

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Gary Landmark, Ben Hess and Sue Fitz. Members absent: Bob Claussen. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Public Works Elliot Nelson, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Building Official Mike Jacobson, Doug Cook, Stan Olson and MaryAnn Lindahl

Doug Cook came before the Council with a request to expedite his Conditional Use Permit to move a house he purchased from the Swift County-Benson Hospital onto his lot before his scheduled public hearing on October 17, 2011. The deadline for moving the house off the Hospital's property is October 15, 2011. There was explanation of the rules with moving a house. After discussion it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to allow Mr. Cook to move his house onto the Shamrock Hest parking lot free of charge until his site is prepared for the house, with the stipulation it is moved from there within 90 days.

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

- September 19, 2011 City Council Meeting
- September 12, 2011 Planning Commission Meeting
- September 15, 2011 Safety Committee Meeting
- August 29, 2011 Swift County-Benson Hospital Meeting

The following correspondence was reviewed:

▪ Benson High School Renaissance Program: It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to support the program with \$250.00 in Benson Bucks.

Next on the agenda was a Public Hearing for a house to be moved from Swift County-Benson Hospital property to a lot at 500 9th St. N. Stan Olson stated he could not get a mover until November 1, 2011. Mr. Olson was hoping to move the house to the lot which he is purchasing from the City, and isn't sure he'll get to it this year. Wolfington stated the Planning Commission is concerned about these houses being moved off Hospital property and sitting in a neighborhood unused. The Planning Commission approved his Conditional Use permit with the stipulation the house is set on a foundation within 90 days. Mr. Olson also has a tentative Purchase Agreement for the lot at 500 – 9th St. N. with the City. He stated he is meeting with the engineers with the Hospital/Clinic project Friday and he will know whether he can proceed with moving this house and purchasing the lot at that time. No action was taken.

Public Works Director Nelson talked to the City Council about the overhead to underground electric project along Highway 12 east. DGR Engineers came up with two options for the project. Option A would allow for future expansion and the ability to isolate accounts for outages and repairs at a cost of \$287,800. Option B would copy what is currently overhead and put it underground with no possibility of future expansion for a cost of \$205,700. Nelson explained if the project is approved, it will be executed next year. Nelson recommended approval of Option A to the Council. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve Option A at a cost of \$287,800.

Pay request #2 was received from KHC Construction for work on the Water Treatment facility. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and passed unanimously to approve the pay request in the amount of \$236,131.00.

Next was a pay request from Carr's Tree Service in the amount of \$16,443.10 for tree work in the City. Nelson stated they have not finished all the work from taking down the trees yet. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and approved unanimously to hold payment to Carr's Tree Service until all work is finished for the work orders submitted.

There was a pay request from BG Amundson for concrete work on various projects around town. It was moved by Hess, seconded by Fitz and approved unanimously to pay BG Amundson in the amount of \$10,354.25.

DeWald Grant Reckert and Associates (DGR) submitted a pay request for engineering service on the overhead to underground conversion on east Hwy. 12. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and approved unanimously to pay DGR in the amount of \$11,433.00.

Public Works Direction Nelson updated the Council on the following projects:

- Sandy's Lift Station project
- Water Filter Plant
- Centerpoint Energy Gas Company – loss of gas the weekend of 9/23/11
- Benson Market Demolition
- Railroad Crossings

Nelson informed the Council the sewer has been backing-up into First Security Bank. An investigation into the matter revealed a severely deteriorated manhole at the intersection of Kansas Ave. and 13th St. S., which will require repair at an estimated cost of \$30,000 to \$35,000.

After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and approved unanimously not to conduct the Railroad Quiet Zone Study.

There was a pay request from BNSF for the new crossings at 12th & 13th St. S. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and approved unanimously to pay BNSF in the amount of \$31,291.40.

October 3, 2011

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk