

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 12, 2007**

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

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

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

- a. February 26, 2007 City Council Meeting
- b. January 29, 2007 Swift County-Benson Hospital Board Meeting
- c. March 5, 2007 Planning Commission Meeting
- d. February 23, 2007 Safety Committee Meeting

The Council discussed the Melody Reuss & Mary McGinty parking request. There was a consensus of the Council to send them a letter asking to specifically outline the hardship their business experiences with the current parking and how the restricted parking will improve it.

The Council reviewed correspondence from MRES regarding an electric rate increase. The City has been informed that due to New Year's Day ice storms, MRES has incurred over \$7,000,000 of additional cost due to the amount of power it has been forced to purchase in the open market.

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve renewal of a Consumption and Display Permit to DeToy's Family Restaurant effective April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

The City Manager informed the Council that Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad would now like to acquire an additional 20 foot parcel south of the railroad tracks across from City Hall and have the City install a chain link fence on the south side of the railroad tracks throughout the entire downtown area. The Planning Commission and Park Board held a joint meeting earlier today and recommended that the Council approve installing an ornamental metal fence on the north side of the railroad tracks and delay the Northeast Railroad Park Improvement (capital outlay project) and use that money to fund the fencing project this summer. After discussion, it was moved by Westrum and seconded by Fitz to approve the recommendations from the Planning Commission and Park Board to approve the installation of an ornamental metal fence on the north side of the railroad tracks as part of the agreement with BNSF. The following vote was recorded: AYES: Westrum, Fitz, Kittelson. NAYS: Landmark. ABSENT: Claussen.

The City Manager updated the Council on a joint powers agreement with the Swift County-Benson Hospital for the parking lot project. The City should be able to construct the parking lot in the \$100,000 to \$110,000 range. The City Attorney is preparing the joint powers agreement and it should be ready by the next Council meeting.

The City Manager informed the Council that he will be meeting with Representatives Gary Kubly and Aaron Peterson on March 21 to discuss a bonding bill to fund the Gusty's Road project (East Pacific Avenue Improvements). The Engineer's preliminary estimate is \$1,450,000.

The City Manager informed the Council that the Airport Commission is looking at applying for funding to construct a hangar and upgrade the fueling system at the Airport. When specifications are ready, staff will bring them to the Council for approval.

The Public Works Director informed the Council about the downtown mill and overlay project, hospital parking lot, city hall parking lot, street patches, and replace a couple of handicap ramps for MN/DOT. He is asking the Council to approve specifications and authorize advertising for the City's 2007 Season Supply of Bituminous Milling, Plant Mixed Bituminous, and Concrete Curb and Flat Work. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve specifications and authorize staff to advertise for 2007 Season Supply of Bituminous Milling, Plant Mixed Bituminous, and Concrete Curb and Flat Work with bids to be opened at 11:00 a.m. on March 26, 2007.

The Public Works Director briefed the Council on the snow event statistics from February 25, 2007 through March 6, 2007.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that the 2005 Airport Improvement Project is complete and recommends authorizing the Mayor to sign the Certificate of Final Acceptance and approve the final payment request. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to authorize the Mayor to sign the Certificate of Final Acceptance and approve the final payment request in the amount of \$28,889.51 as recommended by the Public Works Director.

The Finance Director presented bills and warrants for approval. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$288,248.09.

The City Manager informed the Council that Benson was incorporated as a city on February 25, 1908 and suggested that the Council begin to think about a celebration.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk