

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 21, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Mayor. Members present: Mike Fugleberg, Paul Kittelson, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heinzig & Sue Fitz. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Swift County Assessor Wayne Knutson, Helen and Anita Flodstrom.

At 5:30 p.m. Mayor Kittelson opened the Board Of Equalization Public Hearing.

Swift County Assessor Knutson came forward and gave a presentation on property valuations for the City of Benson. There was no one in attendance to address the Council on property valuations. Knutson stated values are up from last year mostly due to the Hospital Clinic addition, and John Deere's addition.

Mayor Kittelson called for anyone with unscheduled business. Helen Flodstrom addressed the Council. She stated she was recording the conversation, and read a prepared statement asking for clarification on a project at a house she owns in town. She would like to attach a two car garage to the house, and asked for clarification on how to do so. The Mayor explained the process of obtaining a building permit and variance application. Wolfington added if you apply for a building permit, and it is a non-conforming use in a particular zone, then a variance is required. All permits are reviewed to see if they meet the uniform building codes and City zoning.

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

- April 7, 2014 City Council Meeting
- April 7, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting
- April 14, 2014 Library Board Meeting

Wolfington presented a memo from MRES outlining its 10 year Strategic Roadmap and Tactical Action Plan.

Wolfington shared a technical memorandum he had drawn up from Golder Associates explaining the power plant air permit.

The Mayor noted he will be at the Mayor's Conference April 25, 2014 in Fergus Falls, and the City Manager will be attending the Transit Grant Workshop April 27-May 1, 2014.

Next were estimates to maintain the exterior of the Benson Racquet and Fitness Center. The Council reviewed the estimates and discussed laying out guidelines on how to work with organizations and their capital projects. It was the consensus of the Council Heinzig and Evenson will prepare guidelines for requests for capital improvements of City owned buildings managed by various organizations. They will meet with Wolfington and review which properties this pertains to. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to delay the request for funds from the Benson Racquet and Fitness Center until guidelines are established.

Wolfington reminded the Council this week is Weather Awareness Week. There will be tornado drills on April 24 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. He presented Chapter 36 Emergency Management Ordinance to the Council for review.

Mayor Kittelson reviewed the Arbor Day Proclamation. It was moved by Evenson, Seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the following proclamation:

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

Whereas, Benson has been recognized as a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul Kittelson, Mayor of the city of Benson, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2014 as

ARBOR DAY

in the City of Benson, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Next Wolfington presented a bid from B.G. Amundson Construction for concrete work. This is mostly work to be finished from last June's storm, which is partially reimbursed by FEMA. This was the only bid received for the project. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the bid from B. G. Amundson Construction in the amount of \$27,475.00.

Wolfington presented a memo from Missouri River Energy Services for material costs to start phase one of the four year project on the cemetery portion of the project. After discussion it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the material purchase in the amount of \$14,735.00.

Wolfington said he presented the wrong amount for the loader bids presented at the April 7, 2014 meeting. The bids and specs were reevaluated to be sure the loaders were as equally represented as possible. Dan explained one task the loader will be used for is snow blowing, and the counterweight on the loader is important. The cost of 2014 John Deere 544K is \$133,936.00, and the cost of the 2014 Case 721F is \$151,655.00. After review it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of the 2014 John Deere 544K in the amount of \$133,936.00.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$356,026.40.

Wolfington presented a proposal from Patrick's Pub & Grill to hold a street dance, beer/liquor garden and pig roast, on July 19, 2014, on 13th St. S. between Pacific Ave. and Kansas Ave. They presented a proposal of their responsibilities and drawing of the event set up. They hope to incorporate this into the annual Kid Day festivities. Wolfington stated staff will need to review the proposal.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk