

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 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, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Police Chief Jim Crace, Jerry Erickson, Shirley Ferguson, and Virginia 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. January 24, 2005 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. January 24, 2005 Benson Library Board Meeting
- c. January 12, 2005 Prairie Country RC & D Meeting
- d. January 25, 2005 Benson Cemetery Board Meeting
- e. December 27, 2004 Benson Hospital Board Meeting
- f. January 12, 2005 Benson HRA Meeting
- g. January 25, 2005 Benson HRA Meeting

The City Manager informed the Council that LTP Well Drilling is proposing a settlement of \$10,000 to close out the well project for the Industrial Park development. The City Manager recommended acceptance of the settlement and to have the City Attorney prepare an agreement. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to accept the settlement as proposed by LTP Well Drilling.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to appoint Craig Lindblad to a vacancy on the Airport Commission with his term expiring December 31, 2007.

It was approved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit to the Swift County Pheasant's Forever for a raffle to be held on March 4, 2005. The Council waived the 30 day waiting period.

Shirley Ferguson and Virginia Nelson, representing the Benson Senior Center, informed the Council that their revenues are not covering the expenses at the Senior Center. Benson has donated \$100 each month since 1992. There was a discussion on increasing that donation. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to increase the City's donation to the Senior Center to \$500 per month effective with February 2005.

Jerry Erickson, 1st Assistant Chief of the Benson Fire Department, reviewed the 2004 Annual Fire Report with the Council. The Council was informed that the Fire Department is the recipient of a \$65,000 matching grant to purchase a grass rig. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to accept the 2004 Annual Fire Report as presented.

The City Manager informed the Council that staff met with a number of local merchants and Chamber Manager to discuss Christmas decorations. The consensus was to purchase a variety of lighted snow flake decorations. They are proposing to place 63 poles with snow flake

decorations and are recommending purchasing 70 units. After discussion, it was moved by Westrum, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to authorize staff to purchase up to \$18,000 in Christmas decorations as presented with the Electric Fund funding the project.

The Public Works Director presented a proposal from Cemetery Updating Services, Winona, MN to computerize and update the cemetery records. The estimated contract price is \$17,725. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the proposal as presented with the Perpetual Care Fund funding the project.

The City Manager presented a proposed contract for Toltz, King, Duvall, Anderson and Associates, Inc. (TKDA) to provide design engineering for the 2005 Capital Improvement Projects for the Benson Airport. The estimated cost of this contract is \$42,000 with 95% of the cost to be funded through a grant the City has applied for. The Airport Commission reviewed the scope of work and recommend approval of the contract. It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the contract with TKDA as presented.

The City Manager and Public Works Director informed the Council of the survey Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik and Associates (Bonestroo) conducted of the Western section of town for the FEMA flood map. Bonestroo's survey south of the Chippewa River bridge is similar to the FEMA survey but Bonestroo's survey north of the Chippewa River bridge shows a different 1036 elevation line than FEMA. Bonestroo's 1036 elevation line would affect an additional 12-20 homes and building lots. After discussion, it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to authorize staff to forward the Bonestroo survey maps to FEMA as soon as possible.

The City Manager informed the Council that Bonestroo has completed the traffic control study. He presented a map indicating a number of stop signs that were being recommended and removal of a few existing stop signs. The Planning Commission continues to work on the 12th Street North and Highway 12 intersection. The Planning Commission expects to have a recommendation ready for the March 14 Council meeting regarding the traffic control study.

The Police Chief came before the Council and recommended approval of a contract with H and H Veterinarian Services to provide animal shelter services for the City. He also recommended giving Pheasant Run Enterprises a 30 day notice to terminate the current contract for animal shelter services. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a contract with H and H Veterinarian Services and give the 30 day notice to Pheasant Run Enterprises as recommended.

The Council was informed that the proposed two year contract with the LELS Union is ready for approval. The contract is for a 3% wage increase in each of the two years and increase the deferred compensation benefit from 2% to 3%. The union has signed the contract and the Personnel Committee recommends its approval. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve the two year LELS Union contract as recommended.

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik and Associates for the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Improvement Project in the amount of \$12,625.28.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Gridor Construction Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Improvement Project in the amount of \$125,780.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of Biomist and Altosid Briquets for mosquito control in the amount of \$4,060.63.

The Finance Director submitted a request to purchase 100 control boxes and one handheld computer for the load management system from Internet Energy Systems in the amount of \$13,700. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the purchase as presented by the Finance Director.

The Finance Director presented a Lighting Efficiency Rebate Program for the Council to consider. Council Member Claussen wanted to make sure that the rules be very clear that the applicant is only eligible to receive one rebate and not both the \$200 per kilowatt of demand reduction rebate and the 50% rebate of the total project cost. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve the rebate program and to clarify the rules so they are clear that the applicant can only receive one rebate.

The Finance Director presented bills and warrants for approval. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$504,741.15.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk