

**THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD MARCH 9, 2020 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., Councilmembers: Pat Boyle, Larry Dempster, Lupe Diaz, and Nick Maldonado. Absent was: Councilmember Barbara Nunn who was excused by the Mayor.

INVOCATION: None

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: None

PROCLAMATION: None

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

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

Monday, March 23, 2020	– Worksession, 6:00 p.m., Community Center
Monday, March 23, 2020	– Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Center
Saturday, March 28, 2020	– Opening Ceremonies for San Pedro Little League at Lions Park 420 N. Adams St., Benson AZ

Ms. Vivian stated Vice Mayor Joe Konrad submitted his resignation effective immediately, so there will be a vacancy on Council, adding the City Council is seeking qualified persons to fill the vacancy, then noted the person appointed shall serve until a candidate runs for the remaining unexpired 2-year term in the upcoming City Council election and is successful and seated in January 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

- 1a. Minutes of the January 13, 2020 Regular Meeting
- 1b. Minutes of the August 12, 2019 Worksession
- 1c. Invoices processed for the period from February 18, 2020 through March 1, 2020

Councilmember Boyle moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Maldonado. Motion passed 5-0.

2. **Presentation on and discussion about COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Preparedness by Benson Hospital; may include questions and discussion**

City Manager Vicki Vivian stated Julia Strange is the Chief Executive Officer of Benson Hospital and serves as the Vice President of Community Benefit for TMC HealthCare; leadership positions that focus on building coalitions to address critical community health needs, strengthening the nonprofit regional health system and advocating for policy to support access to care. Ms. Vivian then stated Ms. Strange is a member of the Board of Directors for the Southern Arizona Hospital Alliance and the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, adding she also serves

on numerous community boards including the Copper Queen Hospital Foundation, Tucson Festival of Books, the Beyond Foundation, Arizona Chamber of Commerce, HealthOn Tucson and Arizona Bioscience Roadmap Steering Committee.

Ms. Vivian stated Ms. Strange will address Council presenting information on COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and what can be done to assist in the prevention of transmitting COVID-19, adding there are members of the County that are also present to give information.

Ms. Strange stated as any good leader would do, she brought the smart people. Ms. Strange then stated one of the reasons it's so important to have health care available in the community is for just these kinds of situations, adding the Benson Hospital is strong and is working actively to be prepared for this, noting they are relying on their partners at the County and TMC Healthcare to make sure to have the proper resources to be as prepared as possible for COVID-19. Ms. Strange then stated the Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Commander for Cochise County, Greg McQuaid and Benson Hospital Infectious Specialist Cindy Tapia were also present, and she would have these experts address the Council.

Mr. McQuaid stated he is the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for public health and it's his job to be in a constant state of preparedness for any type of disease, adding right now, everyone is focused on COVID-19 because it is new, it is on the news and it is on social media, adding there are no cases in Cochise County to this day, to this minute. Mr. McQuaid stated if Cochise County gets a case, he will know, and a press release will go out to everyone. Mr. McQuaid then stated as of the end of February, there were 1,000 flu cases in Cochise County, adding there is always disease circulating in the county that are tracked, with the County responding to all, but most of the time it is behind the scenes so the public never sees it. Mr. McQuaid stated a health care alliance for COVID-19 has been created and Benson Hospital is a part of it, adding this morning there was a meeting with 75 healthcare providers, agencies, organizations, EMS (Emergency Medical Services), firefighters and the works so there is the same response and they are prepared the same way and can all work cooperatively. Mr. McQuaid then stated Cochise County is only 1 of 2 counties in the state that have an alliance like that and that all work very well together, adding Cochise County is very fortunate. Mr. McQuaid asked if there were questions on COVID-19 that he could assist with and hopefully dispel some bad rumors.

Mayor King stated he was taught that washing your hands is the most important thing in addition to not touching your face with Mr. McQuaid stating that was absolutely correct, noting handwashing for 20 seconds with soap and water is always preferable, but people can use a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol content, adding that would be the second choice.

Ms. Tapia spoke briefly about Benson Hospital having an incident command system that follows the county and has drills annually, so the hospital is always prepared. Ms. Tapia added the county has public information on their Facebook page, the county website and has a toll-free number 1-833-670-5786, adding she will have information she can put together for the public.

Mayor King opened the discussion to the audience in which several people asked questions with Mr. McQuaid responding to their questions.

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 11-2020 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, designating the Election Date and Purpose of the Election, designating the Deadline for Voter Registration and designating the place and the last date for candidates to file Nomination Papers**

City Manager Vicki Vivian stated this item normally comes to Council in May of City elections years, however, new legislation has changed the deadlines for candidates to file the required paperwork to seek office; therefore this item is being brought forward in line with the new deadlines and to inform the public of the 2020 City Election details.

Ms. Vivian stated important dates to note were:

March 9, 2020	Candidates begin filing
April 6, 2020	Candidate forms due by 5:00 p.m.
April 15, 2020	Campaign Finance report due
June 25, 2020	Write-in Candidates forms due by 5:00 p.m.
July 6, 2020	Voter Registration closes for Primary Election
August 4, 2020	Primary Election Day
August 24, 2020	Council deadline to canvass votes
September 24, 2020	Write-in Candidates forms due by 5:00 p.m.
October 5, 2020	Voter Registration closes for General Election
November 3, 2020	General Election Day
November 23, 2020	Council deadline to canvass votes

Ms. Vivian then stated anyone registered for the Primary and General elections will be eligible to participate in the federal and state elections.

Councilmember Diaz moved to approve Resolution 11-2020. Seconded by Councilmember Maldonado. Motion passed 5-0.

4. **Discussion and possible action regarding the first amendment to the Meritage Phasing Agreement by Meritage Homes of Arizona, Inc.**

Public Works Director Brad Hamilton stated this item is a housekeeping issue, adding in 2006 the City entered into a development agreement with Kartchner Vistas Meritage Homes for subdivision improvements including a right turn lane. Mr. Hamilton stated at the time, the requirements were a little vague because the engineering had not been done yet, adding the City worked with Meritage Homes and ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) on what exactly needed to be there by the engineering standards. Mr. Hamilton stated that is why an amendment is being brought back to Council to clean up the development agreement, adding in the future, the Council will have a release of assurances before them for consideration.

Councilmember Boyle moved to approve the first amendment to the Meritage Phasing Agreement by Meritage Homes of Arizona, Inc. Seconded by Councilmember Diaz. Motion was approved 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) & (7), for discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body and discussions or consultations with the Mayor and Council’s designated representatives to consider its position and possibly instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale, lease, or exchange of city-owned real property.

Councilmember Maldonado moved to enter into an executive session with the Mayor and Council, the City Manager, the City Attorney, the Public Works Director and the Deputy City Clerk, at 7:38 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Boyle. Motion passed 5-0.

Council reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Boyle moved to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Maldonado. Motion passed 5-0.

Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk