

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 24, 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: Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Assistant City Attorney Tara Ulmaniec, Police Officer Christopher Joyce, Tim Mattheisen, Edward Pederson, and Wayne Knutson.

At 7:00 p.m. the Board of Equalization Hearing was called to order. County Assessor Edward Pederson came before the Council to review and discuss property valuations. Mr. Pederson informed the Council that a letter was received in his office today regarding a property valuation. There was no one in attendance to address the Council on property valuations. The Council left the hearing open and continued with other business.

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

- a. April 10, 2006 Benson City Council Meeting
- b. April 20, 2006 UMRDC Meeting
- c. April 10, 2006 Benson Park Board Meeting
- d. April 17, 2006 Benson Planning Commission Meeting
- e. March 8, 2006 and March 21, 2006 Benson HRA Meetings

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve the following Proclamation:

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

Whereas, Benson has been recognized as a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul Kittelson, Mayor of the city of Benson, do hereby proclaim April 30, 2004 as

ARBOR DAY

in the City of Benson, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit to the Benson Area Chamber of Commerce for a raffle to be held on August 29, 2006.

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve a request from the Swift County Relay for Life to use Northside Rec on June 16 and 17, 2006 and to approve extending park hours to 8 a.m. on the 17th.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve waiving the fee for the Lakes Area Model Railroad Association to have their display at the Armory during Kid Day the weekend of July 14-16.

Tim Mattheisen, representing the Church of St. Francis, informed the Council that the Church is proposing to construct a parking lot south of the St. Francis School at the corner of 12th Street North and Oregon Avenue. Safety was the reason for the proposed parking lot. The parking lot will have an entrance/exit on Oregon Avenue. The Planning Commission recommends approval of Conditional Use Permit No. 2006-01 to the Church of St. Francis. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve Conditional Use Permit No. 2006-01 to the Church of St. Francis with the following stipulations: entrance/exit on Oregon Avenue, permit 10' encroachment onto the south street boulevard and permit parking on the west side of 12th Street South.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve the Second Reading of An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map of the City of Benson.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that staff solicited for quotes for bituminous work, concrete work and paver installation for 2006.

The 2006 Bituminous Work consists of 300 Ton [more or less] of Paver Laid Bituminous Base 1-1/2" LV-2360 and 300 Ton [more or less] of Paver Laid Bituminous Wear 1-1/2" LVWE-2360. The following quotes were received:

	Total Quote
Lakes Area Paving & Striping, Inc., Alexandria, MN	\$23,940.00
Riley Bros. Construction, Morris, MN	\$26,643.00
Central Specialties, Alexandria, MN	\$37,605.15
Duininck Bros. Inc., Prinsburg, MN	\$38,979.00
Bituminous Paving, Ortonville, MN	\$44,400.00

The 2006 Concrete Work consists of curb, handicap curb and sidewalk work. The following quotes were received:

	Total Quote
B.G. Amundson Construction, Benson, MN	\$20,665.00
T & S Concrete Construction, Benson, MN	\$20,839.00

The 2006 Paver Installation consists of furnishing and installing 1600 sq. ft. [more or less] of pavers. The following quotes were received:

	Total Quote
I & M Landscaping Nursery, Willmar, MN	\$13,768.50
Stacy's Nursery, Willmar, MN	\$15,495.00 + \$425.00 for Pavermaster edging
Ellingson Landscaping, Benson, MN	\$18,000.00

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the following low quotes:

- Lakes Area Paving and Striping, Inc., Alexandria, MN in the amount of \$23,940.00
- B.G. Amundson Construction, Benson, MN in the amount of \$20,665.00
- I & M Landscaping Nursery, Willmar, MN in the amount of \$13,768.50

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik and Associates for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements in the amount of \$11,731.75.

The Finance Director asked the Council to consider amending the Utility Budgets to include the office portion of the Capital Outlay Budget for 2006. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve amending the following utility budgets:

Share of Office Workstations:	Electric Fund	\$8,525.00
	Water Fund	\$1,875.00
	Sewer Fund	\$2,460.00
AS400 Replacement	Electric Fund	\$25,000.00
Replace Copier/Printer	Electric Fund	\$12,000.00

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to authorize the purchase of 400 load management boxes at the price of \$179 each.

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION
FOR THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM
(RESOLUTION NO. 2006-10)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson wishes to submit an application for grant funds to improve the accessibility and quality of polling places for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the application is to be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, staff is proposing the following improvements:

- a. Automatic Door Opener.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Benson City Council hereby supports the project and authorizes the submission of an application by the due date, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Benson City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and City Manager to execute the grant agreement.

Council Member Fitz seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Westrum, Fitz, Landmark, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2006-10 duly passed and adopted.

The Finance Director briefed the Council on a report that was done on City Hall in 1994 regarding handicap accessibility. No action was taken on this item.

The Finance Director informed the Council that the new owners of the China Buffet have inquired about obtaining a wine license. At the present time, the City doesn't have an ordinance to allow the issuance of a wine license. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the First Reading of An Ordinance to Allow the Issuance of a Wine License in the City of Benson.

The Finance Director informed the Council that the City Line Crew will be installing a fiber optic line between Northside Elementary and the High School. The line will be on the City light poles but the school will be responsible for the line.

Assistant City Attorney Tara Ulmaniec came before the Council for the appeal hearing regarding the sale of tobacco products to a minor. Marjorie Kjeseth requested the hearing but was not in attendance. It was moved by Landmark and seconded by Westrum to enforce the administration penalty on Ms. Kjeseth. The following vote was recorded: AYES: Landmark, Westrum, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Fitz. ABSENT: Claussen.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Benson Librarian and the Swift County Blue Ribbon Committee.

The Mayor continued the Board of Equalization Hearing to the May 8, 2006 Council meeting. The County Assessor planned to stay until 8:00 p.m. as advertised.

There being no additional items to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk