. Ms. Vivian stated she supports the golf course and considers it an amenity that draws the winter visitors, but the City cannot afford a \$350,000 loss per year. Ms. Vivian stated that this resolution is an effort to reduce the losses. Ms. Vivian stated that with the reorganization the day to day golf operations will be manned by the golf shop manager. He will take care of the deposits, reports, greeting golfers, and making sure carts are available for the golfers. The day to day operations will report to the administration office directly to the City Manager. The food and beverage will remain at the Golf Course but it will be a separate division. The Food and Beverage manager will also report to the administrative office directly to the City Manager. The maintenance of the course itself and golf carts will be moved and report to the Public Works Department under Brad Hamilton.

Councilmember Boyle stated the one thing that constantly comes up when he meets someone is the Golf Course and the losses the City is taking on it. Councilmember Boyle stated it is almost impossible to quantify how much the City has lost and how much has been made. This is one thing we can do to help minimize the losses, so the people of Benson won't say they don't even golf why are they paying for this out of tax payers

money and having money coming out of the general fund. Councilmember Boyle stated this is something that really needs to be done.

Mayor King stated the losses have been tremendous, \$1.4 million since 2011. It's hard to explain that to our constituents. Mayor King stated he truly believes what is being done is in the right direction. Mayor King stated there will be lot of positive out of this, it's always a hard choice either to continue as is or shut it down. Mayor King stated he believes in the golf course, he has fought for the golf course for many years and this is the right direction to take.

Vice Mayor Konrad stated the City is stuck, we can't lose \$350,000 and we can't close the golf course. Doing nothing is not an answer, we can't do that, we have to do something, and this is something we can do at the present time.

Mayor King stated he would like to thank Ms. Vivian for all she has done including all the research she has done. It is time for us to decide.

Councilmember Boyle moved to approve Resolution 8-2019. Seconded by Vice Mayor Konrad. Motion passed 6-1 with Councilmember Dempster voting nay.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Mayor Konrad moved to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Boyle. Motion passed 7-0.

ATTEST:

Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk