

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
JULY 6, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Ben Hess, Gary Landmark, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: Bob Claussen. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Building Official Mike Jacobson, Benson Librarian Kristin Woizeschke, and Vicky Syverson.

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

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

- a. June 21, 2010 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. June 23, 2010 Benson Safety Committee Meeting
- c. May 24, 2010 SCBH Board Meeting

The following correspondence was reviewed:

- a. Dept. of Energy WAPA dated 6.21.10: Notification that WAPA received request to form separate Integrated Report Plan Cooperatives for MRES members in IA and MN.
- b. Pioneerland Library System dated 6.21.10: Regarding 2011 budget request

Council Member Fitz introduced and welcomed new head librarian, Kristin Woizeschke.

Vicky Syverson, Swift County HRA Director, updated the Council on the progress of the Small Cities Grant Program and asked the Council to consider submitting a Small Cities Short Form Grant Application. She mentioned that 75% of the grant money needs to be spent by October in order to apply for the short form and she feels we will obtain that percentage. There are 29 people on the waiting list and she would like to contact them with hopes of getting five to ten of them that are interested in a grant. There was consensus of the Council to proceed with the short form application as presented by the Swift County HRA Director.

The Building Official informed the Council that the following two quotes were received to construct a building to enclose the loading dock area at the Benson Civic Center:

Marcus Construction Company, Prinsburg, MN	\$19,026
Piotter Construction, Milan, MN	\$18,021

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the quote from Piotter Construction in the amount of \$18,021 as recommended by the Building Official.

The City Manager informed the Council that the school would like to install lights at the crosswalks on TH 9 and 29. The cost of the lights is about \$3,500 for each intersection and the school is proposing to pay for the lights and they are asking the City to participate by providing the labor to install the lights. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to participate in the crosswalk improvements as presented by the City Manager.

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

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GRANT AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT**

**EXCLUDING LAND ACQUISITION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2010-12)**

It is resolved by the City of Benson as follows:

1. That the state of Minnesota Agreement No. 97188, "Grant Agreement for Airport Improvement Excluding Land Acquisition," for State Project No. 7601-32 at the Benson Municipal Airport is accepted.

2. That the Mayor and City Manager are authorized to execute this Agreement and any amendments on behalf of the City of Benson.

Councilmember Hess seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Landmark, Hess, Fitz, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2010-12 duly passed and adopted.

Council Member Hess indicated that he would attend the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization training session in Glenwood, MN on August 17.

There was consensus of the Council to obtain a legal opinion regarding the issue of the DeToy's Family Restaurant sign that is located on City property just south of the Armory building. This item was tabled to the next meeting to allow time to acquire the legal opinion.

The City Manager informed the Council that a legal opinion from the City Attorney states that a sidewalk café permit can be issued to Mi Mexico as long as they put up the required portable fence and require patrons to enter the building to request, and be escorted to, seating in the sidewalk café area. There was consensus of the Council to concur with the City Attorney's legal opinion and directed staff to issue the sidewalk café permit to Mi Mexico with the conditions as stated in the legal opinion.

The Public Works Directors reviewed the following projects with the Council: 1) 11th Street South, 2) Sandy's Lift Station, 3) Water Treatment Plant, and 4) Benson Market Elevator Grant and Demolition. There was consensus of the Council to conduct the August 16 Council meeting as a work session rather than a regular meeting to spend time discussing these projects.

The Public Works Director updated the Council on the following: 1) Emerald Ash Borer Research, 2) Utah Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets, and 3) All School Reunion.

The Mayor mentioned that he is thinking about appointing a blue ribbon committee to explore the possibility of establishing an annual festival for Benson.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve a one year LELS Union Contract effective for 2010.

It was moved by Hess, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Manager