

**THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD JUNE 11, 2012, AT 7:00 P.M.
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6TH STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

CALL TO ORDER:

City Clerk Vicki Vivian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Vivian then introduced Pastor Kirk Sorenson of the Assembly of God Church who gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Selection of Acting Mayor to preside over the June 11, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting

City Clerk Vicki Vivian stated this item would be the first order of business the Council would address so the meeting could continue with the selected Acting Mayor in place. Councilmember Maldonado moved to appoint Councilmember Lambert as the acting mayor to preside over the meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Moncada. Councilmember Brooks then stated he felt the Council should be using our senior Councilmember in this since it was not a critical meeting and it shows respect to someone who has been on the Council a long time. Councilmember Sacco asked if Councilmember Brooks' statement was a motion and seconded it. Ms. Vivian stated there was already a motion on the floor to appoint Councilmember Lambert as acting mayor and if that motion failed, the floor would be open for additional motions. Ms. Vivian then asked if there was any further discussion. After no other comments, the motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Brooks voting nay.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Acting Mayor Lambert recognized Armando Dimas for 25 years of service with the City of Benson.

PROCLAMATION: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Anthony Edmiston addressed Council regarding City building codes, stating he was remodeling a property on 6th Street in Benson and owns several other properties in the city. Mr. Edmiston then stated he ran into several hiccups on the project basically generated due to the age of the home, which was built in 1924, and in talking to the building permit department, he found there were several problems that had to be addressed in bringing the home up to current codes. Mr. Edmiston then stated he knows the current codes are what he has to go by, but he also knows the city is currently looking at revising or adding to those codes and he would like to see if Council could possibly take into consideration, the age of the homes in the City of Benson, so people can have more opportunities to address their dilapidation and get them back to functional housing again, without literally having to tear them down to address current codes that are in effect. Mr. Edmiston then stated he knew it wasn't something that could be addressed at this meeting, but he would like to start putting that into the Councilmembers' minds as they go forward into the building codes. Mr. Edmiston then stated he would also like to ask those people who are in the City of Benson and are having these same issues to start coming down to City Council meetings, to come to meetings that are going to be addressed with the City Codes and state their case, because he was sure his case isn't an isolated incident and he thinks it is something the City of Benson needs to start addressing.

Acting Mayor Lambert stated Stephen Insalaco could not be here tonight, but wrote a letter to the Council regarding the economic benefits of the proposed FAA national test range for UAS operations at the Benson Municipal Airport. Councilmember Brooks then read the letter which will be retained with the Council packet.

Councilmember Sacco asked how Council would go about putting this issue on the agenda, stating he would like to direct Staff to take some action, since this is a very important project. City Manager Glenn Nichols stated the Council has passed a resolution of support and last week received a resolution of support from the Cochise County Board of Supervisors, adding both of those have been provided to the group that is working on this project. Councilmember Sacco asked what could be done to improve our position with Mr. Nichols stating Staff is working hard on the project, adding Councilmember Brooks has attended many meetings with Staff both in Sierra Vista and at the airport and are doing everything we can to move the project forward. Mr. Nichols then stated the first step in the process is to provide information to the Arizona Commerce Authority for them to take to Washington, adding there are 35 states applying for this UAS program and only 6 will be chosen. Mr. Nichols then stated we are working as a group with surrounding entities to get Arizona chosen and if Arizona is chosen, then we can go out and present what we have to offer from Benson to the all of the vendors that will be interested in this program. Councilmember Brooks added there is a committee working on this that includes a number of people in Tucson, Sierra Vista and Benson.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

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

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| June 12, 2012 | – Library Advisory Board, 4:00 p.m., Library |
| June 16, 2012 | – Historic Preservation Commission, 9:00 a.m., City Hall |
| June 21, 2012 | – Public Hearing – Budget, 7:00 p.m., City Hall |
| June 25, 2012 | – City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall |
| June 26, 2012 | – Community Watershed Alliance, 6:30 p.m., City Hall |
| June 16, 2012 | – Toney King Benefit, 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Lions Park |
| July 4, 2012 | – City of Benson 4th of July Festivities at Lions Park. Parade begins at 9:00 a.m. followed by activities at the park beginning at 10:00 a.m. |

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.

Acting Mayor Lambert added June 14 is Flag Day.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consent Agenda

- 1a. Minutes of the May 7, 2012 Worksession
- 1b. Minutes of the May 9, 2012 Worksession
- 1c. Minutes of the May 14, 2012 Regular Meeting
- 1d. Minutes of the May 16, 2012 Worksession
- 1e. Appointment of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Local Boards Chairman for the Fire and Police Departments
- 1f. Reappointment of Gerald Hoskinson to the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Local Boards for the Fire and Police Departments
- 1g. Resignation of Arthur Schroeder from the Benson Historic Preservation Commission
- 1h. Resolution 28-2012 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, authorizing the City

- Manager to apply for a grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation for Economic Development Funds
- 1i. Resolution 29-2012 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, authorizing the Fire Chief to apply for a grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation to Purchase Equipment
 - 1j. Renewal of the Court Consolidation Agreement by and between the City of Benson, Arizona and Cochise County, Arizona
 - 1k. Vendor Agreement for Emergency & Case Management Services between SouthEastern Arizona Community Action Program, Inc. (SEACAP) and the City of Benson for the period of July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013
 - 1l. Invoices processed for the period from May 5, 2012 through May 31, 2012

Councilmember Sacco moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Moncada. Motion passed 5-0.

2. **Selection of Acting Mayor to preside over the June 11, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting**

This item was handled immediately following the roll call.

3. **Presentation by Cox Communications on the continuing improvements Cox is making to their systems**

City Manager Glenn Nichols stated Michael Stoll and Michael Dunn would be giving the presentation for Cox Communications. Mr. Michael Stoll then gave an update of the network and the services Cox has implemented and improved over the last 5 years. Mr. Stoll stated since 2008 Cox has invested approximately half a billion dollars in the State of Arizona to upgrade their networks, adding the capacities served by Benson are the same as they are in metropolitan Phoenix and Tucson and the Council should feel confident in pursuing economic development opportunities, since the network in Benson is capable of providing any telecommunications service that could be found in those metropolitan areas. Mr. Stoll then addressed the opportunity Cox had with the economic downturn to shift their design assets to the business community, such as Cox on demand, adding unlike satellite providers, Cox offers 100 unique channels of high definition (HD). Mr. Stoll then stated Cox also operated as the number 1 provider of internet services with PC magazine and with this service; they offer a product that allows companies to have employees work from home, adding this product is also used by Cox internally. Mr. Stoll then addressed a few of the things Cox will be rolling out such as the reengineered program guide, mobile apps, wireless capabilities, home security and a “geek squad” to help customers hook up new electronics and assist with those types of applications to expand their services.

Michael Dunn, the director of public relations, then addressed Council regarding Cox's investments into the communities they serve, stating in Arizona, last year, they provided \$16 million in cash and in-kind services to different organizations around the state, adding in-kind services often translate to the public service announcements run on their networks, which for many organizations is an important way to get the word out about their cause or an event. Mr. Dunn then stated Cox is an incredibly valuable resource throughout the state, is a very diverse company and is very invested in the Latino community throughout the state of Arizona, adding in southern Arizona, Cox is a member of many key organizations to ensure they are providing the types of products and services and community investments the Latino community needs. Mr. Dunn then stated in addition to their corporate social responsibility pool of money and resources, they also have a separate organization called Cox Charities which is entirely employee funded and last year, provided \$600,000 of employee funded money to different organizations around the state, adding the employees choose where that money goes. Mr. Dunn then stated Cox employees also are a tremendous resource in the community in terms of the number of volunteer hours they provide every year, adding they provided approximately 36,000 hours in the state last year with about 12,000 hours being in southern Arizona. Mr. Dunn then stated brand new this year, Cox is allowing customers to make a donation to Cox Charities on their bill. Mr. Dunn then stated Cox has about 105 employees that serve on boards of directors for non-profit organizations throughout the state, adding employees who serve can include from the team lead up to the executive vice president who invest their time and resources on boards

to make our communities a better place to live and work. Mr. Dunn then spoke about the assistance, programs and sponsorships Cox has in Benson such as the Movies in the Park, the Bluegrass Festival, the Benson Economic Development luncheon, the Benson Food Bank and the Back to School Fair, adding they also support more in Cochise County and throughout southern Arizona. Mr. Dunn then spoke about the awards Cox Communications has won over the years and how they measure the standards Cox has achieved in providing communication services. Mr. Dunn then stated Cox Business is becoming a huge growth engine for Cox in total, adding it is their fastest growing segment that has emerged from an additional service to a residential product to a real industry leader and here in Benson, Benson schools, SSVEC, the City of Benson and the Benson Hospital are taking advantage of the cost savings and the reliability and the network infrastructure that Cox Business delivers.

Mr. Stoll then addressed the Council again stating Cox Communications is located in almost 20 states and as they have moved forward in these challenging times as far as the economy is concerned, their companies as many others, are trying to look and see where it makes sense to consolidate operations and to eliminate expenses. Mr. Stoll then stated one thing they have done in Arizona is to focus on becoming what is known as a center of excellence for their company, so if and when they consolidate, they will move additional operations to Arizona, adding Arizona is the largest single component to Cox Enterprises, which is the incredibly large company that holds multiple companies. Mr. Stoll then stated a few years ago, landing a data center in Phoenix really established Arizona as a center of excellence, adding the data center is the backup data center for their entire company, holding all on demand data, all emails, data from some of the companies their parent company owns like Auto Trader.com, Manheim Auto Auctions and a number of other companies. Mr. Stoll then stated the facility has a lot of room to grow and employs high-paying jobs. Mr. Stoll then added this facility also became the center of excellence for Spanish speaking customers, with their team in Phoenix and a portion in Tucson, handling all the Spanish speaking calls that come in to Cox communications from across the country.

Councilmember Brooks asked about Cox offering an open channel to the communities where Cox has a franchise agreement with Mr. Stoll stating he would need to review the license in Benson to determine the parameters and he could speak about it at a later time. Acting Mayor Lambert thanked Mr. Stoll and Mr. Dunn for their information.

4. **Presentation on Employee Insurance Related Benefits by ESG (Employee Solutions Group) Corporation**

City Manager Glenn Nichols introduced Jon Stewart and Al Thunberg from ESG who would address the Council and provide information as to what has been reviewed for insurance options for City employees. Al Thunberg stated what ESG did was they sat down with the management team and they gained an understanding of goals and objectives, and had a good understanding as well as ideas on tackling that challenge. Mr. Thunberg stated ESG did go to market and did interview a number of firms and a number of insurance providers naming Aetna, Cigna, Blue Cross, Blue Shield, United Healthcare, Humana and Health Net. Mr. Thunberg stated they received quotes through each of those organizations to make sure and secure the best possible options that are in the marketplace today. Mr. Thunberg stated this year we're going to offer dual choice, meaning two products the employee will be able to evaluate and select the one that works best for themselves and their family members. The first choice is the PPO plan that they offer today and the second choice the Health Net HMO. Mr. Thunberg stated the cost between the two, the PPO is \$415 per month for an employee, and the HMO is \$424 per month for an employee, the difference, if they select HMO, would be passed through to the employee at their election. Mr. Thunberg stated he is going to turn time over to Jon Stewart to address ancillary benefits we're going to consider offering this year and feels it is important to give as robust a plan as we can, contemplating the roll out of a dental and a vision plan as well. Mr. Thunberg introduced Jon Stewart.

Jon Stewart stated it was decided to offer a dual choice option on the health plan and also under consideration for a Council decision are optional voluntary benefits, which means optional benefits will be offered to employees at an out of pocket cost. Mr. Stewart stated there are pros to this which are more

choices when you are able to have different types of programs for employees to broaden the benefit package; and Cons which are the cost to the employee, sometimes cost outweighs the benefits, sometimes it is better to keep that money in your pocket and use it as you go. Mr. Stewart explained that this year a voluntary Dental Package through Humana and a voluntary Vision Services plan will be offered, both of which will be completely paid by the employee.

5. Discussion and possible action concerning selection of the Employee Health Insurance Plan

Acting Mayor Lambert opened the item for discussion, stating the choice before Council was to offer the employees a single- or dual-choice plan. Councilmember Moncada moved to approve offering the dual health insurance plans and the optional plans for dental and vision. Seconded by Councilmember Brooks. Motion passed 5-0.

6. Renewal of the License Agreement between the City of Benson and Cochise County Community College District

Fire Chief Keith Spangler stated the renewal of this contract would continue to allow Cochise College to use the fire department training room to teach an EMT class. Councilmember Brooks asked about liability with City Manager Glenn Nichols stating the college provides a certificate of insurance listing the City of Benson as an additional insured on their policy. Acting Mayor Lambert suggested at the next renewal of this contract, Chief Spangler look into a 2-year contract. Councilmember Moncada moved to renew the license agreement between the City of Benson and Cochise County Community College District. Seconded by Councilmember Maldonado. Motion passed 5-0.

7. 90 Day Extension of the Contract with Southwest Disposal

Public Works Director Brad Hamilton stated this item is a 90 day extension of the current contract for solid waste collection, which will allow the existing service to continue until September 1, giving more time to prepare the RFP and to consider recycling services. Acting Mayor Lambert opened the item for discussion. Councilmember Moncada asked about the existing rates with Mr. Hamilton stating the current rates would remain in place for the 90 days. Councilmember Maldonado mentioned the sanitation trucks leaking oil with Mr. Hamilton stating the new proposal will require the equipment be in good condition and will contain a provision to terminate the contract, if necessary, adding the RFP will come back to the Council. Councilmember Maldonado moved to approve the 90 day extension of the contract with Southwest Disposal. Seconded by Councilmember Sacco. Motion passed 5-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Acting Mayor Lambert thanked the attending police officer for his presence. Councilmember Sacco moved to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Moncada. Motion passed 5-0.

Toney D. King, SR., Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk