

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Gary Landmark, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: Bob Claussen and one vacancy. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Finance Director Glen Pederson, Mark Ruff, Shelly Aldrich, Michele Papesh, Jon Hawley, Earl Knutson, Paul Beyers, Rob Hoffman, Bob Erdahl, Brad Newhouse, Rod Benjamin, and Janelle Rodahl.

Michele Papesh from the Morris UPS office came before the Council to ask if there is a city ordinance regulating parking of larger vehicles. The Benson Police have informed the UPS drivers that they cannot double park when making deliveries. Ms. Papesh will contact the City Manager to obtain copies.

Jon Hawley informed the Council that a group of individuals are working on keeping the Benson Fitness Center open. They are in the process of forming a board and asked the Council for support. There was a consensus of the Council to allow the new board to operate the fitness center for a year to see how it goes and to have the City Attorney update the lease agreement with the new board. The Council will support the new board as much as possible.

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

- a. September 10, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. June 21, 2007 Pioneerland Library System Board Meeting
- c. August 15, 2007 Benson HRA Meeting
- d. July 16, 2007 UMRDC Meeting

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to appoint Bill Hoberg to fill a vacancy on the Benson Park Board with his term expiring December 31, 2009.

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF  
BENSON VFW POST 1403 CHARITABLE GAMBLING APPLICATION  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2007-16)**

WHEREAS, the Benson VFW Post 1403 has requested permission to continue charitable gambling for the next two year, and

WHEREAS, this is a renewal Premise Permit for the base organization Premise Permit Number A-00377-001.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Benson City Council approves submittal of the application and authorizes the City Clerk to submit a certified copy of the resolution to the Benson VFW Post 1403 to be included in their application to the Gambling Control Division.

Council Member Fitz seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Landmark, Fitz, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen and one vacancy. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2007-16 duly passed and approved.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve a \$500 donation to the Prairie Five Heat Share Program. The donation is to come out of the Electric Utility.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve a donation to the Benson High School Renaissance Program the same as previous years.

The Finance Director and Mark Ruff, Ehlers and Associates, came before the Council to review the bids for the sale of Electric Revenue Bonds. Council Member Landmark offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO \$6,890,000 ELECTRIC REVENUE BONDS,  
SERIES 2007A, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE, AWARDED THE SALE,  
FIXING THE FORM AND DETAILS, PROVIDING FOR THE EXECUTION  
AND DELIVERY THEREOF AND SECURITY THEREFOR  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2007-17)**

[BODY OF RESOLUTION]

Council Member Fitz seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Landmark, Fitz, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen and one vacancy. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2007-17 duly passed and approved.

The City Manager informed the Council that there were no bids received to purchase the 1986 E350 Rescue Truck.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve two pay requests from TKDA for professional services regarding the Airport 2007 Capital Improvement Projects. (\$4,402.603 from 7.29.07 to 8.25.07 and \$8,322.84 from 7.1.07 to 7.28.07)

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve four pay requests from DGR for professional services through 8.31.07 regarding the Electric System Improvement in the amount of \$29,849.92. (\$16,800 for 115 kV Substation, \$3,424.42 for 115 kV Substation, \$7,775.50 for 115 kV Transmission Line, and \$1,850 for Distribution Feeders)

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$698,641.88.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to reschedule the November 12 City Council meeting to November 13, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

Member Fitz informed the Council that she had received a complaint of a junk car and debris on the property across the highway from the Pamida store at 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Minnesota Avenue. Staff will take care of the complaint.

There was a consensus of the Council to authorize the Mayor to present the following proclamation to the Shelter House organization:

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the problem of domestic violence affects all citizens of Minnesota crossing all racial, social, religious, ethnic, geographic, and economic groups;

WHEREAS, at least 20 women, 12 children and one man in Minnesota died last year as a result of domestic violence, according to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women's Femicide Report;

WHEREAS, domestic violence is an immense problem in Swift County where 62 women, 56 children and four men received advocacy services last year;

WHEREAS, thirty-one percent of all women surveyed in 2003 were homeless, at least in part, because of domestic abuse in the previous 12 months. In addition, 34% of homeless adults reported that they had stayed in an abusive relationship because they had nowhere else to live;

WHEREAS, the issue of domestic violence is not just a family issue. It affects the children who witness the abuse, schools that children are unable to attend due to relocation, healthcare systems that cost over \$5.8 billion dollars a year in domestic violence related costs, employers who are faced with absenteeism and low productivity, justice systems that are overloaded by cases of domestic abuse, and family and friends who know someone who is being abused;

WHEREAS, dating violence is becoming more prevalent in our young adults. One in three teenage girls will be involved in a violent relationship in their lifetime. Teenagers model what they see at home. If they are seeing violence, they are more likely to perpetrate violence against their own dating partners, or accept violence as a normal part of a dating relationship.

NOW, THEREFORE in recognition of the impact that domestic violence has on the health and well-being of our community, I, Paul Kittelson, Mayor of Benson, Minnesota do hereby proclaim October, 2007 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Further, I reaffirm the commitment of the city of Benson to reducing violence in our homes, as well as on our streets. I urge all citizens to participate in the activities planned by battered women's programs and community organizations during this month. Citizens should also take this opportunity to educate themselves about the impact of domestic violence in Minnesota and to become familiar with resources and programs available. This month let us remember the victims of domestic violence, celebrate the survivors, and work together to eliminate violence against women and children in our community.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

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Mayor

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