

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 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, Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Bart Graves, Rob Lee, Mark Schreck, Dave Ebert, Bob Hoberg, and Dave Vollan.

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

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

- a. November 17, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. November 17, 2008 Benson Planning Commission Meeting
- c. November 13, 2008 Safety Committee Meeting
- d. September 15, 2008 UMRDC Meeting

The City Manager reviewed a letter from the FAA regarding the Fiscal Year 2009 Airport Improvement Program.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a Gambling Permit for the Chippewa Valley Chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association for a raffle on February 6, 2009 at the Benson Bowler.

The City Manager informed the Council that the Planning Commission continued the Public Hearing for Conditional Use Permit #2008-03 from Meak and Associates to their next meeting.

The City Manager informed the Council that the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing today for Conditional Use Permit #2008-04 from West Central Youth for Christ. A Conditional Use Permit is required to allow West Central Youth for Christ to operate a youth center at 1309 Pacific Avenue (it was previously occupied by the Longhorn Corral). The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve Conditional Use Permit No. 2008-04.

Mark Schreck, Dave Ebert, and Rob Lee, representing the Benson Fire Department Relief Association, asked the Council to consider financial support for the Relief Association retirement fund. They are requesting \$6,917 to maintain the Relief Association retirement fund close to the 83% ratio and to increase the retirement benefit from \$1,000 to \$1,100 per year of service. It was moved by Fitz and seconded by Claussen to approve both requests from the Relief Association. After further discussion, it was moved by Fitz and seconded by Claussen to amend the motion to approve the \$6,917 contribution but to wait until the actuarial is completed in 2009 to consider the \$100 increase to the retirement benefit. The amended motion then carried unanimously

The City Manager reviewed the 2009 General Fund Levy and proposed 2009 Budget with the Council. The Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing will be held at the December 15 Council meeting.

The City Manager informed the Council that he has notified Pioneerland Library System that the City has met or will meet the seven criteria established to allow for the continued staffing of a qualified head librarian in Benson. He felt that the Benson Public Library should have the same funding level to support a head librarian in Benson.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that Benson electric customers will experience a short outage on Saturday, December 13, 2008 when the City switches from the old substation to the new one. He expects the outages to occur at about 1 pm and 4 pm.

The Council acknowledged receipt of the 2009 Benson Area Tourism Budget. No action was taken.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to sign a grant agreement from Southwest Initiative Foundation to be used by the Friends of the Library for their Fall Fundraiser project. The grant is in the amount of \$750.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve Pay Request No. 2 from R.L. Larson Contracting for the Lift Station Modifications in the amount of \$63,496.86.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from DGR for professional services through October 31, 2008 for the Electric System Improvements in the amount of \$13,682.59 (\$196 for Electric Miscellaneous, \$11,348.05 for 115 kV Substation, \$294 for 115 kV Transmission Line, \$1,844.54 for Distribution Feeders).

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to schedule a special City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 2, 2009.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk