

**THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA  
HELD MAY 8, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.  
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6TH STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Mayor Konrad called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present were: Vice Mayor Joe Konrad, Councilmembers Pat Boyle, Levi Garner, David Lambert, Crystal Lewie and Lori McGoffin. Absent was: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr.

Vice Mayor Konrad stated Mayor King had a family medical issue and was unable to attend the meeting. Vice Mayor Konrad then introduced Bob Dix of the Baha'i Faith who offered the invocation.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** None

**PROCLAMATION:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed water and wastewater rates as set forth in the public document entitled "The City of Benson Water/Wastewater Utility 2017 Cost of Service Rate Study" dated February, 2017. The purpose of this public hearing will be to receive comments from the public regarding the proposed water and wastewater rates modifications.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed natural gas modifications as set forth in the public document entitled, "The City of Benson Natural Gas Utility 2017 Cost of Service Rate Study" dated February, 2017. The purpose of this public hearing will be to receive comments from the public regarding the proposed natural gas rates modifications.

Vice Mayor Konrad opened the public hearing regarding the proposed natural gas modifications at 7:06 p.m. and stated no one had signed up to speak. Vice Mayor Konrad then asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak with no responses. Vice Mayor Konrad then closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Vice Mayor Konrad then opened the public hearing on the proposed water and wastewater rates at 7:07 pm.

Cindy Allen, Flycatcher Lane, Benson, stated some of the Council may know her through the Pony Express, Benson Clean & Beautiful or as part of the team that bought the Hotel Arnold. Ms. Allen then stated she doesn't live in the City, but the rates will affect her, adding at this point, the team has 6 buildings which are all in various disrepair, and they are attempting to bring them up to code. Ms. Allen then stated the only water being used is to water trees, but they are still paying \$18.00 per month for wastewater and she doesn't understand how that is a fair assessment when calculating wastewater rates. Ms. Allen then stated she knows this has nothing to do with rates modifications and she understands that water usage in January, February and March is the basis for calculating wastewater rates, but she also knows if a person has a water leak, they can get an adjustment on their wastewater rate. Ms. Allen then stated she knows everyone has to do upgrades, but she wanted to bring their plight to light, adding they can't be the only ones not using wastewater and are still being charged for it.

Dan Barrera, Greasewood, Benson, stated he owns the Quarter Horse Motel and RV park on 10 acres in Benson, which has master meters, zero greenery and a desert setting, adding he's not sure how his rates will be affected, but he would like some clarification. Mr. Barrera then stated his peak water usage months are January, February and March and he would like to have the ability to look at other months to calculate his wastewater rates, adding he thinks he would see a considerable drop. Mr. Barrera asked the Council to

consider that option and then congratulated the Council for seeing the enterprise funds need to be run as a business, adding he doesn't like rate increases either, but the users of the system need to prepare for 10 years down the line.

Vice Mayor Konrad asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak and after receiving no responses, closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Lisa Hill, 5th Street, Benson, spoke about the misunderstanding about the Huachuca Street park that isn't a park, and apologized for telling people a park was being created. Ms. Hill then stated she misunderstood, but she is now having the word put out that the property will be a shaded parking lot. Ms. Hill then stated Wal-Mart has been generous and donated 2 pine trees for shade, adding Cindy Allen put the word out on facebook and after only 1 day, got 7 people who would sponsor trees, noting SSVEC will donate up to \$250 in trees. Ms. Hill then stated they will let people buy trees and the excess trees will be put to good use by beautifying the Benson School District campus, in addition to the parking lot.

Stephen Insalaco, Pinto Place, J6, spoke about the airport, stating despite his earlier harsh comments, Mr. Thompson has done a great job as the first Airport Service Coordinator. Mr. Insalaco then stated Mr. Thompson has made a tremendous positive impact on the airport property and he hopes Mr. Thompson will continue in that role. Mr. Insalaco then apologized to Mr. Thompson. Mr. Insalaco then stated the main topic he wanted to speak about were the addresses on the airport property, adding the current addressing system relies on continued increasing westward street address numbers, but Aviation Drive makes a wide horseshoe turn as it enters the airport property and continued progression down the drive takes one in an eastward direction, and then as Aviation Drive enters the general airport operations area, it engages with a t-intersection whereby increasing west street addresses fail to make sense. Mr. Insalaco then stated the current addressing scheme relying on a single-named roadway fails to cope with the need to provide organized future street numbering assignments on airport property and will be a problem with growth at the airport. Mr. Insalaco then stated this issue was identified many years ago by the previous Airport Advisory Board, adding he hopes the Council puts this issue on the agenda to direct Staff to correct the issue by renaming the portion of Aviation Drive parallel to the runway and progressing both east and west as Flight Line Drive. Mr. Insalaco then stated the address numbers can then progress both east and west in a logical matter, unhindered by T-intersections and U-turns, independent of the existing roadway segment which could remain Aviation Drive. Mr. Insalaco then stated this may also be easier to fix sooner rather than later, adding later will involve more airport businesses being unhappy with an address change, that could possibly affect their parcel and mail delivery and possibly cost them customers.

David Thompson. La Cuesta Drive, Benson, stated when a radio station presents a public service announcement on how to hide child pornography from the law. Mr. Thompson was then interrupted by Councilmember Lori McGoffin who stated she had spoken to the City Attorney and since this subject was not under the City Council's jurisdiction, it was not appropriate to bring it up at the Call to the Public. Mr. Thompson stated Mr. Lotsof (of CAVE FM radio) said he was exercising his freedom of speech and he would like to exercise his freedom of speech as well. Councilmember McGoffin then stated this isn't something the City can do anything about with Mr. Thompson stating he would like his written comments entered into the record. (Mr. Thompson's statement will be retained with the Council packet.)

Barbara Nunn, La Cuesta Drive, Benson, stated at the last City Council meeting, there was an agenda item regarding a veterans' policy and the next morning on the local radio station, the manager said that Councilmember Lambert was in the military and that Councilmember Lewie said she was, inferring she might not have been in the military. Ms. Nunn then stated she was able to confirm Councilmember Lewie's military service with a phone call to Councilmember Lewie, adding that is all the radio station manager would have had to do instead of attempting a character assassination. Ms. Nunn then stated interviews aren't done in this town and the radio station manager spins what happens in the Council chambers, adding he doesn't report the truth and all the idiots in town believe everything they hear on the radio and what they read in the newspaper. Ms. Nunn then stated in the 8 years she has lived in Benson, numerous people have complained during the

Call to the Public about the City not being business friendly; then asked what exactly being “business friendly” means. Ms. Nunn then stated now there is finally real Staff and real City Attorneys at the City who follow the code and the laws the City Council actually approved, adding in the past, people could probably slide by, but that doesn’t work anymore. Ms. Nunn then stated people just need to respect the process and do the right thing in the right way.

Raymond Lewie, 9th Street, Benson, stated Councilmember Lewie was in the Air Force and he does have photographic evidence for those who question her service. Mr. Lewie then stated he did find it egregious that one of the main sources of information is questioning people so easily, adding it’s fine to question people, but to say Councilmember Lambert served in the military and Councilmember Lewie didn’t without even asking her raised questions about the radio management and the information that is being spread to the public and whether or not the radio manager should be allowed to spread information so easily. Mr. Lewie then stated he knows there is the freedom of speech, but the FCC has regulations in place for a reason. Mr. Lewie then stated he understands there are other matters going on that can’t be spoken about at the Call to the Public, but how Benson is being represented throughout the entire community, county and state really does need to be examined. Mr. Lewie then stated it’s very important to have a good image, adding the airways don’t just go to Benson; they go to all of the towns around Benson.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

City Manager William Stephens addressed Council, giving the dates of upcoming meetings and events.

