

**THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA  
HELD SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 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. with the Pledge of the Allegiance. Mayor King then introduced Steve Medeiros of the New Life Family Worship Center who gave the invocation.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present were: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr., Vice Mayor Al Sacco, Councilmembers Pat Boyle, Ron Brooks, Jeff Cook, Chris Moncada and Peter Wangsness (via phone).

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** None

**PROCLAMATION:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

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

- Tuesday, September 23, 2014 – Community Watershed Alliance, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
- Saturday, September 27, 2014 – Benson Airport Advisory Committee, 7:00 a.m., Hangar B9, Benson Airport
- Monday, October 6, 2014 – Benson Economic Development Committee, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
- Tuesday, October 7, 2014 – Planning & Zoning Worksession, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- Monday, October 13, 2014 – City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
  
- Tuesday, September 23, 2014 – A free seminar provided by the City of Benson’s Attorney, for the Citizens of Benson. The seminar topic is “Tips on Employer and Employee Rights and Responsibilities,” 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., At the Benson Community Center, 705 West Union Street, Beverages and Snacks will be included.
  
- Friday, October 10 through Sunday, October 12, 2014 – This year the 29th Butterfield Overland Stage Days and Rodeo is a three-day event, which begins Friday, October 10 with a Rodeo Queen Horsemanship Competition. Saturday and Sunday will host a parade that begins at 9:00 a.m., vendors, Pony Express, Two-day Rodeo, Rodeo Queen Competition and Car Show. For more information, visit [www.cityofbenison.com](http://www.cityofbenison.com) under “What to do today”

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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

- 1a. Minutes of the August 11, 2014 Regular Meeting
- 1b. Reappointment of Marion Buchanan to the Benson Library Advisory Board
- 1c. Reappointment of Janet Hearn to the Benson Library Advisory Board
- 1d. Invoices processed for the period from August 28, 2014 through September 11, 2014

Councilmember Cook moved to approve the Consent Agenda with typo corrections to Item 1a. Seconded by Vice Mayor Sacco. Motion passed 7-0.

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding sponsorship of the Benson Shop with a Cop program**

City Manager William Stephens stated during the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget process, Council included a line item in the Community Enrichment section for the Shop with a Cop program in the amount of \$500.00. Mr. Stephens then stated today, Ms. Denise Celentano of the Benson Shop with a Cop program is asking for the distribution of this expenditure, adding Ms. Celentano is present for any questions Council may have.

Ms. Celentano then addressed Council stating this is the 5th year of the program, adding she appreciates the City's support in past years and she is asking for the same sponsorship this year. Ms. Celentano then stated last year, the program assisted 35 children and will do the same this year, adding she is happy to say the Sheriff's Department Assist Team and Border Patrol will both be participating this year. Councilmember Brooks stated this is a good program, adding he still remembers a tour he took of a Fire Department as a child and he feels this program leaves an impression with the children as well. Ms. Celentano stated as the program grows, she hopes to include Fire Departments. Councilmember Cook stated programs like this have intangible benefits. Councilmember Cook then stated he knows that everyone present knows people in Benson and can tell horror stories of the parents who have done things that have left their children alone or abused and Shop with a Cop is intended to target those children and help them understand that there are still people they can trust. Councilmember Cook then stated being able to get to those kids before it's too late and salvage them are the kinds of intangible benefits he was meaning and he would be voting to support this program.

Councilmember Brooks stated he felt the program could be looked at as a crime prevention program. After further brief discussion, Councilmember Brooks moved to approve the sponsorship of the Shop with a Cop program in the amount of \$500.00. Seconded by Councilmember Boyle. Motion passed 7-0.

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding the removal of Jaime Muller from the Benson Economic Development Committee and advertising for new membership applications**

City Manager William Stephens stated this item was placed on the agenda by Mayor King and Councilmember Boyle. Councilmember Boyle stated the Benson Economic Development Committee (BEDC) hasn't been able to contact Mr. Muller and he hasn't attended any BEDC meetings, adding at this point, the committee is asking the Council to remove Mr. Muller and advertise for more applicants.

Councilmember Brooks moved to dismiss Jaime Muller from the Benson Economic Development Committee. Seconded by Vice Mayor Sacco. Councilmember Moncada stated the Council would need to advertise for applicants with Councilmember Brooks amending his motion to include advertising the open position on the Benson Economic Development Committee. Amended motion seconded by Vice Mayor Sacco. Motion passed 7-0.

4. **Resolution 26-2014 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, approving a schedule for fees relating to Recreation Services**

City Manager William Stephens stated this fee increase request is due to an 11% increase in the City's hourly electricity rate, adding the requested changes are in the proposed fee schedule before Council. Mr. Stephens then stated Recreation Coordinator Laura Parkin is here to answer any questions Council may have. Councilmember Brooks asked how the 11% was arrived at with Ms. Parkin stating she worked with Mr. Bane at Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) to determine the rates. Ms. Parkin then stated in 2010, the City Council implemented the current fees and after meeting with Mr. Bane, she is requesting the 11% in the hourly rate for use of the ball field lights. Ms. Parkin then stated the City funds the leagues and their use of the parks in the amount of approximately \$6,000, which is about 40% of the hourly lights usage.

Councilmember Brooks stated he knew that SSVEC was looking at a 5% increase in their rates and asked why the proposed increase in fees was 11% with Ms. Parkin stating the City received an 11% increase and

was told that there would probably not be another increase for 5 years, adding the City's rate is different than residential rates and someone from SSVEC would have to explain how the rates are determined.

Councilmember Boyle stated he had discussed this issue with Ms. Parkin and even with the increase, the City would still be subsidizing a certain amount with Ms. Parkin stating the City recovers 60% of the hourly light rate and pays the other 40%. Councilmember Boyle then asked if there was any reason the City didn't charge the full amount of the hourly light rate, adding the City is struggling and he thought it would be a good idea to pass the entire cost on to make sure everyone who is using the ball fields pays the price in full instead of the City subsidizing the cost. Ms. Parkin then stated currently, she bills the leagues for their previous season usage so they will know going into their next season how much their light bill will be, adding this allows them to recover those costs through increased registration or other fund-raising activities. Councilmember Boyle asked if this meant the City was locked into the current billing process for another year with Ms. Parkin stating anyone she hasn't billed yet would be paying the current rate and would see the increase the following season. Ms. Parkin then stated this gives her the opportunity to work with the leagues and let them know the fees are increasing, adding they will be able to calculate their new fee for the next season. Councilmember Boyle then asked if Ms. Parkin had been speaking with the leagues about the increase with Ms. Parkin stating she has had brief conversations with some of the leagues, adding some of the leagues are lacking in volunteers and they don't have much time to talk to her.

Councilmember Moncada spoke about passing 100% of the light costs onto the leagues, stating these are mostly youth leagues and he knew there would be at least 100 angry parents at the next Council meeting if the Council decided to do so. Councilmember Moncada then stated information has been passed on to the youth football and youth baseball coaches and they are anticipating an increase, but these leagues are not for profit and they only charge what is needed to cover costs, adding no one gets paid for coaching or being on the board and all the money goes back into the programs. Councilmember Moncada then stated he felt the City should subsidize as much as it can, adding he understands the budget is tight, but these people pay taxes and expect a certain level of service and part of the services a City should provide is recreation. Councilmember Moncada then stated the Council wants kids to participate in sports so they have something to do, adding it encourages them to be part of a team and keeps them off the streets. Councilmember Moncada then stated some leagues subsidize registrations because some parents can't afford the registration fees, adding again, he doesn't think the City should pass on any more than it absolutely has to because the City should do everything it can to encourage youth sports to continue and to expand.

Councilmember Cook agreed with Councilmember Moncada stating the taxpayers have already paid partially for the lights and he thinks the youth sports programs benefit the City and everyone in it. Councilmember Cook then asked about the reduction in the costs of the lights after implementing a fee for the leagues to pay a portion of the costs with Public Works Director Brad Hamilton stating the original reason the City put the fee in place was to give a value to using the lights, so when the lights were not in use, they were turned off. Mr. Hamilton then stated he believed the electric bill decreased by approximately \$12,000-\$15,000 per year.

Councilmember Cook then spoke about the State level hearing on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and the EPA's desire to shut down coal burning units and force \$30 million in upgrades to an existing generating unit at the Apache generating station (AEPCO) and asked about further anticipated rate increases or decreases with Ms. Parkin stating the proposed increase is based on the rates the City is charged from SSVEC, adding AEPCO or Arizona G&T Cooperatives supplies SSVEC with the electricity and beyond that, she couldn't answer any questions about any other rate adjustments. Mr. Hamilton then stated he didn't know much about any rate decrease, adding it may have been a decrease in the fuel surcharge, but he hasn't seen a decrease in the City's electric bills.

Councilmember Brooks suggested adjusting rates if necessary in the future to reflect the same rate adjustments the City gets, adding the rates can just be brought back to Council at that time. Councilmember Brooks then stated he has heard the comments out there about a lot of things in life getting so expensive, people can't afford to do it anymore and he thinks the City has some obligation to its citizens with regards to recreation activities. Councilmember Brooks then moved to approve Resolution 26-2014. Seconded by Councilmember Moncada. Motion passed 7-0.

5. **Resolution 27-2014 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, authorizing the City to enter into a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with the Houston-Galveston Area Council**

Fire Chief Keith Spangler stated this agreement allows the City to purchase large items such as fire apparatus without having to go through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process because it's already been done. Chief Spangler then stated this agreement is similar to the Mohave Cooperative Purchasing agreement the City has and uses, adding the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) issues RFPs and finds the lowest prices in specific purchase areas. Councilmember Boyle asked if the HGAC was a broker and how they got paid with Chief Spangler stating they are paid by the companies who respond to the RFP process.

Councilmember Moncada asked if the agreement would be used to purchase the fire truck with the recently awarded grant funds with Chief Spangler stating it would. Councilmember Boyle asked if the City was locked into this agreement or if the City found a cheaper price through the RFP process, the cheaper vendor could be used with Chief Spangler stating the City would not be issuing an RFP since the HGAC had already completed an RFP process and the City can use them to get the lowest price. Chief Spangler then stated this saves time that would normally be used in creating an RFP, advertising, reviewing the proposals, the selection and drafting a contract, adding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is very time specific.

Vice Mayor Sacco asked if the City has done this before with Chief Spangler stating this agreement was similar to the State Bid Contract, adding the State also completes an RFP process for different items and the City can then use their contracted vendor prices.

Councilmember Cook asked about using more than one vendor through this agreement, stating he was assuming multiple vendors could be used to get the lowest prices rather than being required to purchase all the equipment from one vendor with City Manager William Stephens stating Councilmember Cook was correct. Mr. Stephens then stated the HGAC goes out for multiple bids on different pieces of equipment and then the City can use this agreement to purchase equipment from these vendors because the RFP process has been completed nationwide and has the lowest price from the best company that can offer the products.

Councilmember Brooks stated in essence, HGAC is the purchaser of equipment with a consumer base that gets them the better prices with Chief Spangler stating HGAC is not the purchaser, but is more of a middleman seeking the best prices for their customers. Councilmember Wangness then asked if a local vendor would have the opportunity to meet or beat these prices with Mr. Stephens stating the vendor would have had to participate in the RFP process with HGAC, which has already been done as part of the agreement.

Councilmember Moncada moved to approve Resolution 27-2014. Seconded by Councilmember Brooks. Motion passed 7-0.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Brooks moved to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. Seconded by Vice Mayor Sacco. Motion passed 7-0.

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Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk