

**THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA  
HELD JULY 13, 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 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor King gave an update on the coronavirus, stating currently in Benson there are 23 active cases and asked everyone to please follow the CDC guidelines of wearing masks, washing your hands, keeping a 6-foot distance, and sanitizing your hands to stay safe.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present were: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr., Vice Mayor Barbara Nunn, Councilmembers: Pat Boyle, Lupe Diaz, Larry Dempster (via Phone), Nick Maldonado, and Chris Tapia.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** None

**PROCLAMATION:** None

**CITY MANAGER'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS REPORT:**

Acting City Manager and Public Works Director Brad Hamilton addressed Council, giving the dates of upcoming meetings and events.

Monday, July 27, 2019 – City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Center

July – BAT FOOD DELIVERY – Get your request in by Monday at 3 p.m. (last food delivery will be on July 30, 2020 – updated to include the month of July)

To have food delivered you must call Benson Area Transit at 520-586-9406 each week by 3 p.m. the Monday before. Be prepared to give your name, address, birthdate, and number of people in your household, (this information is helpful for federal funding).

If you prefer to pick up your own food box, the Food Pantry opens Wednesday at 9 a.m., located at 1120 West 4th Street, Benson (off Easy Street), and they will be practicing safety measures. If you have questions, contact them direct at 520-200-5186 for other hours and more information.

Mayor King stated he would like to thank all the City employees for their hard work on the 4th of July fireworks and the residents and community for following the CDC guidelines, adding the fireworks were amazing. Councilmember Boyle stated he had company from out of town and they have never seen a firework display as good as the one in Benson, adding they did an outstanding job. Mayor King then stated he would like to thank the Benson Fire Department for keep the community safe.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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

- 1a. Minutes of the June 22, 2020 Regular Meeting
- 1b. Minutes of the June 24, 2020 Special Meeting

- 1c. Discussion and Possible Action to Ratify Health Insurance Contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield for Employee Benefits for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
- 1d. Invoices processed for the period from June 11, 2020 through July 5, 2020

Councilmember Maldonado moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Vice Mayor Nunn. Motion passed 7-0.

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding an Employee Benefit Advocate Service Application and Agreement with ESG (Employee Solutions Group) Corporation for Insurance Brokerage and Administration of Employee Insurance Related Benefits**

Acting City Manager and Public Works Director Brad Hamilton stated ESG is the same group the City has had for quite a while, adding the rates are the same as last year. Mr. Hamilton stated part of the contract includes the administration of the flexible spending account and the health saving account.

Mayor King stated he would like to thank the staff for keeping the numbers down. There was no further Council discussion.

Councilmember Boyle moved to approve the Employee Benefit Advocate Application and Agreement with ESG (Employee Solutions Group) Corporation for Insurance Brokerage and Administration of Employee Insurance Related Benefits. Seconded by Councilmember Diaz. Motion passed 7-0.

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding Ordinance 605 levying upon the assessed valuation of the property within the City of Benson, Arizona, subject to taxation a certain sum upon each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of valuation, sufficient to raise the amount estimated to be required in the annual budget**

Finance Director Seth Judd stated the Property Tax Ordinance is adopted annually no earlier than fourteen days following Council's adoption of the Final Budget for the upcoming fiscal year, adding the levy proposed upon each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessed value of all property, both real and personal, within the corporate limits of the City of Benson, except such property as may be by law exempt from taxation, is a tax rate of \$.8867 cents per \$100.00 of the assessed value, such sum to be set aside and used for the GENERAL FUND. Mr. Judd then stated a Public Hearing was held on June 24, 2020.

Mayor King asked if there was any change from last year with Mr. Judd stating there is a slight increase of \$1.75-\$1.80 with Acting City Manager and Public Works Director Brad Hamilton stating the increase is \$1.63 per year. Mr. Judd then added that increase is based on owning a home valued at \$100,000. Mayor King stated he read that a lot of bigger cities were having high increases and he felt the City was blessed with low increases over the years he has been on Council.

Vice Mayor Nunn moved to approve Ordinance 605. Seconded by Councilmember Tapia. Motion passed 6-1 with Councilmember Diaz voting nay.

4. **Discussion during and/or after presentation by City staff of City Finances, with emphasis on May 31, 2020 financial results and the City's financial position at the end of May 2020. All revenues and expenses of the City may be discussed**

Financial Director Seth Judd stated he would be discussing the City's financial position at May 31, 2020, comparing Fiscal Year 2019 to Fiscal Year 2020, and as a point of reference, 92 percent of the fiscal year has passed. Mr. Judd then stated for the month of May, Citywide revenue was \$1,127,115, compared to last year of \$799,647, which was an increase of \$327,468, noting the increase was due to panic buying from the pandemic. Mr. Judd then stated year-to-date, the City is up \$2,525,985 over last year, adding the City has been doing well despite the COVID pandemic. Mr. Judd then stated the expenditures for the month of May were down \$112,861 from last year but added that overall expenses increased a little with cleaning products that had to be purchased due to COVID. Mr. Judd then stated year-to-date expenses were up \$220,395 over last year; then stated in the

year-to-date expenses of about \$10 million dollars, the increase is not a huge amount. Mr. Judd then stated the City's net position is up for the month of May, noting last year in May the net position was \$4,258 and this May the net position is \$444,587, which is an increase of \$440,329. Mr. Judd stated year-to date, the City's net position has increased by \$2,305,590 over last year, adding this is due to a combination of increased revenues and a decrease in expenditures, noting Staff has watched budget lines before spending money.

Mayor King stated he would like to thank Staff for keeping the budget tight, adding it is nice that the City can have money going into the next budget and noted next year will be a good year.

**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.

Mayor King moved to enter into an Executive Session with the Mayor and Council, the Acting City Manager and Public Works Director, the City Attorney, and the Deputy City Clerk at 7:14 p.m. Seconded by Vice Mayor Nunn. Motion passed 7-0.

Council reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Boyle moved to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. Seconded by Vice Mayor Nunn. Motion passed 7-0.

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Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk