

**THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA
HELD MAY 26, 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 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Mayor Toney D. King, Sr., Vice Mayor Barbara Nunn, Councilmembers: Pat Boyle, Lupe Diaz (via phone), Nick Maldonado, and Chris Tapia. Absent was: Councilmember Larry Dempster who was excused by the Mayor.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

Mayor King recognized Officer Asher Arnold for his service in public safety for the City of Benson for over 18 years, and the Mayor thanked him for his services and wished him well as he pursues other opportunities.

PROCLAMATION: None

CITY MANAGER'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS REPORT:

City Manager Vicki Vivian addressed Council, giving the dates of upcoming meetings and events.

Monday, June 8, 2020	– Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Center – (Cancelled)
Monday, June 22, 2020	– Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Center
Wednesday, June 24, 2020	– Special Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Center Public Hearing – Tax Levy and Budget

Ms. Vivian also stated barring any unforeseen circumstances these meetings will be open to the public with social distancing guidelines in place. Ms. Vivian also mentioned that anyone interested in getting tested for COVID-19, viral testing will be open and free to the public at the Chiricahua Community Health Centers in Benson on Saturday May 30th from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., however they have asked everyone to register in advance, and if you need more information you may contact City Hall at (520) 586-2245.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

- 1a. Minutes of the May 11, 2020 Worksession
- 1b. Minutes of the May 11, 2020 Regular Meeting
- 1c. Invoices processed for the period from May 1, 2020 through May 13, 2020

Councilmember Maldonado moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Vice Mayor Nunn. Motion passed 6-0.

2. **Discussion and possible action regarding the Financial Request from the San Pedro Valley Alliance Summer Programs**

City Manager Vicki Vivian stated the San Pedro Valley Alliance was requesting funding in the amount of \$4,000.00 to help with their 2020 summer activities adding historically, the San Pedro Valley Alliance in conjunction with various Governor's Office programs and the City of Benson, has provided recreation activities for our youth, mainly with trips to movies, water parks, museums and other recreational facilities. In the past, the City had a specific line

item for the San Pedro Valley Alliance with funding available ranging from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 each year. However, in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 funding was removed from the budget.

Ms. Vivian stated last year the San Pedro Valley Alliance requested \$4,000.00 to help with their 2019 summer activities adding the Council approved \$3,700.00 from the Community Enrichment Budget and following that the City re-established the line item specifically for the San Pedro Valley Alliance in the current budget to funding in the amount of \$3,500.00, based on Council's direction.

Ms. Vivian also stated due to the situation with COVID-19, there may be trips or activities that will be cancelled adding that in speaking with the San Pedro Valley Alliance, it was decided to put this item on the agenda in late May to see what the circumstances were at that time. Staff invited someone to be present to discuss the request and answer questions regarding their programs. Ms. Nona Hansen with the San Pedro Valley Alliance introduced herself and stated they have had to adjust their schedule because some places are not open, and some places still have restrictions in place due to the COVID-19. Ms. Hansen added in April the San Pedro Valley Alliance applied and were awarded a Grant for the Kartchner Caverns tours and currently the trip has been moved to a later date so that more people can attend. Ms. Hansen stated they are currently trying to find a bus driver because the regular bus driver was exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Ms. Hansen stated with funds the City was providing they will also be offering underprivileged children a scholarship.

After a brief discussion Councilmember Boyle moved to approve the financial request for \$3,500.00 for the San Pedro Valley Alliance Summer Programs. Seconded by Councilmember Maldonado. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Hansen thanked Council and reiterated that if all of the money was not used this year it will go toward next year.

3. **Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 20-2020 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, approving a Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Seth Judd, past Finance Director / current Financial Contract Consultant, stated the recommended budget was presented and discussed at the worksession held on May 11, 2020. After further recommendations from Council and Staff, changes to the recommended budget include the following:

- A two (2) percent Cost of Living Adjustment based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index) effective January 1, 2021.
- Salary Compression adjustments across all Departments.
- Adjustments for ASRS (Arizona State Retirement System) and PSPRS (Public Safety Retirement System) contribution increases.
- Addition of a COVID-19 contingency in all Departments to help in adjusting for the COVID-19 crisis.
- A two (2) percent increase in the cost of employee health insurance instead of a ten (10) percent increase.
- Added funding for a new bus that will be paid for through Grant money.

Mr. Judd stated these changes resulted in an increase from the proposed budget of \$109,584.00 adding it was important to note that the Tentative Budget expenditures cannot be increased following Council's adoption of the Tentative Budget, but they CAN be decreased or rearranged adding the current Tentative Budget amount may be amended by Council if there are further recommendations. The total amount of the Tentative Budget is \$21,428,013.00.

Mayor King asked how much it would be for the Cost of Living Adjustment for the six-month period with Mr. Judd stating it would be \$60,000.00 for a six-month period and \$120,000.00 for the whole year. Ms. Vivian stated the reason it was not put into the budget until January was that revenues will be analyzed and if the revenues are not where they need to be the adjustment will not go into effect, just like the other tentative expenditures.

Mayor King moved to approve Resolution 20-2020. Seconded by Councilmember Tapia. Motion passed 6-0.

4. **Discussion during and/or after presentation by City Staff of City Finances, with emphasis on April 30, 2020 financial results, current year budget process, and the City's financial position at April 30th, 2020**

Mr. Judd stated he would be discussing the City's financial position at April 30, 2020, comparing Fiscal Year 2019 to Fiscal Year 2020 and as a point of reference 83 percent of the fiscal year has passed. Mr. Judd stated for the Month of April Citywide Revenue was at \$945,113.00, compared to last year at \$1,016,761.00, a decrease of \$71,649.00. Mr. Judd stated he only has part of what the March sales would have been at this point adding he expects those numbers to increase when the May financial presentation was done. Mr. Judd then stated year-to-date, the City is up \$2,230,919.00 over last year. Mr. Judd stated the expenditures for the month of April were up \$24,542.00 over last year totaling \$787,031.00 in expenses and year-to-date expenses were up \$873,855.00 over last year. Mr. Judd stated even though there was an increase in expenses the net position is up year-to-date \$1,903,189.00 over last year with a decrease of \$96,191.00 for the month of April, 2020 compared to April, 2019.

No Council discussion.

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.

Councilmember Maldonado moved to enter into an Executive Session with the Mayor and Council, the City Manager, the City Attorney, the Public Works Director, and the Deputy City Clerk at 7:25 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Boyle. Motion passed 6-0.

Council reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Boyle moved to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Seconded by Councilmember Tapia. Motion passed 6-0.

Toney D. King, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Vivian, CMC, City Clerk