

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 28, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Tim Miller, Jerry Erickson, and Angie Rodi.

The first item discussed was Variance Application No. 2006-04 from Eric's Motorsports at 2005 Minnesota Avenue. Angie Rodi was present representing Eric's Motorsports. The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the variance earlier today and recommended that the Council approve the variance. The variance is to allow two signs (66 sq. ft.) to be placed on two poles at a height of 18 ft. The sign is 6 sq ft. larger and the height is 6 ft higher than zoning allows. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve Variance Application No. 2006-04 as presented.

Tim Miller from Missouri River Energy Services reviewed the Electrical Rate Study with the Council. After discussion it was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to set a public hearing on the proposed electric rate increases at 7:15 p.m. on September 11, 2006. The overall proposed rate increase in October 2006 is 9.5% and in January 2008 is 7.4%.

The Finance Director reviewed proposed sewer rate increases. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to set a public hearing on the proposed sewer rate increases at 7:15 p.m. on September 11, 2006. The proposed rate increase in October 2006 is 18% and in January 2008 is 9%.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that bids for the sanitary sewer for the Hawleywood 4<sup>th</sup> Addition were bid with two alternatives. They were: 1) with a deep sanitary sewer to serve the property northeast of Trunk Highway 27 and County Road 104 intersection and 2) with a sanitary sewer to serve just the Hawleywood 4<sup>th</sup> Addition. The cost difference for the lowest bidder is \$7,875. After discussion, it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve the additional \$7,875 to construct a deeper sanitary sewer in the Hawleywood 4<sup>th</sup> Addition.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve two pay requests from LandTeam Inc. in the amount of \$35,242.17 for the Hawleywood 4<sup>th</sup> Addition and \$12,532.62 for the Homewood 8<sup>th</sup> Addition.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a capital authorization request to purchase electric cable to be used in the new subdivisions in the amount of \$19,593.34.

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

- a. August 14, 2006 Benson City Council Meeting
- b. June 19, 2006 UMVRDC Meeting
- c. August 14, 2006 Benson Area Tourism Board Meeting
- d. August 17, 2006 Benson Area Tourism Board Meeting

- e. July 12, 2006 Benson HRA Meeting
- f. August 14, 2006 Benson Park Board Meeting

Items No. 8, Constitutional Amendment, was tabled to the next City Council meeting.

A discussion regarding a natural gas franchise fee was held. Member Claussen asked if the City would receive dollar for dollar the amount that is collected or does the City receive a percentage of what is collected. Staff will research this. No action was taken at this time but staff will continue to look into the possibility of a natural gas franchise fee.

The Finance Director reviewed the budget report through July 31, 2006 with the Council.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk