

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 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, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: Gary Landmark. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Finance Director Glen Pederson, City Attorney Don Wilcox, Chief Mark Schreck and Fireman Lonnie Hagen.

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

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

- a. February 1, 2010 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. February 8, 2010 Benson Park Board Meeting
- c. January 13, 2010 HRA Regular Meeting
- d. January 27, 2010 HRA Annual Meeting

Under correspondence, the City manager reported that the Habitat For Humanity chapter is advertising for applications to purchase the second home that was built in the city. He also reported that the loan issued by the City for the construction has been paid off.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve a swimming pool pass be donated to the Swift County Benson Hospital Foundation for their Emerald Eve fundraising event.

A notice from the Minnesota Office of Aeronautics was received indicating that the airport Entrance Road Street Light project had been selected to receive a state improvement grant. Consensus was to contact them to express our interest in proceeding with the project.

Motion was made by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to waive the Armory rental fee as our contribution to the Prom Afterbash.

A letter was received from Heather Nord regarding making Benson a better place to live. The letter was read into the record for the 2010 Addendum to the 2000 Benson Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing.

Fire Chief Mark Schreck and Lonnie Hagen came before the council to present the 2009 Benson Fire Department Annual Report. They reported that a total of 67 calls was average for the year. The department was also involved in burning CRP acres that raised additional revenues that were used to offset additional expenses and purchasing equipment for the department. The Mayor and Council thanked them for their service.

City Attorney Don Wilcox came before the Council to discuss the proposed sale of City Property between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> St. S. to the adjacent property owners. He indicated that the property owners have been unable to come to any agreement on the amount of property wanted and how the proposed fencing would be constructed. After discussion the City Attorney was directed to proceed with offering a direct split of the property between all of the parties and that the City would have final decision on the fence construction. If that is not accepted then the entire property would be offered for sale.

Councilmember Claussen offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE BENSON ALL SCHOOL REUNION  
COMMITTEE TO PLAN, ORGANIZE, AND MANAGE THE  
ALL SCHOOL REUNION SCHEDULED JUNE 25-27, 2010  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2010-06)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson, Minnesota is planning a Benson High School All School Reunion scheduled June 25-27, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the City of Benson endorses the efforts of citizens to commemorate the history of the City of Benson School by celebrating and honoring numerous individuals and organizations that have contributed to the community of Benson, Minnesota and surrounding areas;

WHEREAS, the City Council supports the Benson 2010 All School Reunion, and the efforts of the Benson All School planning committee; and

WHEREAS, the City Council would like to encourage the citizens of Benson and surrounding communities, local businesses and schools to become involved and participate in the 2010 Benson All School Reunion.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. The City of Benson, Minnesota designates the Benson All School Reunion Planning Committee to undertake the lead role in planning for the 2010 Benson All School Reunion.
2. The second All School Reunion will provide the opportunity for Alumni and their family and friends to reminisce and celebrate their years attending Benson High School and residing in Benson, and surrounding communities.
3. The City of Benson Recreation and Parks Department will continue to work with the All School Reunion Committee in a liaison manner.
4. All proceeds received by the city for this event, after expenses and related costs are covered, will be deposited with the City.
5. The committee members' responsibilities include:
  - Providing overall vision, direction and coordination of Benson High School All School Reunion scheduled for June 25-27, 2010.
  - Attending committee planning.
  - Participating in committee decision-making and/or problem-solving on issues related to specific events or the overall planning process for All School Reunion
  - Maintaining communication through email and phone calls with fellow committee members
  - Serving as publicity contact for All School Reunion.
  - Serving as event volunteer during All School Reunion activities
  - Attending recap meeting to provide feedback and direction for the next Homecoming celebration
  - Assisting with the recruitment of All School Reunion committee members
6. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

Councilmember Hess seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Hess, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Landmark. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2010-06 duly passed and adopted.

The Mayor closed the public hearing for the 2010 Addendum to the 2000 Benson Comprehensive Plan. The City Manager reported that the letter from Heather Nord was received and also a telephone call requesting the allowance of laying hens within the city limits. Motion was made by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the 2010 Addendum to the 2000 Benson Comprehensive Plan.

A letter was received from John Houlahan, Director of the Pioneerland Library System regarding a meeting that was held with the Library Board. Sue Fitz reported that it was a good meeting and Mr. Houlahan agreed with the Boards recommendation to increase the librarians hours from 37.5 to 40 hours per week. Motion was made by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the increase in hours of the librarian from 37.5 hours to 40 and that the increase for 2010 will come out of Pioneerland reserves for the Benson Library.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the First Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 40, Chapter 154 of Zoning, Section 154.020 of the City of Benson Code of Ordinances. A resolution will be provided at the next meeting to allow the Benson Baseball Association to renew the sign agreements on the announcers building and to also permit signage on the outfield fencing using the proceeds to maintain the baseball facilities in Benson.

Two bids were received on the Electric Utility Boom Truck:

Altec Industries, Inc.	\$156,500
Dueco, Inc.	\$156,615

The City Manager reported that the low bid would fit in the line garage but the second low bid would require modifications to the overhead doors. Motion was made by Claussen, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the low bid of \$156,500 from Altec Industries, Inc. and to sell the existing truck separately.

Motion was made by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to accept the bid from Glacial Plains Coop for tires to be purchased in 2010.

The City Manager reviewed with the Council a quote from Ziegler, Inc. for a portable trailer mounted air compressor to be used to refill the air tanks in the power plant in the event that attempts to start the backup electric generators are unsuccessful. Upon motion by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to authorize the purchase in the amount of \$15,657.

The next item on the agenda was the Proposed Contract for Engineering for Capital Projects. The City Manager reported that this item was taken care of at the last meeting.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the Second Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 51, Solid Waste, of the City of Benson Code of Ordinances to provide for the regulation of Dumpsters.

Upon motion by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$686,358.13.

Under additional items the City Manager informed the council he had received financial numbers from the Senior Advocacy Council and that they had revenues of \$10,419 and expenses of \$9,337 in 2009. They also have some funds in savings and checking but that an increase to the monthly payment of \$500 may be needed at some time.

Councilmember Fitz reported that recently she had encouraged a resident to apply for a rebate for new appliances but they were told that we were no longer issuing rebates for that type. She requested an overview at the next meeting of what rebates are currently available.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk