

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Mike Fugleberg, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heinzig & Sue Fitz. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Part-time Police Officer Ashley Stavish and MRES Manager Jeff Becthold.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the following minutes:

- January 2, 2015 City Council Minutes
- December 1, 2014 Planning Commission Minutes

It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve Jill Hedman's application for the Library Board, with her term ending December 31, 2017.

Wolfington presented a reply from CenterPoint Energy addressed to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission stating the City's franchise rate change that will go into effect in March.

Councilmember Fitz offered the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REREPRESENTATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2015-01)**

WHEREAS, THE Governing body of the City of Benson, Minnesota has entered into an agreement to establish The **Missouri Basin Municipal Power Agency, d.b.a. Missouri River Energy Services (MRES)**, and as a member thereof is entitled to a representative who shall represent the Municipal Utility in the business of MRES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Rob Wolfington be and he is hereby authorized and appointed as the representative of the City of Benson, Minnesota, to represent the Municipal Utility in the business of MRES, with the powers, duties and responsibilities as provided in said agreement. The alternate representative, Paul Kittelson, is hereby authorized and appointed with equal powers.

Council Member Evenson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Kittelson, Heinzig, Evenson, Fugleberg. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2015-01 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Fugleberg offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REREPRESENTATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02)**

WHEREAS, THE Governing body of the City of Benson, Minnesota has entered into an agreement to establish The **Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA)**, and as a member thereof is entitled to a representative who shall represent the Municipal Utility in the business of WMMPA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Robert Wolfington be and is hereby authorized and appointed as the representative of the City of Benson, Minnesota, to represent the Municipal Utility in the business of WMMPA, with the powers, duties and responsibilities as provided in said agreement. The alternate representative, Paul Kittelson, is hereby authorized and appointed with equal powers.

Council Member Heinzig seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Kittelson, Heinzig, Evenson, Fugleberg. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2015-02 duly passed and adopted.

Wolfington presented a Capital Authorization Request from Librarian Dawn Erickson for the Library to purchase a new “touch it” screen, dry erase board, 20 meeting chairs and 4 folding chairs. The cost is \$6,364.00, with the Galen Hanson Foundation matching up to half of the total cost \$3,182.00. The Library has been making improvements to the meeting room area. Fitz said the new carpet is in and looks great. The Friends of the Library purchased new chairs for the front reading area of the Library. Wolfington said Chuck Koenigs volunteered his time to paint the entire inside of the Library. It was moved by Fugleberg and seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the Capital Authorization Request from the Library in the amount of \$6,364.00.

Next Chief Hodge approached the Council and introduced Officer Stavish. He went on to give a report for December 2014 Police Department activity.

Wolfington gave a report on the Golf Course line of credit coming due on January 15, 2015. The Golf Course is due to present their 2015 budget to the City Council by the end of March. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to continue the loan guarantee for six months.

Wolfington presented the revised Blight Ordinance. He stated all interior regulations from the old ordinance draft have been removed. Fitz stated that the Planning Commission was concerned with staff's ability to enforce the blight ordinance. She said there was a lot of debate on it, and their vote was 4-3 in favor of the revised ordinance. Fugleberg asked Hodge if this was an enforceable ordinance. Hodge stated yes but to what level will the Council want it enforced. Kittelson heard of a group that paints houses for those that cannot afford it. After discussion it was agreed to bring this back to the February 2, 2015 meeting.

Gens presented a list to the Council of 2015 projects.

Gens presented an electric material list for the Helipad project. Two blocks of electrical will be buried. Wolfington said the application has been submitted to the FAA and trees have been removed in preparation for the project. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the electric material list for the helipad in the amount of \$50,412.00.

Gens presented a quote for a new Elgin Pelican street sweeper. Our current street sweeper is a 2001 model we purchased used. This is from the State bid, and 50% of the funds will come from the storm sewer fund. We will get \$25,000 in trade-in on our current street sweeper. After discussion, it was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of an Elgin Pelican street sweeper in the amount of \$165,007.00.

Gens presented the street garage addition architectural bids to the Council. Wolfington stated the staff has worked on some of the design, but we will need formal plans and bid documents per state statutes and proper engineering for footings, sewer and water service. After discussion it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve Ringdahl Architect's bid in the amount of \$24,600.00.

Gens informed the Council while the survey crew was working on the Helipad sight, it was discovered the manhole at 21st Street South and Wisconsin Ave. was half full of sludge and debris. The

sewer main was replaced from 21st Street South on Wisconsin to the 14th Street South in 1989, and the line from Wisconsin to the wastewater plant was most likely constructed in the 1930's. There are roots and debris in the sewer line from Wisconsin to the wastewater plant which services a large part of Benson. Gens went on to say on Wednesday the 14th, Enviro-Dyne will be working with staff to try and break up the blockage. If successful, Johnson Jet Line will televise the line the next day and see what the line looks like. A report will be presented at the next Council Meeting.

Gens presented a quotation for a backhoe from the state bid. Our old one leaks constantly and is at the end of its usefulness. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a 2015 Case backhoe in the amount of \$70,287.00.

Gens presented a material list for Phase I of the 2015 overhead to underground project. This will be for the line from Northside school to Idaho Avenue. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the Phase I overhead to Underground Line conversion material list in the amount of \$95,000.00.

Gens reviewed a brochure on preventing frozen service lines.

Pederson discussed a proposal to the Council to raise the monthly payment to the Senior Advocacy Corporation to offset their cost of utilities at the Benson Senior Center. The last time the amount was increased was in 2010. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to increase the monthly amount to \$700 per month.

It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a Small Cities Grant payment in the amount of \$3,610.00.

It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a Small Cities Grant payment in the amount of \$33,237.00.

It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a Small Cities Grant payment in the amount of \$5,929.00.

It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a Small Cities Grant payment in the amount of \$5,970.00.

It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a Small Cities Grant payment in the amount of \$10,586.00.

Councilmember Fugleberg offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING \$80,000 FROM
THE LIQUOR FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND
(RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson owns and operates a Municipal Liquor Store, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has budgeted to transfer \$80,000 from the Liquor fund to the General Fund for calendar year 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorized the transfer of \$80,000 from the Liquor Fund to the General Fund.

Council Member Evenson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Kittelson, Heinzig, Evenson, Fugleberg. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2015-03 duly passed and adopted.

Pederson presented budgets for approval. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the Library Endowment Fund with the stipulation the Library Capital Request for improvements be paid with funds from the Library Endowment Fund in the amount of \$6,364.00.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following budgets as presented:

- Perpetual Care Cemetery
- Storm Water Fund
- Concrete Projects Fund
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2005
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2009
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2011
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2013

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the December 2014 bills and warrants in the amount of \$410,813.66.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the January 9, 2015 bills and warrants in the amount of \$231,579.40.

Wolfington stated he talked to the author of the MnDOT railroad study. Clarification on the study is not to close crossings, but to help with safety issues like finding an emergency route around a stopped train such as Gusty's road. Wolfington stated he and the Mayor are meeting with legislators on January 28, 2015 and will be discussing this issue.

Gens introduced Jeff Becthold with Missouri River Energy Services to the Council. He replaced Don Krumwiede, and is working with the guys on projects in town. He stated at the next Council meeting there will be an OSHA required ARC flash study brought to the Council.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk