

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Anne Johnson, Bob Claussen, Gary Landmark, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson and Shirley Ferguson.

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

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

- a. January 22, 2008 City Council Meeting
- b. January 30, 2007 Benson HRA Annual Meeting
- c. January 3, 2008 Benson HRA Meeting
- d. December 12, 2007 Benson HRA Meeting
- e. January 22, 2008 Benson Cemetery Board Meeting
- f. January 14, 2008 Benson Park Board Meeting
- g. January 24, 2008 Benson EDA Meeting
- h. January 9, 2008 Prairie Country RC & D Council Meeting
- i. January 7, 2008 SCBH Board Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence with the Council:

- a. SCBH dated 1.16.08 RE: Request for a donation for equipment. This request was tabled and will be brought back to a future meeting for discussion.
- b. Coalition of Greater MN Cities dated 1.15.08 RE Legislative Action Day
- c. CVEC dated 1.24.08 RE: Informational meeting about corn cobs

The City Manager informed the Council that the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing today for Conditional Use Permit #2008-01 from the Benson Christian School. A Conditional Use Permit is required to allow the Christian School to operate a school at 1045 Pacific Avenue. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit with the following conditions: 1. Applicant maintain licensure with the State Fire Marshall and 2. Abide by conditions of the Certificate of Occupancy as per the Universal Building Code (UBC). If the student numbers increase, they will need to comply with size requirements of 20 sq. ft. per person. Member Fitz received a phone call from a neighbor expressing concern of kids playing unsupervised on property across the street from the school. After discussion, it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve Conditional Use Permit #2008-01 to include the conditions that the applicant maintain licensure with the State Fire Marshall and abide by the conditions of the Certificate of Occupancy as per UBC.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to appoint Ron Laycock to a vacancy on the Benson Library Board with his term expiring December 31, 2009.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to appoint John (Jack) Everson (term expires December 31, 2010) and Donald Plackner (term expires December 31, 2009) to fill vacancies on the Benson Cemetery Board.

Shirley Ferguson reviewed the Senior Advocacy Council (SAC) 2007 Annual Treasurer's Report with the Council.

The City Manager briefed the Council on the proposal to swap some electric service territory properties with Agralite. The City would swap property in the Benson Industrial Rail Additional that CVEC has purchased with property within Agralite's service territory that is located to the west of Highway 29 just south of the city limits. The City Manager is proposing to notify property owners in the affected area to inform them of the service territory change and let them know that they will have a choice of electric provider. There was a consensus of the Council to proceed forward as presented.

The City Manager informed the Council that the Joint Annexation Agreement with Six Mile Grove Township has been completed.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the 2008 – 2009 LELS and AFSCME Union Contracts as presented.

The City Manager informed the Council that the first meeting of the Big Stone II Gang of Seven was held. They are working on a county-wide brochure to advertise our amenities to construction workers during the Big Stone II construction project..

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to authorize advertising for a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) for airport consulting and grant preparation and processing services for a five-year period. SOQ is due by 3:00 p.m. on March 5, 2008.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve specifications and authorize advertising for bids for tree removal services with the bid opening at 1:00 p.m. on February 27, 2008.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve specifications and authorize advertising for bids to crush excess bituminous/asphalt material with the bid opening at 3:00 p.m. on February 27, 2008.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Manager