

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 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, and Public Works Director Elliot Nelson.

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

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

- a. September 2, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. August 21, 2008 Benson Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- c. July 28, 2008 SCBH Board Meeting
- d. August 13, 2008 Benson HRA Meeting
- e. June 16, 2008 Benson Area Tourism Board Meeting
- f. July 21, 2008 UMVRDC Meeting
- g. September 8, 2008 Benson Planning Commission Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence with the Council:

- a. Flexible Benefit Administrators dated 9.3.08 Re: 2009 Renewal Rates
- b. Benson School District dated Aug 2008 – It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a \$200 donation to the Renaissance program.
- c. Benson Women of Today dated 9.2.08 - It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to waive the rental fee for use of the Benson Armory on October 18 for their 6th Annual Holiday Expo.
- d. Pioneerland Library System dated 7.2.08 Re: 2009 Budget Request
- e. Western MN Prairie Waters dated 9.5.08 – It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to forward the 2009 donation request to the EDA but to only commit to a one year donation.
- f. Upper MN Valley RDC dated 9.4.08 Re: 2013 Transportation Enhancement Program

Member Claussen informed the Council that the Planning Commission held a public hearing for Conditional Use Permit No. 2008-02 from Zniwski Funeral Home. The Planning Commission recommended approval of Conditional Use Permit No. 2008-02 with the following conditions: 1) conform with intersection visibility ordinance, 2) conform with zoning setbacks, and 3) parking spaces on Oregon Avenue will be public parking. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve Conditional Use Permit No. 2008-02 with the conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission.

The City Manager reviewed the proposed 2009 General Fund Budget and Levy with the Council. Council Member Fitz offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2009 FOR THE CITY OF BENSON, MINNESOTA
(RESOLUTION NO. 2008-14)**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed Operating Budget for the City of Benson, Minnesota, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2009 and ending December 31, 2009 is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget is summarized as follows:

<u>Revenues</u>	
Taxes - General Fund	\$719,753
Taxes - Library Fund	89,657
State Grants and Aids	1,203,471
Other Revenues	<u>949,399</u>
Total Revenues	\$2,962,280

<u>Expenditures</u>	
General Government	\$624,600
Public Safety	886,119
Highways, Streets and Roads	644,745
Parks and Recreation	309,900
Public Transit	179,270
Public Library	95,782
Capital Outlay	200,000
Other Expenditures	<u>199,170</u>
Total Expenditures	\$3,139,586

Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures (\$177,306)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager shall cause the entire Proposed Operating Budget to be printed and filed in the City Office for inspection and reference by the public.

Council Member Claussen seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Johnson, Landmark, Kittelson. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2008-14 duly passed and adopted.

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

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED 2008 PROPERTY
TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2009
(RESOLUTION NO. 2008-15)**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, Minnesota that the following proposed sums of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2009, upon the taxable property in the City of Benson, for the following purposes:

General Fund Levy	\$719,753
Claussen Properties II Abatement	12,000
Library Fund Levy	89,657
G.O. Capital Street Equipment 2006	<u>39,296</u>
Total	\$860,706

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following sum of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2009, based upon the market value of the taxable property in the City of Benson, for the following purpose:

G.O. Swimming Pool	<u>79,247</u>
Total	\$79,247

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will hold its Truth in Taxation Hearing on Monday, December 15, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Benson City Council Chambers. A continuation hearing, if necessary, will be held at the same time and location on Monday, December 22, 2008.

Council Member Landmark seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: Claussen, Landmark, Fitz, Johnson, Kittelson. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2008-15 duly passed and adopted.

The City Manager informed the Council that staff is working with Ritalka, Inc. dba SpecSys on their EDA loan application. The anticipated proposal is to obtain financing from Minnesota Investment Financing (MIF) of \$150,000 and \$50,000 loans each from WesMN, the EDA, and Swift County RDA. A draft JOBZ Business Subsidy Agreement was presented to the Council for their consideration. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to move forward with the Business Subsidy Agreement as presented to the Council.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to authorize Buttweiler's Do-All, Inc. of Alexandria, MN to repair the Water Treatment Plant #2 roof by the Golf Course in the amount of \$8,230 and the Line Garage roof in the amount of \$6,110.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that the following four bids were received for the Railroad and Highway Right-of-Way Crossing Construction-2008:

Contractor	Total Base Quote
1. Dig America, St. Cloud, MN	\$71,897.95
2. MP Nexlevel, LLC, Maple Lake, MN	\$81,871.18
3. Mastec North America, Inc., Hugo, MN	\$86,938.20
4. Push, Inc., Rice Lake, WI	\$91,109.00

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to accept the bid from Dig America of St. Cloud, MN in the amount of \$71,897.95.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to authorize staff to advertise for bids for the City's requirements for gasoline and diesel fuels at 3:00 p.m. on October 16, 2008.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a Pay Request from Riley Brothers for the Industry Drive Improvements in the amount of \$62,777.50.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve four pay requests from Bonestroo for professional services from 7.20.08 through 8.23.08 in the amount of

\$18,347.01 (\$462.50 for City of Benson; General, \$1,336.12 for Water Well Test Drilling, \$1,394 for Well No. 30 Abandonment, and \$15,154.39 for Lift Stations).

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$957,743.32.

At 6:03 p.m. the Council meeting went into recess and the Council went on a tour of Benson and reconvened at the Benson Golf Club.

The Council met with the Golf Club Board to discuss their current budget and needs. Their operating profit is down this year but they are hopeful that the \$100,000 operating line the City has co-signed will be adequate to carry them over to next spring. Current needs are for a green's mower, air conditioning repair, a food freezer, and some outside building repairs. Future needs are to replace the current fleet of golf carts, parking lot improvements, handicap accessibility, and irrigation system replacement.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to purchase a new green's mower for the Club through the State Purchasing Contract for approximately \$24,000 and be reimbursed by the Club when they finance it.

There being no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk