

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 14, 2006**

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, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, City Attorney Don Wilcox, Jenny Nelson, Sue Pirsig, Pat Maher, and Randy Tersteeg.

There was no one present with unscheduled business to come before the Council.

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

- a. July 24, 2006 Benson City Council Meeting
- b. July, 20, 2006 Benson EDA Meeting
- c. July 27, 2006 Benson EDA Meeting
- d. June 26, 2006 Swift County-Benson Hospital Board Meeting
- e. June 15, 2006 Pioneerland Library System Board Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence:

- a. UMRDC dated July 26, 2006
- b. BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota dated July 31, 2006
- c. Southwest Initiative Foundation dated August 1, 2006
- d. CenterPoint Energy dated August 4, 2006 – Staff will research what other communities are doing regarding a franchise fee.
- e. Benson Women of Today dated July 18, 2006 – It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to waive the fee for use of the Armory on October 21, 2006.

At 7:08 p.m. the Mayor opened the Public Hearing regarding a loan application and business subsidy agreement for North American Fertilizer LLC. Sue Pirsig and Randy Tersteeg came before the Council to discuss the loan application and business subsidy agreement. The Council was informed that a joint loan committee meeting was held between the Swift County RDA, Benson EDA and North American Fertilizer LLC representatives. The Swift County RDA and Benson EDA recommend approval of the loan application requested from each entity. After discussion, it was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a \$100,000 loan to North American Fertilizer LLC at 6% interest, amortized over ten years with a balloon in five years, and a shared 4<sup>th</sup> with the County on real estate and building and a shared 2<sup>nd</sup> with the County on machinery and equipment, inventory, and accounts receivable. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve a Business Subsidy Agreement as discussed.

At 7:20 p.m. the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Jenny Nelson gave a demonstration on the new GPS equipment and what the survey crew has been doing this summer.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the Second Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Section 154.020, Signs, of the Benson Zoning Ordinance.

Marge Scheffler gave a demonstration of the new election equipment.

The Public Works Director updated the Council on the following projects:

- a. Subdivisions
- b. Minnesota Avenue Sewer Extension
- c. Armory Parking Lot – It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the Armory parking lot project in the amount of \$37,004.40.
- d. Seal Coating Project – It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve completing 40 blocks of seal coating in the amount of \$56,664.
- e. Airport Closeout
- f. Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Closeout

The Public Works Director informed the Council that the rebuilt transformer is in place and recommends payment to Jordan Transformer, LLC for the work. It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve an invoice from Jordan Transformer, LLC in the amount of \$63,562.34.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that Brian Pollock started work today as the new parks department caretaker to replace Ron Simonson who is retiring in September.

The City Manager informed the Council that staff from Bonestroo will be in Benson on Thursday to help with the grant application for improvements to Gusty's road (East end of Pacific Avenue). The maximum amount of the grant is \$500,000.

The City Manager briefed the Council on the draft Nuisance Ordinance. This was informational with no action taken at this time.

The Mayor mentioned that the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities is urging cities to pass a resolution opposing the motor vehicle sales tax amendment. No action was taken at this time.

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

**RESOLUTION  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2006-17)**

**WHEREAS**, the Benson City Council has received evidence deemed sufficient that the residence located at 516 15<sup>th</sup> Street North in the City of Benson is a hazardous building as defined by Minnesota Statutes, and;

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Benson City Council to provide a safe and healthy environment for its citizens and the existence of a hazardous building within the limits of the City of Benson is a danger to the public health and safety and should be abated;

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Benson City Attorney is hereby authorized and directed to commence, on behalf of the City of Benson, appropriate action consistent with Chapter 463 of Minnesota Statutes to correct or remove the hazardous condition of the above described hazardous building.

**IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any cost incurred by the City of Benson

for correcting or removing the hazardous condition shall be charged against the real estate as provided in Minnesota Statutes Section 463.21.

Council Member Westrum seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Westrum, Claussen, Landmark, Kittelson. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2006-17 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$460,938.04.

There was a consensus of the Council to start the August 28, 2006 Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager