

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 13, 2006**

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

Under unscheduled business, Jason Doscher informed the Council he is in the process of starting a full service fixed base operator business at the airport. He informed the Council that the FAA requires a letter of authorization from the City to operate at the airport. The Airport Commission reviewed the proposal earlier this evening. The Commission had concerns about insurance. Doscher has secured the appropriate insurance and the Commission is recommending approval of the business proposal with no conditions. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve Doscher's proposal to operate a full service fixed base operator business at the airport and authorized staff to prepare a letter authorizing the business.

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

- a. February 27, 2006 Benson City Council Meeting
- b. February 28, 2005 Safety Committee Meeting
- c. January 30, 2006 Hospital Board Meeting
- d. February 8, 2006 Benson HRA Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence:

- a. Charter Communications dated February 27, 2006.
- b. MN Dept. of Agriculture dated March 1, 2006. The Bonanza Valley Aviation contamination site at the Airport does not require additional investigation for Alachlor.
- c. Pioneer Land Band Festival dated March 7, 2006. It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve sponsoring a band for the Band Festival for \$350.
- d. City Attorney dated March 9, 2006.

The City Manager informed the Council that Tom Rosemeier has accepted the Building Official position and will start work on March 27, 2006.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to appoint the following to serve on the Lodging Tax Board of Directors: Heather LeClair, Pat Hawley, B. J. Patel, Kay Harrison, Kathy Johnson, Duaine Flanders, and Sue Pirsig.

Shirley Ferguson presented the 2005 Senior Advocacy Corporation Annual Treasurer's Report to the Council.

The Police Chief reviewed the 2005 Annual Police Department Report with the Council.

The Police Chief presented a capital authorization request to purchase video cameras for the two primary patrol vehicles at a cost of \$11,055.05. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve the capital authorization request as presented.

A review of the 2006 utility budgets and capital improvement plans was held. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve the 2006 utility budgets and capital improvement plans as presented.

The Public Works Director reviewed the following four potential projects for 2006:

1. North Central Railroad Park Construction Plan and Budget
2. Armory Parking Lot Project
3. Minnesota Avenue Sewer and Water Extension
4. Homewood 8th Subdivision Plat

The City Manager informed the Council that they need to meet once more or reserve time at a regular meeting to review the results of the January 6 and 7, 2006 City Council Strategic Planning Session and approve a mission statement. There was a consensus to start the April 10, 2006 Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. to work on this item.

The Finance Director informed the Council that the Council needs to look at increasing the solid waste fees. At the current of \$9.25 per month rate, the City is losing money each year. If the fee is increased to \$10.75, it would break even and if the rate is increased to \$11.00, there should be sufficient income through 2008. There was a consensus of the Council to schedule a public hearing at 7:15 p.m. on April 10, 2006 to propose increasing the solid waste fee to \$11.00 per month.

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

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING GENERAL FUND
RESERVE FUNDS FOR OPERATING CAPITAL
(RESOLUTION NO. 2006-06)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson operates a General Fund to finance general government operations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes a designated fund balance in the General Fund equal to six months operating revenues plus \$174,325.10 to finance employee accrued vacation and sick leave as accounted for through the end of 2005 fiscal year.

Council Member Westrum seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Westrum, Landmark, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2006-06 duly passed and adopted.

The Finance Director presented bills and warrants for approval. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$316,314.44.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Manager