

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 16, 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, and Darrin Ogdahl from Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing (CDS).

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

- June 2, 2014 City Council Meeting
- May 5, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting

Wolfington noted a thank-you from the Citizens for Chickens thanking the City for considering the ordinance change. He noted a thank-you from retired police officer Nancy Dosdall for her retirement coffee, and another thank-you from the 7th graders for the cemetery tour.

The Mayor acknowledged overnight travel by the City Manager to the League of Minnesota Cities Annual conference June 18, 2014.

Next Darrin Ogdahl from CDS presented the 2013 Audit Report. Consensus of the Council was to accept the audit as presented.

Next Wolfington addressed parking in the Countryside Court apartment complex circle. An inventory was done of available parking spaces, and garages for tenants, and it was determined there is plenty of parking available without having to park in the circle in front of the building. The City will mark crucial areas as no parking zones.

It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a project in the Benson Small Cities grant program in the amount of \$5,532.00.

Wolfington presented the 2015 dues information from the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) for their 2015 fiscal year, which states the dues will be raised 3.5%. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve paying the 2015 LMC dues increase.

Next Wolfington presented a Railroad Crossing Grade Separation Study from Stantec Consulting Services. Studying the railroad activity and alternative solutions to routes, a grade separated crossing evaluation, and funding options are among items in their proposal. Cost to the study will be \$20,000. Wolfington has applied for a grant through the County to pay up to \$10,000 of the study. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to proceed with the study.

Next was a request from the Swift County-Benson Hospital Auxiliary asking the City of Benson to purchase advertising at their annual golf event. A motion was made by Fugleberg, second by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve both the electric utility and liquor store to sponsor a hole for \$150 each at the Auxiliary's Annual Golf Classic.

Next Gens approached the Council and updated them on several City Projects.

- First the overhead to underground project is underway.
- The water main replacement on Church Street has been started. Most of the service taps are in place. They have discovered a leaky shut off valve that will need to be replaced.
- The 15th Street South water project has had several delays due to all the rain. Riley's is packing the street and getting ready to lay asphalt.

- The 15th Street South sewer replacement is complete. Proper packing of the alley has also been delayed due to all the rain.
- There was a sewer collapse at 19th Street South and McKinney Avenue. Breitbach Construction replaced the sewer. Televising of this sewer showed several fractures in the pipe from the intersection heading east. The hope is to line this pipe and do remediation soon.
- It was discovered the 500 block of 18th Street North has several failing residential sewer services dumping mud and sand into the municipal sewer pipe. Gens showed several pictures from the televising of the sewer showing which services have problems. He noted one residential service collapsed and has been repaired, 2 are going to be fixed and 2 need repairs.

Next was a pay request from Breitbach Construction for the 2014 Utility Improvement projects. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the pay request in the amount of \$106,935.23.

A second pay request from Breitbach Construction for the emergency sewer repair was presented. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the pay request in the amount of \$9,306.92.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$961,142.53.

Wolfington complimented Pederson and staff on a job well done on the work for the auditors. He also stated there is a storm sewer basin that is collapsing by the Dairy Queen, and will be replaced by the State, since it's on Hwy 9.

Gens mentioned Their Well has started rehabbing well #33. He said there has been a spike of inflow into the wastewater plant from all the rain, and water in people's basements.

Wolfington stated the new cemetery policy goes into effect today.

Fugleberg asked about the new parks mower. Wolfington stated they did not purchase a new mower, but went with a new underbelly mounted rear discharge mower deck that was a much cheaper option, and has been working well.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk