

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 25, 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, Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Clark McDonald, Reed Anfinson, Nancy Larson, and Cassandra Carlson.

Liquor Store Manager Pat McGeary introduced Margo Alsaker who was recently hired as a full-time employee at the liquor store.

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

- a. August 11, 2006 Benson City Council Meeting
- b. September 5, 2006 Cemetery Board Meetings
- c. August 9, 2006 Benson HRA Council Meeting
- d. July 17, 2006 UMVRDC Annual Meeting
- e. September 11, 2006 Benson Park Board Meeting
- f. September 7, 2006 Benson Area Tourism Board Meeting
- g. August 17, 2006 Pioneerland Library System Board Meeting

The City Manager briefed the Council on the following correspondence:

- a. Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company dated September 1, 2006
- b. Benson School District dated September 2006. It was moved by Claussen and seconded by Landmark to approve a \$200 donation to the Renaissance Program. The following vote was recorded: AYES: Claussen, Landmark, Fitz, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Westrum.
- c. EPA dated September 15, 2006

Clark McDonald, member of the Swift County Blue Ribbon Committee, came before the Council to give an update on the Committee and to take any comments from the Council back to the Committee.

Nancy Larson and Cassandra Carlson from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities came before the Council to update the Council on the Coalition and their activities in the past and upcoming legislative sessions.

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

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE COUNTY  
ALL-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2006-23)**

WHEREAS, the County of Swift participated in a hazard mitigation planning process as established under the Hazard Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Act established a framework for the development of a county hazard mitigation plan; and

WHEREAS, the Act as part of the planning process required public involvement and local coordination among neighboring local units of government and business; and

WHEREAS, the county planning process invited and included public involvement and local coordination among neighboring local units of government and business; and

WHEREAS, the county plan includes a risk assessment including past hazards, hazards that threaten the county, maps of hazards, an estimate of structures at risk, estimate of potential dollar losses for each hazard, a general description of land uses and development trends; and

WHEREAS, the county plan includes a mitigation strategy including goals and objectives and an action plan identifying specific mitigation projects and costs; and

WHEREAS, the county plan must include a maintenance or implementation process including plan updates, integration of plan into other planning documents and how the county will maintain public participation and coordination; and

WHEREAS, the draft plan was shared with Minnesota Department of Public Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, FEMA has approved the draft plan pending final adoption by the county; and

WHEREAS, county adoption of the all-hazard mitigation plan makes the county eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project grants; and

WHEREAS, this is a multi-jurisdictional plan and cities and townships that participated in the planning process adopting the county plan makes them eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project grants on their own behalf.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Benson adopts the Swift County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan as adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

Council Member Claussen seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Westrum, Claussen, Fitz, Landmark, Kittelson. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2006-23 duly passed and adopted.

Reed Anfinson, representing the Benson Racket and Fitness Center, gave the annual report of the facility. He mentioned a number of improvements that the facility is in need of and insufficient funds to do them. He is planning to set up a meeting of interested parties to discuss these issues.

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

**RESOLUTION TO NAME PARK LAND  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2006-24)**

WHEREAS, there is a desire to recognize Joseph S. Eaton, a surviving member of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment and the Civil War, who is buried in the Benson City Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the City of Benson owns property in the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 5 that is not named and commonly referred to as “Lorenz Land”; and

WHEREAS, this property is identified as Parcel No. 23-1352-000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Parcel No. 23-1352-000 is now named “Joseph S. Eaton Park”.

Council Member Landmark seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Landmark, Westrum, Claussen, Kittelson. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2006-24 duly passed and adopted.

Council Member Claussen informed the Council that eight trees (four Autumn Blaze Maple and four Deborah Norway Maple) have been purchased to be placed in the North Central Railroad Park in October.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to authorize staff to advertise for the City’s requirements for gasoline and diesel fuels for the period November 1, 2006 to November 1, 2008.

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

**POLICE OFFICER DECLARATION  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2006-25)**

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in Minnesota Statutes 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of others; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire plan for eligible employees of police departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated therein and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Benson hereby declares that the position titled Part-Time Police Officer, currently held by Michael G. Jambor, meets all of the following Police and Fire membership requirements:

1. Said position requires a license by the Minnesota peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and this employee is so licensed;
2. Said position’s primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the state;
3. Said position charges this employee with the prevention and detection of crime;
4. Said position gives this employee the full power of arrest, and
5. Said position is assigned to a designated police or sheriff’s department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the above-named employee be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of this employee’s initial Police and Fire salary deduction by the governmental subdivision.

Council Member Westrum seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was

recorded: AYES: Landmark, Westrum, Claussen, Fitz, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2006-25 duly passed and adopted.

The Finance Director came before the Council to request authorization to purchase a new copier machine for the administration office. Three quotes were received. Staff is recommending purchasing a copier machine from Willmar Business Solutions for \$6,384.68. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to authorize purchasing a copier machine from Willmar Business Solutions in the amount of \$6,384.68.

There was a review of the budget report for the month ended August 31, 2006.

The City Manager informed the Council that the nuisance issue at 214 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street North is looking pretty good. There is still some wood in the back yard. There was a consensus of the Council to send the resident a letter informing them that the public hearing proceeding will be waived if they stack the wood neatly.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

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Mayor

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