City of Benson
City Council Communication

Regular Meeting **February 23, 2015**

To: Mayor and Council Agenda Item # 7

From: William D. Stephens, City Manager

Subject:

Discussion and possible direction to Staff about the Benson Economic Development Committee including the Resignation of Ron Brooks, the Resignation of Stephen Insalaco, the Appointment of Debra Crafts and the possible retention, reformation, or dissolution of the committee as in proposed Ordinance 576 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, amending the Benson City Code, Chapter 18 "Boards, Commissions and Committees," Article 18-6, "Benson Economic Development Committee" to disband and delete any reference to the Benson Economic Development Committee in the Benson City Code

Discussion:

At the Council meeting held on February 9, the resignation of Ron Brooks and the appointment of Debra Crafts to the Benson Economic Development Committee were tabled to the February 23 Council meeting. Councilmember Lambert then asked to have the Benson Economic Development Committee on the agenda for Council consideration and possible action.

Staff Recommendation:

Council pleasure

ORDINANCE 576

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE BENSON CITY CODE, CHAPTER 18 "BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES," ARTICLE 18-6, "BENSON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE" TO DISBAND AND DELETE ANY REFERENCE TO THE BENSON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IN THE BENSON CITY CODE

WHEREAS, the City of Benson has adopted a City Code for the efficient administration of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council in May 2014 adopted City Code Article 18-6, concerning the establishment and functionality of the Benson Economic Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed Article 18-6 and wishes now to amend the City Code to delete the contents of Article 18-6 and to delete all references to the Benson Economic Development Committee in any Article or Section heading in the City Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, as follows:

Section I: Article 18-6 of the Benson City Code is hereby deleted.

Section II: All references to the Benson Economic Development Committee in Article or Section headings of the Benson City Code are deleted.

Section III: All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section IV: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion thereof.

Section VI: The City Clerk is directed to publish the text of this Ordinance in the San Pedro Valley News Sun for two (2) consecutive weeks, and further to post a copy of this Ordinance in three (3) or more public places within the City.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson, Arizona, this 23rd day of February, 2015.

_____
TONEY D. KING, SR., Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
VICKI L. VIVIAN, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
MESCH, CLARK AND ROTHSCHILD, P.C.
By Gary J. Cohen
City's Attorney

January 12th, 2015

City of Benson
120 W. 6th Street
Benson, Arizona

Mayor & Council;
Due to a recent illness I have decided to resign my position on Benson Economic Development Committee effective today.

Sincerely,
Ron Brooks

Cc: BEDC committee members, Vicki Vivian

DATE
03 February 2015

FROM
Stephen Insalaco
3280 West Pinto Place
Benson, Arizona 85602

TO
Mayor Toney King
Vice-Mayor Lori McGoffin
Council Member Patrick Boyle
Council Member Jeff Cook
Council Member Joe Konrad
Council Member David Lambert
Council Member Peter Wangsness

CC
City Clerk Vicki Vivian

SUBJECT
Letter of Resignation, Benson Economic Development Committee

Honorable Mayor and city council members;

Please consider this letter of resignation for my role on the Benson Economic Development committee. My resignation is effective immediately upon receipt of this letter.

I had very high hopes of participating in events that would bring economic wealth and prosperity to the community of Benson, but unfortunately I can see clearly now that will not be possible under the current circumstances.

Please understand that I set high standards on how a public body should operate in following process, and functioning above the table in clear view of the public and other committee members. Essential to those standards are the ideas of member inclusion and respect. Those ideas have been violated in the airport advisory committee, and the contagions responsible for them are now migrating to the economic development committee.

Since my involvement with the Benson Economic Development Committee (BEDC) and Benson Airport Advisory Committee (BAAC), I have been in a constant battle with Chairperson Barbara Nunn to following process, in keeping all committee members equally informed, in conducting committee business above the table, in not taking action on agenda items until they have been properly posted, and in building a collaborating environment with council members and others for the common good of the community.

Her leadership style is clearly not in alignment with these values, because so many of her activities have deliberately excluded committee members (if even only myself), informed a preferred majority of committee members around her while leaving others out of the big picture, conducted multiple attacks on council members, and executed events under the table before

they have been properly posted on an agenda. Some of her committee activities have been clearly executed in an illegal fashion from the perspective of the Arizona Open Meeting Laws; with a [sourrounding] committee majority coming to committee meetings with a surprise majority consensus, and willing to vote on a topic with a previously defined outcome and no need for any further discussion by that consensus.

I also set high standards for the respect that should be displayed for council members, staff, and the public officers who volunteer their time in committees and commissions. I have never come to a council meeting and attacked a council member in a call-to-public address. I have addressed problems, but never disrespected a council member. It seems that Ms. Nunn is willing to take her pot shots at the council members of her choice as it seems convenient to her personal agenda, and now myself within committee meetings with no fear of consequences.

As a committee chairperson, I believe that it is the chairperson's role and responsibility to build the best possible relationships with the Mayor, council members, staff, and other business associates of the city. As chairperson, Ms. Nunn should be aware of this, and in accepting the role of chairperson, she should realize that she has made a choice to forego her personal adverse agendas with the city council members or committee members, and instead assume the responsibility of building the strongest working relationships with the Mayor and city council members on behalf of the committee that she chairs.

Ms. Nunn obviously does not understand or agree with these ideas, and the committees that she resides on have paid the price. Further, the council continues to permit these disrespectful attacks on their person within council meetings, and I site the council attack by five BAAC members and/or their associates with a video camera, who conducted an attack on then council member Ron Brooks immediately following is appearance and participation within an airport committee meeting, two days earlier. I also site the more recent attack on council member Peter Wangsness, and now I am now subject to those same vulgar attacks.

During the Benson Economic Development Committee meeting of February 2nd, I was subjected to a Barbara Nunn attack, where I was accused of the reason that she was unable to accomplish anything with the airport committee, and the reason for its failure. Yet in the same time frame, the committee under her direction tabled 90% of the first meeting's agenda items and delayed the next regular meeting by 60-days, cancelled nearly half of its regular meetings in its 8-month existence, and failed to participate in a scheduled committee airport maintenance event. Most BAAC meetings started with committee personnel complaining that they had to work to do and no time for a meeting, that they would rather be flying, or that they wanted the meeting over within 30-minutes. In one case, I was even blamed for the committee's existence.

On my behalf, I have been the subject of constant exclusion in BAAC meetings, subject to numerous telephone calls and text message threats by BAAC committee members after I suggested the idea of the two committees working together on airport topics, and called a "cancer that needs to be cut out". I was placed "on notice" (whatever that means), told that I generate too much paperwork, and that I am difficult to work with. If constantly reminding the chairperson to follow process and keep things above the table makes me difficult to work with, then I am that person.

I find that the city has placed sufficient verbiage in the call-to-public application form to prevent these disrespectful attacks on council members, a response from a previous municipal bully, but continues to fail to enforce them under council attacks. That is a choice of the Mayor and council members.

In having said the above, I have a choice too. As a citizen, I choose to demand respect and not to be the subject of the lies and verbal attacks by Ms. Nunn or other disrespectful BAAC members. If being part of a public body leaves me vulnerable to such attacks, then I choose not to participate in that portion of the political process – I neither have the time nor the energy for it.

Therefore I make the *choice* to separate myself from Barbara Nunn and her vulgar and repulsive leadership style, placing the greatest possible distance between her and myself with this resignation. I neither agree with nor respect her political and personal style.

Everyone has a choice – this is mine.

v/r
Stephen Insalaco
J-Six Ranch

NOTE: No part of this letter should be construed as indicating my resignation from the Benson Airport Advisory Committee (BAAC).

Benson Arizona Founded 1880

A Gateway to the San Pedro Valley

APPLICATION FOR BOARD, COMMITTEE OR COMMISSION

Name: Debra Crafts
Address: 191 W. 5th Street, Benson, AZ 85602
Phone: 520-221-0961
Email: craftsinbenson@hotmail.com

Which Board, Committee or Commission are you interested in?
Benson Economic Development Comm.

Please state why you would like to serve.
I would like to help bring activities and new business to Benson

What do you believe to be the key responsibility of this position?
Act as a liason between city of Benson and outside interests.

Please state why you believe that a Board Member, Committee Member or Commissioner can make a community better.
We can improve Benson by giving us a better "business friendly" image make it a place they want to come to work, invest, grow a business

What personal and/or professional experience or background will be advantages to this Board, Committee or Commission?
- organizational skills
- ability to complet projects according to scheduled and/or dead lines
- long-time Benson resident

Each Board, Committee or Commission has scheduled meetings. The meetings could last 2 or 3 hours. Will this be a hardship?
no

Board Members, Committee Members or Commissioners may be asked to participate in sub-committees that meet other than the regularly scheduled meeting time. Will you be able to participate?

List any Professional, trade, business, or civic activities and offices held. *You may exclude memberships which would reveal sex, race, religion, national origin, age, ancestry, or handicap or other protected status.*

Active member of United Methodist Church while in North Carolina
Developed, organized & taught co-workers and staff - classes, continuing education

Have you been convicted of a felony within the last seven (7) years? _ Yes X No
If yes please explain. A positive answer will not necessarily disqualify you from consideration.

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

I certify that answers given herein are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize investigation of all statements contained in this application for appointment to the Board, Committee or Commission as may be necessary in arriving at an appointment decision by the City Council.

In the event of appointment,

- I understand that false or misleading information given in my application may result in my being excused from the Board, Committee or Commission.
- I understand that attendance is important and I will strive to attend all meetings and that continual absences will result in my being excused from the Board, Committee or Commission.
- I understand that I am required to abide by all Arizona and City of Benson Statutes and Regulations adopted by these governing organizations.
- I understand that this application is subject to the Arizona Open Records law and should not be considered confidential.

Debra J. Crafts — 12/12/14
Signature of Applicant — Date

Office Use Only:

Appointment Date _____

Term of Position _____

Date of Resignation/Term End _____

Notification by: _____