

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 11, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Bob Claussen, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: Gary Landmark and one vacancy. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Public Works Elliot Nelson, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Jim Crace, Electric Department Supervisor Don Krumwiede, Gail Brehmer, and Kathy and Dan Johnson.

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

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

- a. May 21, 2007 City Council Meeting
- b. May 14, 2007 Park Board Meeting
- c. May 8, 2007 Cemetery Board Meeting
- d. May 24 and May 31, 2007 EDA Meetings
- e. March 22, 2007 Benson Area Tourism Board Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence:

- a. Charter Communications dated May 30, 2007 RE: Rate Increases
- b. MRES dated 5.21.07 RE: RiverWinds Renewable Energy Offering Reminder
- c. MRES dated 5.24.07 RE: Thank you for support of Big Stone II Project
- d. Wilcox & Ulmaniec dated 6.1.07 RE: Insurance Provision for Elevator Purchase
- e. LMC dated 6.5.07 RE: Dues Increase
- f. Cooks Sports Arena Request for Two-Way Traffic on Utah Avenue – Referred to Planning Commission

The City Manager informed the Council that two inquiries to purchase Lots 11-14, Block 10, Original Townsite (Parcel #23-0049-000) have been received.

- 1) Don, Gail and Melissa Brehmer have purchased the house that the Industrial Tech. Dept. at the school constructed. They would like to put that house on this lot and they also expressed interested in Lot 6, Block 1, Lynn Park (Parcel #23-0640-000).
- 2) Dan and Kathy Johnson would like to trade the lot on the corner of 12th and Utah Avenue with the City lot and place a home on the lot.

After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to advertise the sale of two City lots: Parcel #23-0640-000 and Parcel #23-0049-000 as follows:

- 1) Minimum bid of \$7,500 for Parcel #23-0640-000
- 2) Minimum bid of \$11,000 for Parcel #23-0049-000
- 3) Cash bid with consideration for trade option
- 4) Open bids on July 9, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.
- 5) Building permit issued and begin construction within one year of sale
- 6) Lot is to be used for construction of a residential structure

The City Manager informed the Council that a request to annex a lot north of the City lot Fibrominn is currently leasing (referred to as the laydown site) has been received from Cliff Viessman, Inc. The transfer of this property has not been completed yet. This was informational with no action taken at this time.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve an amendment to the Hawleywood 4th Development Agreement as recommended by the City Manager.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the First Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 70, Traffic Code.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the First Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 93, Nuisances.

The City Manager presented a draft of an Amendment to Chapter 90, Animals. This was informational at this time with no action taken. Staff needs additional time on this ordinance but brought it to the Council to review and comment on for a future meeting.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to authorize advertising for bids for a new fire station vehicle exhaust removal system at 10:00 a.m. on June 25, 2007.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve an amendment to the Engineer Agreement with DGR for the 2006 Electric System Improvements.

The City Manager informed the Council that Senator Coleman's office has announced that funding for the 2007 CIP improvements for the Benson Airport has been approved. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a disadvantaged business enterprise goal of 1.0% and to authorize advertising for bids for a new hangar and fueling system for the Airport 2007 CIP Improvements. Bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on July 9, 2007.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that bids were received for a new or used (with no more than 100 hours) underground boring machine. The following bids were received:

Bidder	New Underground Boring Machine	Used Underground Boring Machine
Vermeer Burnsville, MN	\$162,052.00 Meets Specs	
Ditch Witch Fergus Falls, MN	\$135,417.22 Meets Most of Specs	\$85,000.00 Meets Most of Specs

Staff reviewed the bids further and after discussions with Ditch Witch they amended their bid for a new boring machine to \$146,436.36 that would meet specifications. The Council also authorized an expenditure of \$12,000 for a reel trailer. Staff mentioned that the boring machine would pay for itself within a few years. After discussion, it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to award the bid to Ditch Witch for a new underground boring machine as presented by the Public Works Director.

The Public Works Director undated the Council on the following:
Substation and Transmission Project

Central Business District Project
Northeast Railroad Park Project
Elevator Purchase
County Road 3/20

The City Manager informed the Council that staff received an estimate of \$125,000 to replace the boiler at the Armory and \$15,000 for engineering. This was informational with no action taken.

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

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EAST PACIFIC AVENUE
MINNESOTA STATE BONDING
(RESOLUTION NO. 2007-05)**

BE IT RESOLVED: that the City Council of the City of Benson, Minnesota hereby extends its financial support for up to 50% local funding of a State Capital Bonding project to construct and extend East Pacific Avenue.

Council Member Claussen seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Landmark and one vacancy. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2007-05 duly passed and adopted.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that they are ordering a new transformer because of the addition to the Swift County-Benson Hospital and are recommending that a second transformer also be ordered for backup. This size transformer will only be used at the hospital. After discussion, it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of two transformers for the Swift County-Benson Hospital in the amount of \$33,015.

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

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT NEW RANDOM DRUG TESTING PROCEDURES
FOR TRANSIT EMPLOYEES AND APPROVE THE REVISED DRUG
AND ALCOHOL POLICY
(RESOLUTION NO. 2007-06)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson operates a transit system subject to the Drug and Alcohol Regulations of the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) 49 CFR Part 655.45(b); and

WHEREAS, the FTA has revised its Random Drug testing percentages as identified in 49 CFR Part 655.45(b) for transit employees from the current rate of 50% to a revised rate of 25%; and

WHEREAS, the current Random Alcohol testing percentage rate of 10% was not changed; and

WHEREAS, to accommodate this change, the City of Benson recommends that the following language pertaining to Random testing of Transit employees be adopted:

“The number of safety-sensitive employees randomly selected for drug/alcohol testing during the calendar year shall be not less than the percentage rates established by Federal regulations identified in 49 CFR Part 655.45(b). “

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Benson, Minnesota hereby adopt the proposed language for Random Drug testing of Transit employees and approved the revised Drug and Alcohol Policy for the Benson Heartland Express Transit System.

Council Member Claussen seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Landmark and one vacancy. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2007-06 duly passed and adopted.

The Police Chief reviewed staffing options with the Council and recommended Option A that includes:

- One FT Chief
- One FT Sergeant / SRO
- Five FT Patrol Officers
- Utilize current PT officers

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve Option A as recommended by the Police Chief.

The City Manager briefed the Council on a letter from the Department of Finance on the 2008 Tax Bill.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk