

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 9, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Bob Claussen, Gary Landmark, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: Lee Westrum. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Wayne Knutson, Edward Pederson, and Butch Puchalski.

At 7:00 p.m. the Mayor reconvened the Board of Equalization hearing. Wayne Knutson and Edward Pederson from the County Assessor's Office informed the Council that they reviewed parcel numbers 23-0815-000 and 23-0874-000. The Assessors are recommending no changes to the value of the two parcels based on comparative sales. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to accept the Assessor's recommendation and approved no change in value to the following parcels:

23-0815-000	Dale Dahl	1938 Wisconsin Ave.	Value to remain at \$80,200
23-0874-000	Darold Mills	1310 Aldrich Ave.	Value to remain at \$79,500

The Assessors also informed the Council of an upcoming meeting at 7:00 p.m. on June 15 that one member of the Board of Equalization is required to attend.

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. April 25, 2005 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. April 21, 2005 Safety Committee Meeting
- c. March 9, 2005 Prairie Country RC & D Meeting
- d. March 28, 2005 Hospital Board Meeting
- e. May 2, 2005 Planning Commission Meeting

The next item on the agenda was Conditional Use Permit No. 2005-01 for a Home Occupation from Ellen Puchalski, 903 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street South. She is proposing to open a floral business in her home. No comments were received regarding the permit and Ms. Puchalski submitted a list of signatures from neighbors that approve of her business. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the permit with the following stipulations: 1) the permit is temporary for twelve months and 2) comply with City sign ordinance. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve Conditional Use Permit No. 2005-01 for a Home Occupation with two stipulations as recommended by the Planning Commission.

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence with the Council:

- a. Western Area Power Administration dated April 19, 2005
- b. Shamrock Hest Riding Club: It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a \$100 donation to the Shamrock hest Riding Club Kid Day Ranch Rodeo.
- c. Swift County DAC
- d. Charter Communications dated May 5, 2005

The City Manager reviewed a proposal from the Benson Area Chamber of Commerce that asks for assistance to purchase and renovate the building at 1228 Atlantic Avenue for their office. The proposal is as follows:

1. Consider a grant of \$10,000 and loan of \$15,000 at zero interest for three years to be used to purchase the building (Terms of loan: \$250 per month for 36 months and a \$6,000 balloon payment at the end of the term. They expect to renegotiate loan terms on the remaining \$6,000 near the end of the 36 month payment schedule to meet the Chamber's

- financial abilities at that time.)
2. Terms for \$17,500 estimated renovation of building:
    - 25% - Small Cities Development Grant
    - 25% - 1% State of Minnesota loan
    - 25% - EDA low interest loan (approximately 4% interest)
    - 25% - Benson Chamber of Commerce membership donations

The City Council expressed they would like to see instead of a \$10,000 grant that it be tied into for services rendered. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously that the Council is in favor of pursuing this purpose and send it to the EDA for final approval.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that plans and specifications have been completed for the Airport CIPs for 2005. He is requesting that the Council approve the plans and specifications and set a bid opening date. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve plans and specifications for the Airport CIPs for 2005 and set a bid opening date of 10:00 a.m. on June 10, 2005. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on June 1.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that the Power Plant air permit is due for renewal this fall and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency requires submittal of a pre-application six months prior to the renewal date. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the air permit pre-application as presented by the Public Works Director.

Council Member Claussen informed the Council that the Planning Commission has scheduled a bus tour to view intersections regarding the traffic control study at 6:00 p.m. on May 16 and invited Council Members to attend the bus tour.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the following invoice from Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik and Associates:

Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements	-	\$60,147.64
Traffic Control Study	-	\$2,423.00
Benson FEMA Flood Verification	-	\$6,498.50
TOTAL		\$69,069.14

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Gridor Contr. Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements in the amount of \$462,310.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Internet Energy Systems, Inc. to purchase 300 pulse initiators in the amount of \$21,600.

The City Manager informed the Council that the Benson Fire Department received a grant to upgrade the grass rig. They are purchasing the grass rig through the state bid in two packages. They are requesting approval of a pay request from Swenson Motors to purchase the first package in the amount of \$35,273.50. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the pay request from Swenson Motors as presented.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

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Mayor

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