

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 1, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Pro-Tem Gary Landmark. Members present: Sue Fitz, Ben Hess, Bob Claussen, and Gary Landmark. Members absent: Paul Kittelson. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, and Jeff and Sheri Reuss.

There was no one with 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 16, 2010 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. February 1, 2010 Benson Planning Commission Meeting
- c. February 18, 2010 Benson EDA Meeting
- d. February 11, 2010 Safety Committee Meeting
- e. January 25, 2010 SCBH Board Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence with the Council:

- a. Mn/DOT dated 2.19.10 RE: School Crossing Protection that indicated the improvements are a local responsibility.
- b. Habitat for Humanity dated 2.23.10 RE: Habitat has increased the criteria for selecting families from 60% to 80% of HUD's medium income guidelines.
- c. Swift County Assessor dated 2.23.10 RE: Benson's Board of Review scheduled for April 19 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

The Council was informed that the Planning Commission held a public hearing for Variance No. 2010-01 from Jeff and Sheri Reuss at Noon today. The Reusses are proposing to construct a 1500 sq. ft. detached garage in their back yard. The Planning Commission recommended that the Council deny the variance because of no undue hardship being established and also to not waive the application fee for a second application. After discussion, it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to deny Variance No. 2010-01 and to waive the fee if a second application is received within 60 days.

The City Manager informed and reviewed with the Council a preliminary Mn/DOT project list for construction years 2010 – 2014.

The City Manager informed the Council that CVEC is looking for a site to store approximately 4000 ton of corn cobs for less than a year. He suggested storing them at the old landfill site or some land at the airport. After discussion, it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to authorize staff to allow CVEC to store the corn cobs at the two sites mentioned no longer than August 2011.

The 2009 Senior Advocacy Council Treasurer's Report was reviewed. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to increase the payment to the Senior Advocacy Council from \$500 to \$600 per month effective March 1.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the Second Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 154 of Zoning, Section 154.020, Signs, of the City of Benson Code of Ordinances and to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION OF BENSON CITY COUNCIL DIRECTING PLANNING
COMMISSION TO REVIEW FOR AMENDMENT, BENSON, MINNESOTA CODE OF
ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 154 OF ZONING, SECTION 154.020: SIGNS, ALLOWING
THE CONTINUED INSTALLATION OF SPONSORSHIP SIGNS ON THE OUTFIELD
FENCE AND SCOREBOARDS ON
CITY OWNED PROPERTY, AND AUTHORIZATION FOR PROCEEDS TO GO
DIRECTLY TO SPORTING PROGRAMS
(RESOLUTION NO. 2010-07)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson owns real property utilized for baseball fields within the city limits; and,

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that supporting parks and recreational activities within the City provides benefits for residents of all ages and contributes to the overall positive image of our community and plays a role in the City's ability to maintain and attract existing and future residents, businesses, and industries;

WHEREAS, Benson Baseball Association has requested an amendment to the current sign ordinance to allow the Baseball Association and other sporting associations within the community to continue renting sponsorship signs on the outfield fence and scoreboards on the baseball fields located on City owned property with the proceeds received from said signage to go directly to the Benson Baseball Association or other applicable sporting association to use to continue their programs.

WHEREAS, the Benson Baseball Association provides opportunities for boys and girls in the community to play baseball with a significant portion of the funding stemmed from proceeds received from advertisement signs located at the baseball fields.

WHEREAS, creating a community partnership with the Benson Baseball Association and other sporting organizations by allowing continued installation of sponsorship signs located on sporting fields on City owned property with the proceeds for said signs to go directly to the applicable sporting organization will continue to benefit the general welfare of the community;

WHEREAS, the City Council also recognizes the essential value of sporting programs in the community to promote the emotional, physical, social and mental development of participants and spectators of all ages;

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that providing sporting programs the ability to be fiscally self sufficient and to continue operations within the City directly benefits the public health, safety and general welfare of our community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Benson City Council hereby directs the Benson Planning Commission review the current Zoning Ordinance Chapter 154.020 regulating signs located with the city limits for amendment to allow for the installation of sponsorship signs on sporting fields located on City property for the purposes set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Benson Baseball Association and other sporting organizations are hereby authorized to directly collect and utilize the sponsorship sign advertisement proceeds for purpose of continuing to operate their programs with the City of Benson, Minnesota for the reasons set forth herein.

Councilmember Claussen seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Hess, Landmark. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Kittelson. Whereupon the President Pro-Tem declared Resolution No. 2010-07 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve entering into a contract with TKDA for the Airport Layout Plan in the amount of \$121,500.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve Pay Request No. 5 (final) from R.L. Larson Contracting for the Lift Station Modifications in the amount of \$23,433.87.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a quote from Stepp Manufacturing Co. for a 125 gallon diesel powered tar kettle in the amount of \$23,266.

The Public Works Director presented a quote from Amundson Peterson, Inc. for a mower in the amount of \$16,713.86 plus tax that includes trading in an old mower. After discussion, it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a John Deere mower from Amundson Peterson, Inc. in the amount of \$16,713.86.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve seven small cities grant applications.

The City Manager presented a bill from Golden Living-Meadow Lane Nursing Home to inspect their sprinkler system. They had the system inspected due to the water tower losing pressure in January. There was a consensus of the Council to find out when the nursing home last had their sprinkler system inspected before taking any action.

The Finance Director reviewed the City's electric utility rebate program with the Council.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

President Pro-Tem

Attest: _____
City Clerk