

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Lee Westrum, Bob Claussen, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: Gary Landmark. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Police Chief Jim Crace, Jim Zilka, and Greg Langmo.

There was no one present with unscheduled business to come before the Council.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- a. November 1, 2004 Special City Council Meeting
- b. November 18, 2004 Special City Council Meeting
- c. November 22, 2004 Regular City Council Meeting
- d. November 18, 2004 Safety Committee Meeting
- e. November 8, 2004 Benson Planning Commission Meeting
- f. November 10, 2004 Prairie Country RC & D Council Meeting
- g. October 25, 2004 Swift County-Benson Hospital Board Meeting
- h. November 8, 2004 Benson HRA Meeting

The following correspondence was reviewed with the Council:

CenterPoint Energy Minnegasco dated November 17, 2004
Charter Communications dated November 19, 2004
Benson Library Board dated November 19, 2004
Debbie Jaeger dated November 29, 2004

Jim Zilka from CenterPoint Energy Minnegasco informed the Council that the Benson Police Department is the recipient of a Community Partnership Grant in the amount of \$2,500. He presented Police Chief Jim Crace with a check to be used to purchase laptop computers for the squad cars.

The City Manager informed the Council that staff previously sent a letter to the owner of 703 – 15th Street South asking that they clean up the debris in their yard. Pictures of the property were passed around for the Council to review. To date, nothing has been cleaned up. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing for the Abatement of Nuisance of Private Property at 7:15 p.m. on January 24, 2005 for the property at 703 – 15th Street South.

The City Manager informed the Council that the City received their funds today for the Fibrominn project. At 7:15 p.m. a call to Carl Strickler of Fibrowatt was made. Mr. Strickler briefed the Council on the status of the project. He informed them that financing was completed last Friday, a Notice to Proceed has been issued to SNC Lavalin and the next stage is the facility construction. They are excited to proceed with the project and meet with the Citizen's Advisory Panel. The phone call concluded at 7:32 p.m.

At 7:32 p.m. the Mayor opened the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing. The Council continued with the agenda.

The City Manager briefed the Council on the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO) Market Implementation Agreement. He recommended that the Council approve entering into the agreement with Missouri River Energy Services (MRES). It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve entering into the Midwest ISO Market Implementation Agreement with MRES.

The City Manager informed the Council that staff is moving forward with the Court Order for Repair or Removal of Hazardous Building located at 207 – 11th Street South. He has entered into an agreement to have an asbestos inspection of the house conducted

The Finance Director informed the Council that AFSCME employees have approved the settlement offer that was presented by the Personnel Committee. It is a one-year agreement, family health insurance employee contribution increased to \$156 per month with some minor changes in the insurance package, started a Post Employment Health Savings Account, a 1% increase in the City's contribution to employees' deferred compensation plan, and wages were increased by 35¢, 40¢, 60¢, or 3% if paid over scale. It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to accept the settlement as negotiated by the Personnel Committee.

The Finance Director presented bills and warrants for approval. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$653,468.48.

Council Member Fitz offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION CONSOLIDATING FUNDS AND THE CHANGING OF
ACCOUNTING FUNCTIONS DUE TO GENERAL ACCOUNTING
STANDARDS BOARD OPINION NUMBER 34
(RESOLUTION NO. 2004-38)**

WHEREAS, separate funds have been used to account for certain specific functions within the City, and

WHEREAS, the need for some funds either no longer exists or can be accomplished in other ways, and

WHEREAS, other funds are not serving the purpose that they were originally created.

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved that the following fund and accounting changes be made:

Firemen's Relief Fund - The activity in this fund is limited to very few transactions per year. The same of which could be tracked within the General Fund of the City. Effective December 31, 2004 this fund will be closed and any and all remaining balances will be transferred to the General Fund.

Park Capital Projects Fund - This fund is similar in nature to the monies designated for parks in the General Capital Outlay Fund. Effective immediately this fund is closed and the available funds transferred to the General Capital Outlay Fund to be used for Park Capital Outlay.

Armory Fund - This fund was originally established as an Enterprise Fund but is currently being reported in the annual audit as a Special Revenue Fund. The City sees no need to continue to track this activity separately. Effective December 31, 2004 this fund will be closed into the General Fund of the City and a new department created to record future expenditures.

Ice and Winter Recreation Fund – Originally established as a trust fund for a donation that was used for winter recreation activities the current activities can be accounted for within the General Fund. Effective immediately the fund is closed and the available funds transferred to the General Fund.

Insurance Services Fund – This fund has been classified as an internal service fund but its use does not fit the description of same. Effective immediately this fund is closed and the available funds transferred back to the contributing funds as follows:

General Fund	\$100,508.83
Electric Fund	\$ 42,544.08
Water Fund	\$ 7,754.00
Liquor Fund	\$ 22,916.21
Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 14,093.30</u>
TOTAL	\$187,816.42

Landfill Fund – The City is no longer responsible for the maintenance of the landfill site. Effective immediately this fund is closed and the capital assets transferred to the General Fund Street Department.

Council Member Claussen seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Westrum, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Landmark. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2004-38 duly passed and adopted.

Council Member Claussen offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2004-39)**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation has scheduled improvements on T.H. 12, T.H. 29 and T.H. 9 in Benson, State Project 7607 (29=38) 902, Swift County; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to acquire additional right-of-way for the construction of said highway; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation has tendered an offer to the City of Benson for the following Parcel:

Parcel 16	6885 Sq. Ft. of Permanent Right-of-Way and 3973 Sq. Ft. of Temporary Easement	\$2,100
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Benson, Minnesota to accept the Department offer and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the document to convey the Parcel to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Council Member Westrum seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Claussen, Westrum, Fitz, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Landmark. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2004-39 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to schedule a special City Council meeting on January 3, 2005 at 5:00 p.m..

There being no one present for the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:58 p.m.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk