

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MAY 8, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Pro-Tem Gary Landmark. Members present: Sue Fitz, Bob Claussen, and Gary Landmark. Members absent: Lee Westrum and Paul Kittelson. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Police Chief Jim Crace, Sue Pirsig, Duaine Flanders, Chuck Koenigs, and Wayne Knutson.

Sue Pirsig and Duaine Flanders came before the Council under unscheduled business. They informed the Council that a group of individuals are examining the feasibility of establishing a renewable energy center in Benson. They have a grant writer preparing a grant to be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They requested that the Council approve a resolution expressing support of the application to the US EPA for grant funding. Council Member Fitz offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-11
City of Benson, MN**

WHEREAS: Benson is the home of numerous private businesses focused on renewable energy and products, and

WHEREAS: The City of Benson and Swift County are also well known for their own renewable energy and sustainable environmental practices, and

WHEREAS: An Exploration Team has been created to examine the feasibility of establishing a “renewable energy center” proposed to be known as the “Sustainable Technology And Renewables” Center or STAR Center in Benson, and

WHEREAS: The STAR Center may include space for educating visitors, the general public, and high school and college students about our renewable businesses and the technology they utilize, and

WHEREAS: The STAR Center may utilize renewable products and practices within its confines to demonstrate the benefits of these products and practices, and

WHEREAS: The STAR Center may offer a business incubator in which related businesses can get their start, and

WHEREAS: A grant is currently being prepared for submission to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through the program entitled: Industrial Ecology and Organizational Behavior. The purpose of the grant is as follows: “To encourage innovative thinking about practical applications of science (including social science) and engineering for sustainability, ORD is funding the Collaborative Science and Technology Network for Sustainability (CNS). CNS projects will bring together diverse sets of partners to explore and learn about new approaches for environmental protection that are systems-oriented, forward-looking, and preventive and also link to economic and social dimensions. The collection of funded projects will inform practical learning on analytical tools, collaborative approaches, and informed decision-making that support

progress towards sustainability. The analytical tools developed will draw on a scientific understanding of the consequences of decisions and actions.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the City Council of the City of Benson hereby support the application to the US EPA for grant funding to study the feasibility and plan for the development of the proposed STAR Center in Benson.

Council Member Claussen seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Landmark. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Westrum and Kittelson. Whereupon the President Pro-Tem declared Resolution No. 2006-11 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve a request from the Benson Area Community Foundation to place a “community thermometer” sign at the Hwy. 29/12/9 intersection. The sign will be up until about July 1, 2006 depending on the success of the Foundation’s endowment campaign.

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

- a. April 24, 2006 Benson City Council Meeting
- b. April 12, 2006 Prairie Country RC & D Meeting
- c. March 27, 2006 Hospital Board Meeting
- d. April 28, 2006 Benson EDA Meeting
- e. May 1, 2006 Benson Planning Commission Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence:

- a. SCBH dated April 20, 2006 informing the City that their audit presentation will be at their May 22 Board meeting.
- b. Affiliated Community Medical Center dated April 27, 2006 informing the City of “Go Red for Women” event.
- c. Benson Jaycees dated April 18, 2006

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve a Special Use Permit to allow disposing of septic tank sludge and holding tank sewage into the Benson Wastewater Facility for 2006 to T. A. Lauritsen Septic and Drain, Montevideo, MN.

The Board of Review Hearing was continued from the April 24, 2006 Council meeting. Wayne Knutson from the Swift County Assessor’s Office informed the Council that one individual had requested to have their property reviewed. The Assessor’s Office reviewed the property and are recommending no change to their value. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to close the Board of Review at 7:15 p.m.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the Second Reading of An Ordinance to Grant On Sale Wine License.

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

RESOLUTION
“BUCKLE UP, BENSON – CLICK IT OR TICKET!”
(RESOLUTION NO. 2006-12)

WHEREAS, the Benson Police Department and the Minnesota Department of Public

Safety Office of Traffic Safety – participants and administrators of the *Safe & Sober* May Mobilization education and enforcement campaign – is committed to saving lives by increasing seat belt use and reducing the number of unnecessary traffic fatalities on Minnesota roads; and

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of traffic fatalities are attributed to seat belt non-use; and

WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children and young adults ages 4 to 33 and the leading cause of quadriplegia and paraplegia; and

WHEREAS, we recognize seat belts play an important role in saving lives, preventing injuries, and reducing insurance and health care costs; and

WHEREAS, while Minnesota laws enforce seat belt use, all of us must do what we can to stress the importance of buckling up; and

WHEREAS, the coordination of state and local efforts will enhance the overall efficiency and impact of this life-saving campaign.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Benson City Council endorses the *Safe & Sober* May Mobilization and recognizes the period of the month of May as **“Buckle Up, Benson – Click it or Ticket!”** The Benson City Council urges citizens of Benson to use this period to demonstrate and reaffirm our commitment to buckling up and arriving alive to our destinations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Benson City Council encourages peace officers to increase public awareness of the risks associated with seat belt and child seat non-use; the Benson City Council also supports the education and enforcement activities that include conducting enhanced enforcement; distributing public information; collecting seat belt use data to measure progress; and supporting efforts to improve state legislation on the required use of passenger protection devices; and be it further,

PROCLAIMED, that this May be known as **“Buckle Up, Benson – Click it or Ticket!”** in Benson.

Council Member Fitz seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Claussen, Fitz, Landmark. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Westrum and Kittelson. Whereupon the President Pro-Tem declared Resolution No. 2006-12 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Bonestroo, Rosene, and Anderlik for the WWTP Improvements in the amount of \$11,469.50 and for the Minnesota Avenue Sanitary Sewer in the amount of \$708.75 for a total of \$12,178.25.

The Council was informed that a tour of the WWTP is planned for staff on May 17 at 12:30 p.m. Staff is also planning to place an ad in the Monitor News expressing appreciation to the WWTP crew for their dedication and hard work.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a capital authorization request to purchase GPS survey grade equipment from Frontier Precision Inc. in the amount of \$27,587.23.

The City Manager informed the Council that staff solicited quotes for a historic Howard clock to be located in the North Central Railroad Park. The following quotes were received:

Company	Two Sided Clock	Four Sided Clock
Electric Time Co. Medfield, MA	\$16,280	\$21,894
Fancy Street Clock & Light Co. Rock Island, IL	\$15,495	\$22,116
Verdin Co. Cincinnati, OH	\$18,130	\$21,465

The City Manager recommended purchasing the two sided clock. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to authorize the purchase of a two sided clock from Verdin Co. in the amount of \$18,130. There was consensus to direct the Park Board to decide the direction the clock should be faced.

The City Manager informed the Council that the tree replacement program is in full swing. An ad will appear in the Monitor News this week advertising the program.

The City Manager recommended that the amendment to Chapter 96.02 be continued to the next meeting to allow time for the Benson Fire Chief to comment on the amendment.

The City Manager briefed the Council on the Hawleywood IV, Benson Cottage Square, and Homewood VIII subdivisions. He informed the Council that costs have increased significantly since the last subdivision.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

President Pro-Tem

Attest: _____
City Clerk