

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MAY 21, 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 None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Public Works Elliot Nelson, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Jim Crace, City Attorney Don Wilcox, and Dan Johnson.

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

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

- a. May 7, 2007 City Council Meeting
- b. April 11, 2007 HRA Meeting
- c. March 26, 2007 SCBH Board of Directors Meeting
- d. May 7, 2007 Planning Commission Meeting
- e. May 7, 2007 Library Board Meeting
- f. March 19, 2007 UMRDC Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence:

- a. Invitation to property owners affected by the milling, overlay and concrete improvement project on Pacific Ave. from 12th to 14th Street and on 12th and 13th Streets from the railroad tracks to Wisconsin Ave.
- b. MRES dated May 15, 2007 RE: July 1, 2007 S-1 rate increase

The City Manager updated the Council on the real estate purchase and sale agreement for the elevator parcel from Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad. The City Attorney explained that there are three aspects to the purchase:

1. Purchase agreement for the land the elevator is located on
2. Assignment of existing lease
3. Easement to allow continued use of the property

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of the elevator parcel for \$28,000, the easement cost of \$2,500 for the elevator encroachment and a \$1,000 processing fee for a total of \$30,500.

The Police Chief recommended that the Council approve entering into a joint powers agreement with the state of Minnesota for the computers in the police vehicles. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve entering into an agreement with the state of Minnesota as recommended by the Police Chief.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve extending the Operations and Maintenance Agreement with Missouri River Energy Services by five years beyond the present termination date of March 1, 2008.

The City Manager informed the Council that the boiler at the armory needs to be replaced. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign an engagement letter with an architect to allow them to prepare plans and specifications to replace the boiler at the armory.

Gerald Chapman, a resident at Manor Apartments, came before the Council to complain about a couple of properties in the 1600 block of Atlantic Avenue. He mentioned that there is junk in the yard, a garage full of junk, etc. The City will check into the complaint.

Item #8, Land Trade Proposal, was removed from the agenda.

The Finance Director reviewed the Budget Report through April 2007 with the Council.

The Finance Director presented two lists of bills and warrants for approval. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$538,962.37.

There was a consensus of the Council to schedule a strategic planning session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 16, at the Senior Center.

The City Manager informed the Council that a City Employee Safety Picnic will be held at Noon on May 23 to celebrate 18 months of no reported injuries.

The Public Works Director presented bills for paving and curb and gutter work at the hospital parking lot and some patches around town. It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the following bills:

B. G. Amundson Construction	\$17,965.00
Lakes Area Paving	\$26,629.20

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve two pay requests from DGR for the Electric System Improvements in the amount of \$18,750 and \$3,058.50 for professional services through April 30, 2007.

The City Manager informed the Council that the permit has been sent to BNSF for the transmission line improvement project.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to authorize going out for bids for the substation excluding the transformer. The bid opening will be scheduled July 11 at 1:30 p.m. with the Council reviewing the bids at the following Council meeting.

Member Landmark recommended that the Finance Director be compensated for the additional work he did when the City Manager was out on medical leave. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve compensating the Finance Director an additional \$2,000 as recommended by Member Landmark.

Member Fitz mentioned that the empty lot just north of the Human Services building is not being used any more and the backstop is in bad shape and should be taken down.

Member Fitz mentioned that she has received a complaint about the dandelions in Roosevelt Park.

The Mayor presented Member Westrum with an American Flag and thanked him for his seven years of services on the City Council and wished him well in his new position as Superintendent of the Benson Schools.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to leave the Council seat vacated by Westrum's resignation open until the election in November to allow the residents to elect a candidate to fill the remaining two years of Westrum's seat.

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk