

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 16, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Landmark. Members present: Gary Landmark, Terri Collins, Jack Evenson, Jonathon Pogge-Weaver & Stephanie Heinzig. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Jan Kittelson with the Monday Club, City Attorney Don Wilcox, Assistant City Attorney Ben Wilcox, Justin Knoph with MnDOT and Kevin Friesen with the USDA.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor called for anyone with unscheduled business. Jan Kittelson approached the Council. She said the Monday Club is celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. They have decided they would like to put up a “Free Library” with a few books in it for the public to use, keep or return at Roosevelt Park. There are over 25,000 of these types of Free Libraries around the country. They would like to place it in the northwest corner of Roosevelt Park. After discussion, it was moved by Pogge-Weaver, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the Monday Club to install and maintain a Free Library in Roosevelt Park.

The Mayor asked for any additions to the agenda. Wolfington asked to add Building Demolition Match and Offer to buy the Elevator to the Agenda. He also asked to remove from the Agenda the Capital Authorization Request for the Police Impound Lot. The Mayor noted the requests. No Consent Agenda items were moved to the regular agenda. A motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the agenda. It was moved by Collins, Seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- May 2, 2016 City Council Minutes
- Minnesota DEED – Small Cities Grant Notification
- MRES S-1 Power Agreement Acknowledgement
- Minnesota Department of Health-Copper Water Monitoring Report
- Police Report

Next Don Wilcox approached the Council. There has been a tax abatement request from DoMat’s for their new building site. Wilcox explained if tax abatement is granted it must promote economic development and job creation. If the request for the tax abatement is greater than \$100,000 then the City’s Business Subsidy Policy and abatement analysis must be followed. Wilcox stated first the applicant must qualify for tax abatement. If they qualify then there is a public hearing. The Council will have to pass a resolution and then decided on how many years of tax abatement to grant. The School and County can choose not to grant tax abatement if they wish. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve going through the process to see if DoMat’s qualifies to apply for tax abatement.

Next Wolfington invited Kevin Friesen from the USDA to explain funding options for such projects as City Halls and public infrastructure. He explained grants, loans, bonding along with funding, and time frames for projects through the USDA. The Council thanked Kevin for coming.

Wolfington discussed the Lodging Tax Ordinance. In the ordinance it names a 7 member Tourism Board appointed by the Council which includes the Chamber of Commerce Manager. He stated that board has disbanded and the Chamber no longer runs any community events, but there are tourism dollars that need approval before disbursement of funds to City events such as Kid Day and the Band Fest. After

discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to appoint the City Council as the temporary Tourism Board.

Wolfington presented building studies to the Council for the Municipal Liquor Store, Benson Golf Course Club House and the Benson Armory for their information and review.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$425,641.05.

Wolfington said Swift County HRA has a demolition fund used to help with costs of demolishing dilapidated buildings. There is a house at 203 – 19<sup>th</sup> St. N. that has been purchased and demolished. The HRA has agreed to grant \$2,500 to the property Owner. The City has in the budget monies in the Community Development Revolving Fund to match the HRA’s grant. After discussion, it was moved by Collins, seconded by Pogge-Weaver and carried unanimously to approve matching funds to property owner Karen Geyer in the amount of \$2,500.

Wolfington stated he received a call from the elevator owner stating he would sell his elevator property to the City in the amount of \$190,000. Wolfington wanted the Council to know about the owner’s offer. No action was taken.

Justin Knoph, Special Project Engineer with MnDOT approached the Council to describe the 2017 resurfacing project that will affect all the highways going through town. He pointed out two locations where MnDOT will obtain right of way to widen the turning lane for better traffic flow at Minnesota Ave. and Church Street as well as at 13<sup>th</sup> St. N. and Atlantic Ave. Wolfington stated they would like to walk over to the 13<sup>th</sup> St. N. & Atlantic Ave. intersection for a visual of how that intersection will be rebuilt.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Pogge-Weaver, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk