

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Anne Johnson, Bob Claussen, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: Gary Landmark. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Finance Director Glen Pederson, and Public Works Director Elliot Nelson.

There was no one under 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. February 4, 2008 City Council Meeting
- b. January 9, 2008 Benson HRA Meeting
- c. December 17, 2007 UMRDC Meeting
- d. February 4, 2008 Benson Planning Commission Meeting
- e. February 14, 2008 Safety Committee Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence with the Council:

- a. SCBH dated 1.16.08 RE: Request for a donation for equipment. There was a consensus to bring this up again in April. There was mention of a \$500 to \$1,000 donation to come out of the EDA or Utility Fund.
- b. Fibrominn dated 1.31.08 RE Annual Case Specific Beneficial Use Determination Report
- c. MMUA dated 1.24.08 – It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to deny payment of a special assessment invoice for Conservation Improvement Program Assistance.
- d. Chamber of Commerce dated February 2008 RE Request to use the swimming pool and shelter for the Biking Across Minnesota group. There was a question about their request for allowing alcohol in the park.

There was a discussion with Agralite Manager Ray Millet regarding territory exchange with the Benson Electric Utility and Agralite. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve entering into an Agreement for Exchange of Service Territories as presented.

Fire Chief Mark Schreck reviewed the 2007 Annual Fire Department Report with the Council. He informed the Council that they are recruiting for new members and there was discussion about mutual aid and future reorganizing options.

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

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PASSAGE OF  
A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION BILL  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2008-02)**

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Transportation estimates that Minnesota's state highways and bridges are underfunded \$2.4 billion per year for the next six years;

**WHEREAS**, sole reliance upon trunk highway bonding for transportation funding has caused debt service payments at MnDOT to increase 657% in the last 10 years;

**WHEREAS**, An additional \$1.7 billion in trunk highway bonding will cost MnDOT an estimated \$800 million in interest;

**WHEREAS**, over \$50 million in State funds designated for highways were actually spent on interest payments for bonds in 2007;

**WHEREAS**, general obligation bonds may be used only to fund local bridges, not state highways and bridges:

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota currently has over 1,800 structurally deficient bridges and it will cost the state over \$1 billion to meet the bridge needs identified on the state trunk highway system;

**WHEREAS**, with the increased cost of fuel and congestion as well as funding for the state's transit system must be a component to any comprehensive transportation bill;

**WHEREAS**, Twin Cities' commuters paid a "congestion tax" of \$790 per year in wasted gas and time;

**WHEREAS**, increased long-term transportation revenue also provides funding for new jobs and infrastructure at a time when Minnesota's unemployment rate is above the national average;

**WHEREAS**, the gas tax is a user fee paid by drivers who use the roads and a lack of state funding has resulted in an increase of \$1 billion a year in property taxes since the mid-1990s for local transportation needs;

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota's gas tax has not been increased since 1988, is worth only 12 cents in today's dollars and is lower than all other bordering states;

**WHEREAS**, in 2006, two-thirds of the fatal accidents in Minnesota occurred in rural areas where the quality of the transportation system impacts public safety;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of Benson supports passage of a comprehensive transportation bill during the 2008 Legislative session that provides additional long-term, sustainable funding to Minnesota's state highways and bridges, county roads, city streets, metro and rural transit systems and local bridges. The transportation bill should provide funding at a level equal to or above the level of funding in the comprehensive transportation bill that was passed by the Legislature and vetoed by the governor in 2007.

Council Member Claussen seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Johnson, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Landmark. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2008-02 duly passed and approved.

The City Manager gave an update on the BNSF Railroad meeting including the status of the bridge replacement, permit on the transmission line project, and communication line issues.

The Public Works Director reviewed the report from the Minnesota Department of Health regarding a routine inspection of the City's water supply. Additional signage is being requested as well as changing the swing direction of doors. Another concern is the close proximity of our well and water treatment plant to our bulk water salesman.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that quotes were solicited for the City's 2008 requirements for tires. The following quotes were received:

Tom's Service, Benson, MN	\$7,086.49 (does not include Federal Excise Tax)
Glacial Plains Coop, Benson, MN	\$6,922.53 (includes Federal Excise Tax)
Westside Tire, Benson, MN	\$6,226.20 (alternate brand: Titan)

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to award the bid to Glacial Plains Coop in the amount of \$6,922.53 for the purchase of tires for 2008.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve Pay Request #3 from Srock Construction for the Airport Improvement Project in the amount of \$121,811.95.

The Public Works Director reviewed two proposals from Ziegler Power Systems for the Power Plant. The first was a Five Year Customer Support Agreement (Option A in the amount of \$19,800 per year and Option B in the amount of \$10,500 per year). The second was a three year Cooling System Service Agreement in the amount of \$8,720 per engine for a total amount of \$43,600. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to enter into a three year agreement with Ziegler Power Systems to provide cooling system services to the five newer generators for a total amount of \$43,600 and also Option A of a five year Customer Support Agreement in the amount of \$19,800 per year.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a ¾ Ton truck from Swenson Motor Company of Benson for the Electric Department in the amount of \$25,117 as per state bid price.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$296,957.17.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

---

Mayor

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