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| Tuesday, May 9, 2017   | – Library Advisory Board, 4:00 p.m., City Library   |
| Monday, May 15, 2017   | – City Council Budget Worksession, 6:00 p.m., City Hall   |
| Saturday, May 20, 2017 | – Historic Preservation Commission, 9:00 a.m., City Hall  |
| Monday, May 22, 2017   | – City Council Budget Worksession, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, IF NEEDED<br>City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall  |
| Tuesday, May 23, 2017  | – Community Watershed Alliance, 6:30 p.m., City Hall  |
| Friday, May 26, 2017   | – Benson City Pool Opens, For more information on the pool and our other summer activities, go to <a href="http://www.cityofbenson.com">www.cityofbenson.com</a>  |
| Saturday, May 27, 2017 | – Dive in Movie, featuring the movie “Moana” rated PG, Gates open at 7:30 p.m. Movie starts at 8:00 p.m. Capacity is limited to 100. Be Sure and arrive on time!  |
| Monday, May 29, 2017   | – Forget-me-Not Pool Party. Kick off the Summer Swim Season with The City of Benson’s Forget-me-Not Memorial Day Pool Party Monday, May 29, from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Join us for a fun day filled with music, prizes, and food! Free swimming is sponsored by the VFW Women’s Auxiliary |
| Monday, May 29, 2017   | – Memorial Day – City Offices Closed  |

Mr. Stephens 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. Invoices process for the period from April 16, 2017 through April 30, 2017

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

2. **Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Benson Clean and Beautiful and Benson Chamber of Commerce request for support for the Butterfield Stage Days, set for Saturday and Sunday, October 14th and 15th, 2017**

City Manager Bill Stephens stated Benson Clean and Beautiful and Benson Chamber of Commerce are co-hosting this event and are requesting support from the City to provide a water truck for dust abatement for the tractor pulls on Saturday; to suspend Lions Park sprinkler operations on Saturday and Sunday; to Blue Stake Lions Park; to move bleachers in Lions Park; and to provide traffic control cones. Mr. Stephens then stated once approved, the City will coordinate all support with Benson Clean and Beautiful and the Benson Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember McGoffin asked if any financial assistance was requested with Mr. Stephens stating the only support requested was listed in their letter to the Council. Cindy Allen from Benson Clean & Beautiful stated the Council had already approved financial support at a past meeting. Councilmember McGoffin moved to approve the support of the Benson Clean & Beautiful and the Benson Chamber of Commerce as requested. Seconded by Councilmember Lambert. Motion passed 6-0.

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding the Authorization of Armstrong Consulting Inc. under the City of Benson On-call Engineering Contract to conduct Design and Construction Services for the Benson Municipal Airport Reconstruct Access Road (Approx. 2200ft x 28ft)**

Public Works Director Brad Hamilton stated this project, for the design and construction services from the consultant, is one of the projects in the Capital Improvement Plan and the majority of the project is federally funded. Mr. Hamilton then stated once the services for the design and construction are completed, the project will go to bid and will be sent to the FAA for their authorization, adding it will also be brought to Council when it's approved. Councilmember McGoffin verified that the City's cost was \$7,944 for the project with Mr. Hamilton stating the FAA pays for 90% of the project, ADOT pays for 5% and the City pays for 5%. City Attorney Paul Loucks stated the total cost of the project is approximately \$158,900. Councilmember McGoffin then moved to authorize Armstrong Consulting Inc. under the City of Benson On-call Engineering Contract to conduct Design and Construction Services for the Benson Municipal Airport Reconstruct Access Road. Seconded by Vice Mayor Konrad. Motion passed 6-0.

4. **Airport Update and Discussion**

Councilmember Lambert stated he felt the following 4 items were part of the budget and since the Council had not received the budget due to a computer glitch, he felt all 4 items should be tabled until the next meeting; until the Council got the budget. Councilmember Lambert then moved to table all 4 items until the next meeting on May 22nd. Seconded by Councilmember McGoffin. Motion passed 6-0.

Councilmember Lambert then stated he wanted to let everyone in the public know the Council will be working on the tentative budget in the next few days in addition to having a worksession on the 15th, noting the City Manager mentioned the worksession. Councilmember Lambert then stated everyone is welcome to come and since the meeting will be a worksession, the Council will be able to talk more openly about the budget, so everyone can see where the Council is spending tax dollars. Councilmember McGoffin then stated after the meeting, everyone should go cheer on the Benson softball team, who is playing for the championship tonight.

5. **Presentation and discussion of the Winter Visitor Golf Course Survey**

This item was tabled. See New Business Item 4.

6. **Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 7-2017 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, adopting a rate increase for Water and Wastewater Rates**

This item was tabled. See New Business Item 4.

7. **Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 8-2017 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, adopting a rate increase for Natural Gas Rates**

This item was tabled. See New Business Item 4.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Lambert moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember McGoffin. Motion passed 6-0.

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Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk