

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

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

Bob Cook, representing the Benson VFW, came before the Council under unscheduled business. He requested that the Council pass a resolution granting the VFW permission to continue charitable gambling for the next two years. Council Member Landmark offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF
BENSON VFW POST 1403 CHARITABLE GAMBLING APPLICATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2005-23)**

WHEREAS, the Benson VFW Post 1403 has requested permission to continue charitable gambling for the next two year, and

WHEREAS, this is a renewal Premise Permit for the base organization Premise Permit Number A-00377-001.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Benson City Council approves submittal of the application and authorizes the City Clerk to submit a certified copy of the resolution to the Benson VFW Post 1403 to be included in their application to the Gambling Control Division.

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. 2005-23 duly passed and adopted.

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

- a. September 26, 2005 Benson City Council Meeting
- b. August 29, 2005 Hospital Board Meeting
- c. September 14, 2005 Prairie Country RC & D Council Meeting

A donation request from the Humane Society of Swift County was tabled until the next meeting.

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the 2006 Chamber of Commerce membership dues in the amount of \$460.

It was moved by Fitz and seconded by Claussen to approve a donation to the Benson Public Schools Renaissance Program in the same amount as last year. The following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Landmark, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Westrum.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a donation to the Prairie Five Community Action Council for the Reach Out for Warmth Program in the same amount as last year.

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to waive the rental fee for the Women of Today to use the Armory on October 22.

A brief review of the 2005 swimming pool statistics was held.

The next item on the agenda was the Second Reading of the Flood Plain Management Ordinance. The City Manager informed the Council that Fibrominn has requested some definition changes to the City's Zoning

Ordinance. He expects those changes to be ready in a couple of months. The City Attorney recommends approval of the Flood Plain Management Ordinance. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the Second Reading of Chapter 154: Flood Plain Management Ordinance.

The City Manager informed the Council that his term on the Hospital Board is up at the end of the year and because of term limits he is not eligible for reappointment. The hospital is planning another project and he feels it is in the best interest of the hospital to have his replacement sit in on the beginning of the project rather than a few months into the project. He recommends that he resign from the Hospital Board tonight and the Council appoint his replacement. There was consensus that the Council wanted to continue having representation on the Hospital Board. Member Claussen has expressed interest in being appointed to the Hospital Board. It was moved by Landmark and seconded by Westrum to accept the City Manager's resignation and appoint Bob Claussen to fill the remainder of the City Manager's term on the Hospital Board. The following vote was recorded: AYES: Landmark, Westrum, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Fitz and Claussen.

The City Manager informed the Council that after researching construction of a bridge across the Chippewa River staff found out that the costs were too high. Because the bridge cannot be constructed within the floodway, the bridge would need to span about 500 feet and would cost over \$1,000,000. Staff is now looking into expanding the trail system in Northside Rec or Ambush Park. The Park Board reviewed the trail system expansions at their meeting earlier today and there was a consensus to pursue expanding the lighted trail in Northside Rec. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve submitting an application for a 2009 MnDOT Enhancement Grant to expand the Northside Rec lighted trail. The project would also include improvements to the road and a parking area that enters from the north to this area. The City Manager mentioned that he expects to spend about \$3,000 for engineering.

The City Manager informed the Council that Tim Flaherty from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities was in town recently. A brochure from the Coalition was included in the packets.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the following three pay requests from Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik and Associates:

1. Wastewater Treatment Facility Project in the amount of \$12,638.70
2. Minnesota Avenue Sanitary Sewer Project in the amount of \$2,475.02
3. Benson Railroad Park Survey in the amount of \$3,306.07.

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Riley Brothers Const. for the 2005 Airport Improvements in the amount of \$276,420.40.

The City Manager updated the Council on the following:

1. Highway Project
2. Airport Project
3. Wastewater Treatment Facility Project
4. Sewer and Water Extension Project
5. Traffic Control Project
6. Senior Center Renovation Project
7. West Railroad Park Parking Project. Staff has been negotiating with Great Plains Cooperative to use their property to provide ingress and egress to a parking lot the City plans to construct in the west railroad park. Great Plains Cooperative is asking for a hold harmless agreement.

There was a consensus to schedule a special budget meeting at 5:00 p.m. on November 9.

The City Manager suggested that a strategic planning session be held in January. There was a consensus to proceed with scheduling a strategic planning session in January.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Manager