

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
MAY 16, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Sue Fitz, Gary Landmark, Ben Hess and Bob Claussen. Members absent: None
Also present: Director of Public Works Elliot Nelson

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the May 2, 2011 City Council Minutes, May 2, 2011 Planning Commission Minutes, 4/21/11 EDA Minutes, 4/13/2011 Benson HRA Minutes and 4/20/11 Benson HRA Special Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve a gambling application for the Chippewa Valley Chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters.

The Council was informed of the following travel event:

a. The City Manager and Councilman Landmark will attend the NAHRO Conference May 25 – 26, 2011.

The next item was a proposal from Shamrock Hest Riding Club to advertise the electric utility at their Ranch Rodeo event in July. Upon motion by Landmark, second by Fitz the motion carried unanimously to purchase a \$100 advertising package.

City Manager Rob Wolfington presented to the Council an Emergency Ordinance to accept the updates that codifies our ordinances adopted from 2/9/09 to 8/2/10. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Benson, MN and Declaring an Emergency.

Next on the agenda was correspondence from Missouri River Energy Services stating the City will receive a \$73,499.12 reimbursement from the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO) Market Implementation Agreement (MIA) for excessive revenues collected from 2005 through 2011. The expenses will be shared between all members instead of those with the MISO MIA agreement effective 1/1/2011.

Wolfington reviewed the new proposal from Landteam pertaining to the permanent flood prevention project. It will cover topography, a survey of property, existing conditions and provide tools to make a decision on flood control in the area. Wolfington also stated he would like to hold neighborhood meetings and have the neighborhood elect a group to stay informed and in touch with the City's activities. The professional services proposal will be at a cost of \$4,970.00. Consensus of the Council was to proceed as described.

Next on the agenda, Wolfington addressed the Council on the Chief of Police recruitment process. He stated Chief Crace has indicated his last day with the City will be July 1, 2011. The personnel committee has recommended to post the position internally first for those interested. If there are no internal applicants a wider search will be pursued. Wolfington stated that sergeant Jambor will serve as acting chief in the interim.

Wolfington recapped his trip to the International Biomass Convention the first week of May. He stated there were several agencies from the area there, and his booth had several

inquiries about biomass in the Benson area. He felt it was a successful venture. He also explained the City's share of expenses should run around \$750.00.

Next on the agenda was the revised Transit system Drug & Alcohol testing policy. Wolfington explained this policy is state mandated and managed. After a review of our policy the state required some minor wording changes. Wolfington recommended approval. Upon motion by Landmark, second by Fitz, the motion was passed unanimously.

Director of Finance, Glen Pederson recapped the bills and warrants. Upon motion by Landmark second by Claussen and carried unanimously bills and warrants in the amount of \$358,461.89 were approved.

Director of Public works Elliot Nelson gave an update on the Water Treatment Plant construction project. There was a preconstruction meeting today and the contractor was issued a notice to proceed. The new well construction will begin in June and the filter plant site work should begin by early July. Much of the project will hinge on when the filters come in this fall. The Sandy's lift station project will start with electrical work tomorrow.

Wolfington stated the fire grant field work will start on Thursday. Emergency Services Consulting International will be here from North Carolina to start the project.

Landmark brought up the Benson Market elevator demolition. He felt there was nothing to gain by waiting, and that it was time to do it this year. Landmark made a motion to go out for bids to demo the Benson Market elevator. Hess seconded the motion. After discussion the motion passed as follows: AYES: Landmark, Claussen, Kittelson, Hess NAYS: Fitz.

The Director of Finance informed the Council that the operating line of credit for the Benson Golf Club was up for renewal at First Security Bank. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to authorize the City to guarantee the Operating Line of Credit for the Benson Golf Club up to \$100,000.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk