

**THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD AUGUST 2, 2012, AT 7:00 P.M.
AT CITY HALL, 120 W. 6TH STREET, BENSON, ARIZONA**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor King then stated he was officially back and would like to thank Vice Mayor McGoffin for standing in for him during his absence and would like to thank the Council, Staff and the community for standing behind him while he was recovering. Mayor King then asked those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Richard Leland addressed Council stating the City needed to quit picking on the new recycling center and give them the time to make it right, adding it was the City that started the problems when they forced the owner to tear down the old building. Mr. Leland then asked Council if they were aware there was a junkyard located less than a block from our beautiful City park. Mr. Leland then stated Mr. J.T. Moffett, who speaks most often and loudest about the recycling center doesn't even live in the City of Benson, yet tries to run the City and the Council and he believes Mr. Moffett is doing what he can to get the Council to run the present recycler out of town so he can start his own recycling center. Mr. Leland then stated if the Council truly wants to improve our City's beautification, they could start by instructing the Police Department to enforce the littering ordinance, adding the addresses of the offenders are on the yard sale boxes left on the street corners after the sale is over. Mr. Leland then stated if the Council doesn't want to use the Police Department, they could have the City street crews pick up the boxes at the end of the day on Monday and it will help make the City nicer looking. Mr. Leland then thanked the Council for their time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion and possible direction to Staff on coordinating and promoting Butterfield Days the weekend of October 13, 2012**

Mayor King introduced Heather Floyd of the Butterfield Rodeo Committee, Recreation Coordinator Laura Parkin and Tourism Director Bob Nilson who would be addressing Council. Mayor King then stated he has been a long-term supporter of the rodeo, adding it's an event that has grown every year and is absolutely amazing. Mayor King then stated to have the event become a 2-day event would be great for the City since it would fill up the hotels and restaurants and bring shoppers to Benson. Mayor King then stated for the past couple of years, the celebration has included fireworks after they were postponed from the 4th of July celebration and the fireworks would also be displayed this year at the Butterfield event. Ms. Parkin then addressed Council stating 3 proposals have been presented to Council to host Butterfield Days and Staff feels Option A is the best choice with the limited amount of time left before the event. Ms. Parkin stated by expanding the rodeo to a 2-day event, it will bring more people to the event and encourage them to stay in Benson, benefitting our local businesses and the rodeo committee is willing to make it happen with the City's help. Ms. Parkin then addressed the proposed kickball tournament at the park, stating kickball has less liability as opposed to softball and the tournament is designed to be able to expand each year. Ms. Parkin then stated this will allow non-profit organizations the opportunity to participate in the event with an attraction such as the farmers' market or other fundraiser for their organization. Ms. Parkin then stated there is a similar event in Roswell, NM which brings 3,000 people to play in a tournament and it is her hope to grow this event so it is continuously bringing more teams and people to Benson. Ms. Parkin then stated Mr. Nilson had been speaking with Ms. Floyd and it is their recommendation to move the Pony

Express to the rodeo location, adding the historical museum also expressed interest in the Pony Express and has informed Staff they will have vendors and displays at the museum on Saturday to promote the history of Benson. Mayor King stated Ms. Floyd and the rodeo committee work relentlessly and put a lot of time and effort into this event and he really appreciates their commitment. Mayor King then stated he would like to commend Ms. Parkin and Mr. Nilson for possibly taking on this challenge, adding he knows it will be successful with this team in place.

Councilmember Maldonado asked about the cost of the DJ with Ms. Parkin stating the DJ had already been paid by the 4th of July committee since he was to perform with the fireworks display, so they simply rescheduled him for Butterfield Days, adding the proposed cost shown is to rent the equipment for the event. Ms. Floyd then addressed Council stating everything is in place and ready to go for a 2-day event, if Council chooses to do so, adding the committee is very excited about expanding the event.

Councilmember Brooks asked about accounting for the City's cost of employees who are involved in the event process, stating he would like to know the City's overall cost for the event, regardless of who sponsors it. Public Works Director Brad Hamilton stated City Manager Glenn Nichols had instructed Staff to keep track of these expenses and he could provide it to Council after the event. Councilmember Brooks verified this cost would be there regardless of sponsorship of the event with Mr. Hamilton agreeing, stating if the City doesn't have someone at the park, we end up with quite a mess after the event. Councilmember Brooks then stated he liked the idea of having a 2-day event for a little extra cost, adding he thinks it will bring in more revenue with people staying overnight, noting businesses need people to come to the City and he appreciates Staff's efforts.

Councilmember Brooks then asked about concessions with Ms. Parkin and Mr. Nilson stating they didn't know if this type of venue would support vendors and feel it would be better to not have vendors than to offer vendor spaces and have them not make any money. Ms. Parkin stated with the existing concession stand, the Little League could provide concessions. Ms. Parkin then stated the risk with vendors is if they don't make any money, they won't return for other events. Mr. Nilson then stated some years back, there was an event with a low turnout and vendors spread the word not to participate in Benson events, adding it took many years to recover from that and it would be safer not having vendors than to offer vendor spaces and then have them not make money and pass the word around. Mr. Nilson then stated crowds are different based on the type of event and doesn't know if this type of crowd could support vendors.

Councilmember Lambert stated he had gone over the options with Ms. Parkin and was in favor of a 2-day event, adding it will keep people in Benson overnight and will help hotels, restaurants and other local businesses. Councilmember Lambert then stated the only thing he would like to see added is transportation using the City bus system to take people back and forth from the park to the rodeo. Councilmember Lambert then stated in the past, Council has given between \$9,000 and \$11,000 for the event to another organization and he is glad the City is hosting the event this year, adding it gives us the opportunity to expand the event each year.

Councilmember Moncada asked how many kickball teams were needed to host a tournament with Ms. Parkin stating the tournament coordinator told her we could have a decent tournament with 6 to 8 teams, but her goal was to have 20 teams, adding she didn't know if that was feasible with the limited timeframe before the event. Councilmember Moncada then asked if the information and rules were available with Ms. Parkin stating if Council chose to hold the tournament, she would have that information available and would have teams register either at the Visitor Center or the Community Center.

Councilmember Sacco asked about the cost of the fireworks with Staff stating the fireworks have been paid for in conjunction with the 4th of July event, so there is no additional cost for them to be displayed at Butterfield.

Vice Mayor McGoffin then moved to approve Option A with the addition of providing transportation services with the City buses. Seconded by Councilmember Brooks. Motion passed 7-0.

2. **Resolution 37-2012 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, approving an agreement with KE&G Construction Inc. for the Benson 5th Street Improvements project as part of CDBG Grant #105-11**

Public Works Director Brad Hamilton stated this resolution is for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project selected and approved by Council 2 years ago, adding the first part of the grant was a drainage study and this portion is to pave 5th Street. Mr. Hamilton stated the City received 4 bids on the project with KE&G coming in as the lowest qualified bidder, approximately \$90,000 lower than anyone else. Mr. Hamilton then stated the remaining funds in the grant are not enough to complete sidewalks on both sides, adding it is the recommendation to use lime-treated subgrade, which is more expensive, but makes the street last a lot longer in our soil and to adjust the sidewalks to possibly one side of the street with handicap ramps, instead of both sides, noting the City would utilize all available funds under the grant. Mr. Hamilton then stated utility crews have been working over the last few weeks to replace the utilities underneath the street before the paving begins. Council then discussed the cost to complete sidewalk installation on both sides of the street, with Mr. Hamilton stating it would cost approximately \$25,000 to do so and he felt it would be better to not add City funding to a federal project. Council consensus was it would be better to install sidewalks on streets that currently have no sidewalks at all. Councilmember Brooks then moved to approve Resolution 37-2012. Seconded by Councilmember Maldonado. Motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Mayor McGoffin moved to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Sacco. Motion passed 7-0.

Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk