

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Lee Westrum, Bob Claussen, Gary Landmark, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Finance Director Glen Pederson and Public Works Director Elliot Nelson.

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

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

- a. December 27, 2004 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. January 3, 2005 Special City Council Meeting
- c. December 15, 2004 Prairie Country RC & D Council Meeting
- d. October 18, 2004 MMVRDC Meeting
- e. November 29, 2004 Hospital Board Meeting
- f. December 23, 2004 Benson EDA Meeting

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Kristen Johnson to the Benson Park Board with her term expiring December 31, 2007.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit to Northern Lights Trails for a bingo event at the VFW on April 8, 2005.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to recognize and confirm the following Fire Department Officers for 2005:

Fire Chief	Greg Lee
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief	Jerry Erickson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief	Randy Weber
Captain	Mark Schreck
Lieutenant	Lonnie “Butch” Hagen
Secretary	Tom Hoffman

The City Manager informed the Council that the 90 day comment period for the FEMA proposed Base Flood Elevations began the end of 2004. Staff has started meeting with the Regional Development Commission from Appleton to discuss the City’s mapping needs. The Planning Commission will start working on an ordinance that will govern future construction within the floodplain area. Staff is recommending that the Council consider splitting the contract cost to have Bonestroo survey the properties on the west side of Benson between the sewer, water and electric fund. It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to authorize the expense to survey the properties on the west side of Benson to be paid from the sewer, water and electric funds.

The City Manager informed the Council that the City’s estimated cost for the Highway Improvement Project is \$53,753.08. The Council needs to consider a resolution authorizing the signing of a Cooperative Construction Agreement with Mn/DOT for the Highway Improvement Project. The City Manager informed the Council that a highway task force has started meeting

and will continue to meet during the Highway Improvement Project. The City Manager informed the Council that the curb on both sides of the highway in the 200 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Street South will be replaced with the Highway Improvement Project and about two feet of the sidewalk will also need to be patched. He mentioned that the Council should consider replacing the entire sidewalk because of the condition of the sidewalk. The Highway Department would pay for the two feet it is replacing and the property owners and City would split the remaining cost to replace the entire sidewalk on a 50-50 basis. Council Member Landmark offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2005-01)**

IT IS RESOLVED that the City of Benson enter into Mn/DOT Agreement No. 87513-R with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the City to the State of the City's share of the costs of the grading, widening, bituminous milling and overlay, and traffic control signals construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 9 from the Chippewa River to Trunk Highway No. 29, and from Trunk Highway No. 12 to the east City limits, and on Trunk Highway No. 12 from Trunk Highway 29 to the east City limits, and on Trunk Highway No. 29 from Thornton Ave. to Trunk Highway No. 9 within the corporate City limits under State Project No. 7602-15 (T.H. 9=010).

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the City Manager are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Council Member Westrum seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Landmark, Westrum, Fitz, Claussen, Kittelson. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2005-01 duly passed and adopted.

The City Manager informed the Council that Ulteig Engineering is in the middle of reorganizing. Staff expressed concern that the City's needs will still be met regarding the Fibrominn project. Member Claussen mentioned that when installing the utility extensions for the Fibrominn project that we have enough capacity for future development. Staff has already discussed this issue with the engineers. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve entering into a contract with Ulteig Engineering to provide the engineering for the Fibrominn utility extensions.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that the following two quotes were received for the City's tire requirements:

Westside Tire & Service	\$6,530.39
Glacial Plains Cooperative	\$6,533.45

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to accept the quote from Westside Tire & Service in the amount of \$6,530.39.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Gridor Construction, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements in

the amount of \$246,973.

The Finance Director informed the Council that the section on Deferred Compensation needs to be updated and a new section titled Post Retirement Health Savings Account needs to be added to the Personnel Policies. It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the following update to the Personnel Policies:

**DEFERRED COMPENSATION.** Employees shall be eligible to participate in an employer sponsored deferred compensation plan established under 457 of the IRS code. The Employer will match Employee contributions up to 2% of each employee’s annual gross wages and 50% of additional contributions up to a maximum of 3%.

**POST EMPLOYMENT HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT.** The City shall contribute each pay period to a Post Employment Health Savings Account to be held in the employees name for all full time exempt employees. The level of contribution shall be equal to the highest level of benefit provided any full time employee covered under a collective bargaining agreement. Upon retirement 50% of the severance pay shall be deposited into the employees Post Employment Health Savings Account and the remaining 50% shall be paid to the employee in cash.

The City Manager informed the Council of the following dates:

- |                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 12            | Coalition Legislative Meeting     |
| January 20            | LELS Union Negotiation Meeting    |
| January 27            | Fibrominn Meeting and CAP Meeting |
| January 31-February 3 | City Manager’s Vacation           |

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk