

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2010**

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

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

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

- a. August 2, 2010 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. July 7, 2010 Benson HRA Meeting
- c. July 29, 2010 Benson Safety Committee Meeting

Under Correspondence the Council was informed that the City has received the NPDES/SDS Industrial Stormwater General Permit for the Airport.

There was a discussion about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently published new rule that pertains to emissions from compression ignition reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE). This new rule will affect the generators at the Benson Power Plant. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve entering into a contract with DGR to provide professional services for the new EPA requirements in a not to exceed amount of \$20,000.

At 5:45 p.m. a conference call to Bonestroo (Eric Lempke, Miles Jensen and Ryan Capelle) was made to discuss the Benson Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project. The Council was informed that the City was 65th on the Intended Use Plan list and one of seven communities to be eligible to forgive 25% of the green portion of the project. Of the \$3.4 million project, the green portion is \$555,000. The Council was informed about the timeline for this project. There was discussion about the PFA loan and the Davis Bacon Act. By September the Council will need to decide whether to move forward with this project this year or next year. Council Member Landmark asked a number of questions regarding the Public Financing Authority (PFA), public hearing requirement, what water rates should be when the water tower bonds are paid off in February 2014 and what reserves are needed in the water fund.

The Council also discussed the Sandy's Lift Station Project with Bonestroo. Staff is suggesting financing this project through the utility fund that is allowed by City Charter.

The conference call concluded at 6:37 p.m.

At the September 7 meeting the Council will focus on the PFA, make assumptions regarding the water rates and review suggested financing through the utility fund for the Sandy's Lift Station project.

During this discussion, it was mentioned that the Council needs to discuss whether to establish assessment policies or to use bonds to fund projects.

Staff recommended the following priority list of proposed projects:

1. Benson Water Treatment Plant
2. Sandy's Lift Station
3. Upgrade Power Plant for new EPA requirements
4. Demolition of Benson Market Elevator
5. 11th Street South Reconstruction

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve an invoice from Hawley's to repair the swimming pool boiler in the amount of \$5,894.82.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of 1/0 and 4/0 primary wire in the amount of \$32,645.28 from Dakota Supply. The wire will be used for the new American Fertilizer building and about 12 blocks of underground work around town.

The Council acknowledged the budget report for the month ending July 31, 2010.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$302,977.09.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Manager