

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Mayor. 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, Director of Public Works Dan Gens, Assistant City Attorney Ben Wilcox, Sally Jones, Jodi Dejong-Hughes, Bill McGeary, Andy Abner, Steve Ricard, Eric Peterson, Jerry Peterson, Mitch Maurer, Bill Dethloff, Tim Essig, Terry Collins and Dennis Amundson.

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

- October 20, 2014 City Council Meeting

Wilcox came forward and discussed the blighted property ordinance. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the 1st Reading of an Ordinance To Amend Title IX: General Regulations; Benson City Code of 2003 Chapter 98: Structure in Disrepair.

Next the Council discussed an ordinance to grant the Benson Municipal Utility a Franchise Ordinance for right of way and street infrastructure improvements. The Council discussed the traditional assessment procedure possibly being prohibitive to some property owners, and it was agreed a franchise fee is more fair. This franchise will have a 10 year term, and then be reviewed. After discussion it was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a 1st Reading of the Benson Municipal Utilities Franchise Ordinance.

Wolfington presented a Five Year Capital Improvement Plan for financing purposes under Chapter 475. The capital improvement plan was prepared by staff and Ehlers & Associates and would run from 2015 through 2019. He went on to say the Capital Improvement Act allows cities to bond for projects without a referendum. Staff would like to bond for an expansion of the Street Department building, which would then house the Street, Parks and Transit departments. The current Parks building houses the Parks and Transit departments is in disrepair and has reached the end of its useful life. The bond will be for \$600,000, which is well under the City's legal debt limit. There will be a public hearing at the November 17, 2014 Council meeting regarding adoption of the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Next Sally Jones and Eric Peterson from the Benson Golf Course approached the Council with the capital needs for the Benson Golf Course. Jones said the current irrigation system was bought used in the 1980's. Parts are no longer manufactured to keep the current system going. She presented a plan and proposed cost for a new system which will cost \$208,355.38. This is their least expensive option. Wolfington said this project could be added to the bond for the new public works building in the form of equipment certificates. There was discussion on the operating line of credit the Golf Club has that is guaranteed by the City. Peterson said there are improvements to the building that are also needed, which would cost \$70,000. The building improvements are not eligible to be included in the bonds. It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to direct our financial advisors to add proposed equipment certificates to the upcoming bond offer in an amount that will cover the cost of the irrigation system plus applicable fees.

Superintendent Laumeier and school board members Dejong-Hughes, Abner and McGeary brought the Benson Public School capital improvement plans before the Council. They are working with an architect on improving district facilities, and part of the project is to build a gymnasium. The

gymnasium could include a two lane walking track. Laumeyer stated he is asking if the City would be interested in paying for the track portion of the project which would cost \$620,000. The track will not be part of the final plan without City partnership. The Council will discuss at their next meeting whether or not to participate with the School District in their gymnasium project.

Next the Council discussed the Cemetery expansion. It was the recommendation of the Cemetery Board to expand the Cemetery by 1,000 new plots. Gens reviewed the expansion map and plan with the Council. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the 1,000 plot expansion of the Cemetery.

Wolfington said Swift County-Benson Hospital has looked into building a helipad closer to the hospital. With Lifelink now stationed in Willmar, the helicopter is used more frequently. The concern with using the airport is train delays. The lot across from Human Services on 21st Street South and Tatges Avenue is the lot chosen for the helipad. Cost to develop the site will be \$40,000. Wolfington said the hospital has agreed to pay for 1/3 of the cost, the City will pay 1/3 of the cost and he will be seeking funding from Swift County for 1/3 of the cost as well. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the helipad construction and to seek 1/3 cost from the hospital and Swift County.

Next the Council reviewed the September 2014 budget report.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk