

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 10, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Paul 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, Police Chief Jim Crace, Building Official Mike Jacobson, John Connolly, Dave Tolifson, Eric Tolifson, Bob Zielsdorf, Michelle Lee, Justin Campbell, and Steve Mattheisen.

John Connolly informed the Council that a group of individuals is looking into the potential of a wind turbine project for the area. The City of Danvers and the Benson EDA have agreed to fund a study at the cost of \$7,500. The study is to determine if it is financially feasible to develop a 20 MW wind farm in the area. They will be looking for public and private investors. No action was taken on this item.

The Council then continued with the City Council Strategic Planning Session that was held January 6 and 7. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adopt the following mission statement: “Benson is a forward looking community that values public safety, quality of life and treats people with dignity and respect.”

There was a discussion on the list of priorities that were identified at the City Council Strategic Planning Session. There was a consensus to focus on the following items, it was noted some of the items have already started:

- City Hall and Police Department – Handicap Accessibility
- Open New Industrial Park
- Inspection Process for Homes and Properties
- Work with Neighboring Communities to Establish Wind Farm and Energy Complex
- Rebuild Electric Substation
- Develop Renewable Energy Building
- Aggressively Promote Energy Conservation
- Build GIS Based City Map
- Central Business District Redesign
- Examine Combining Government Services

There was a consensus to remove New Modern City Hall from the list and revisit the remainder of the items over time.

David Tolifson, 595 Pacific Avenue, addressed the Council under unscheduled business. He inquired if something couldn't be done to the east end of Pacific Avenue because it is not passable at the present time. There was a consensus to direct staff to set up a meeting with Mike Johnson, Swift County Parks and Drainage, and those present to discuss drainage in that area of Benson.

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

- a. March 27, 2006 Benson City Council Meeting
- b. March 8, 2006 Prairie Country RC & D Council Meeting
- c. March 23, 2006 Safety Committee Meeting

The next item discussed was Variance No. 2006-03 from Rob and Michelle Lee of 615 – 10th Street North. They are proposing to construct an accessory structure on the lot across the street from their residence. Zoning does not allow construction of an accessory structure prior to construction of a primary structure. The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing for Variance No. 2006-03. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the variance with the following stipulations: height limitation of a one-story accessory building, 2) approve 7 ft. side yard setback, and 3) approve 15 ft. rear yard setback. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve Variance No. 2006-03 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

The City Manager informed the Council that the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the rezoning of Parcel No. 23-1451-000 (Hwy. 12, Co. Rd. #37 and Co. Rd. #25 intersection) from Agricultural (A) to General Business (B-2). The Planning Commission recommends approval of the rezoning of Parcel No. 23-1451-000. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the First Reading of An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map of the City of Benson.

The City Manager informed the Council that the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing regarding Variance No. 2006-02 from Zielsdorf Auction. Zielsdorf Auction is proposing to construct an off-premise, non-illuminated business sign onto Parcel No. 23-1451-000. The Planning Commission recommends approval of Variance No. 2006-02. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve Variance No. 2006-02 as recommended by the Planning Commission contingent upon successful approval of the rezoning of Parcel No. 23-1451-000.

A letter was received from Curtis Olson regarding sewer and garbage billing on his grandfather's vacant house. His grandfather has been a resident of Meadow Lane Healthcare for two years. His grandfather is unable to pay this bill. Mr. Olson is requesting that the City terminate billing his grandfather for services he is not using. No action was taken.

At 7:50 p.m. the Mayor opened the public hearing regarding an increase in the residential garbage pickup fee from \$9.25 to \$11.00 per month. Steve Mattheisen was present for the hearing. The City Manager informed the Council that the only comment he received was that they thought the increase should be to \$12.00. Council Member Fitz offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION AMENDING GARBAGE COLLECTION RATE
(RESOLUTION NO. 2006-09)**

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2006, on the proposed amendment to the residential garbage rate, and

WHEREAS, notice of the Public Hearing was duly published in the legal publication for the City of Benson, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the garbage collection rate be amended as follows:

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2006

Service Charge: \$11.00 per month

This includes a weekly pick up service of one 30 gallon container not to exceed 40 pounds. Additional containers shall be charged at \$1.25 per container.

Council Member Claussen seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Landmark, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Westrum. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2006-09 duly passed and adopted. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing for Garbage Collection fees.

The Public Works Director updated the Council on parking lot improvements for 2006. He informed the Council that he is recommending soliciting for separate quotes for the paver laid bituminous, landscaping, and concrete work. This will allow some of the smaller local contractors to submit a quote. There was a consensus of the Council to authorize staff to solicit for separate quotes for the paver laid bituminous, landscaping, and concrete work.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that he feels the five new power plant

generators do not need the level of maintenance that we have a contract with Ziegler for. The maintenance contract with Ziegler does not expire until the end of 2007. It was mentioned the possibility of negotiated a lower contract or getting out of the contract. Staff will be meeting with Ziegler and will keep the Council informed on this issue.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve amending the Jordan Transformer contract for an additional \$15,295.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to remove the stop signs on 19th Street South at Countryside Drive. This will allow the ambulance to have the right of way when coming off of Hwy. 12 going to the hospital. Member Claussen asked that signs be placed on the Countryside Drive stop signs letting drivers know that the intersection is no longer a four-way stop, maybe place some red flags also.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of 400 AMR Metering Electric Pulse Initiators from Omni-Pro Software in the amount of \$32,800.

The Finance Director presented bills and warrants for approval. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$399,600.08.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk