

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Mayor. Members present: Ben Hess, Gary Landmark, Mike Fugleberg, Paul Kittelson & Sue Fitz. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Benson Golf Club Representatives Sally Jones and Ron Vadnais, Stephanie Heinzig, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Linda Hodge, Police Officer Mike Nadeau, Andrea Nadeau, Police Sergeant Paul Larson, Sarah Larson, Police Officers Paula Wilson, Brennan McAlpin, Nancy Dosedall, Dusty Burton and Police Secretary Kim Pierce

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

- November 4, 2013 City Council Meeting
- November 12, 2013 Special City Council Meeting
- November 14, 2013 Safety Committee Meeting
- October 17, 2013 EDA Meeting
- October 24, 2013 Special EDA Meeting

Next Police Chief Hodge, Officer Mike Nadeau and Andrea Nadeau came forward. Chief Hodge thanked everyone for coming and proceeded to swear in Officer Mike Nadeau as a full time officer with the Benson Police Department.

It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to appoint Jan Baukol to the Park Board, with her term expiring December 31, 2016.

The Mayor acknowledged openings on the Park Board, Airport Commission, Planning Commission and Benson Area Tourism Board.

The Mayor acknowledged a letter from the Bloodmobile thanking the City for the use of the Armory during their last blood drive.

Correspondence from Charter Communications and Centerpoint Energy informing us of rate increases for next year was discussed.

There was a letter from the Chamber of Commerce describing their horse drawn wagon rides at Ambush Park for the annual Holiday Stroll.

The Minnesota Department of Health sent a memorandum reminding the City of the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act and actions needed to be taken by January 4, 2014.

Benson Golf Club groundskeeper Sally Jones and Golf Club Board member Ron Vadnais approached the Council presenting bills for tree work as a result of the June 2013 storm. There are two bills from CMF Tree Service. The first bill for \$59,528.31 is for work that was completed in September. The second bill is for work that has just been finished for \$16,989.92. The delayed work was due to accessibility of land across the river. There was a final request from the Golf Club asking the City to pay for final expenses not reimbursed from FEMA in the amount of \$4,317.40. After discussion, it was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to pay CMF Tree Service in the amount of \$76,518.23, and to only require the Golf Course to reimburse the City the amount due from FEMA of \$72,200.83.

Ron Vadnais discussed the operating line of credit at First Security Bank. The Golf Club is asking for the support of the City to raise the operating line of credit from \$100,000 to \$150,000. The Golf Club

is currently at \$92,500 on loan with payroll in December along with the November & December bills to be paid. The Golf Club experienced a challenging year due to several weather events that dramatically decreased revenue. After discussion, it was moved by Landmark to approve increasing the loan guarantee from \$100,000 to \$150,000 contingent on looking at addressing a possible pay down of the loan in 2014. It was seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously.

Next Wolfington discussed swimming pool passes at the outdoor pool. There has been difficulty regulating who qualifies to be on a family pass, as well as enforcement. Wolfington discussed how to address the passes or to change admittance to a ticket system which is how the City of Montevideo successfully operates. It was the consensus of the Council to send the issue to the Park Board for review and to readdress it at a Council meeting in January 2014.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit for the Chippewa Valley Chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association on February 7, 2014.

The Mayor addressed the notice from Missouri River Energy Services informing us of the S-1 rate increases as of January 1, 2014.

The City Manager informed the Council that the AFSCME union members have approved a two year contract with a 50 cent increase to all steps each year of the contract. He also stated there was language changes and a 50% cost share on any increases to family health insurance. It was moved by Landmark, second by Hess and passed unanimously to approve the 2014 – 2015 ASFCME Union contract as presented.

The Mayor acknowledged a letter of retirement from Public Works Director Elliot Nelson effective January 31, 2014. The Mayor expressed his thanks for Nelson's years of service and congratulated him on his retirement. It was the consensus of the Council to accept Elliot Nelson's letter of retirement.

Wolfington presented the 2013 Summer Recreation Program report from the Benson Area Community Education program. Benson Community Education is requesting reimbursement of the administration fees for the 2013 Summer Recreation Program. After discussion, it was moved by Hess, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the administration fees to Benson Community Education in the amount of \$19,782.57.

Next Pederson discussed the need for Councilmembers to have a City e-mail account controlled by the City as a means of official communication with the Councilmembers, serve as a manner of tracking and documentation and will be in line with best practices. It was the consensus of the Council to set up the e-mail accounts for each Councilmember.

Next Nelson informed the Council the concrete trickling filter distributor column in the wastewater plant has a crack in it and has failed. It was estimated the distributor was built in the 1930's. Engineer's estimate to repair this will be between \$25,000 and \$45,000. Nelson would like to go out for quotes as soon as possible as this is a vital component in the wastewater treatment process. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to direct staff to obtain quotes for repair of the wastewater trickling filter distributor column.

There was a pay request from Stantec to review the wastewater trickling filter failure and historical research on the creamery building. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to Stantec in the amount of \$5,339.00.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$632,878.49

Next the City Manager presented the Council with the updated 2014 proposed budget, significant accomplishments from 2013 and goals to be accomplished in 2014. The Mayor asked if there was anyone with questions on the budget, and no one approached the Council.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Fitz, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk