

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
JULY 18, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Gary Landmark, Ben Hess, Sue Fitz and Bob Claussen. Members absent: None Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Public Works Elliot Nelson, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Mike Jambor and Dan Kobberman.

Dan Kobberman was present with a request of the Council to hold a beer garden at a Shamrock Hest Rodeo event on August 6, 2011. The VFW has verbally agreed to run the beer garden. Wolfington asked Mr. Kobberman to write up a request and stop by City Hall Tuesday and check into licensing.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the June 27, 2011 City Council Special Meeting Minutes.

Pederson addressed the Council about a program called EnergyTrak, offered by Automated Energy, Inc. (AEI), that can help customers better manage their electrical usage and demand. The software tool allows customers to view kilowatt usage, which will allow them to realize energy usage through analysis and data. Pederson recommended approval to enter into an agreement with them. After discussion, it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to enter into an agreement with AEI to implement the EnergyTrak Load Profiler.

Next was discussion on the 2011 Annual Legislative Session Report from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) and Local Government Aid estimates.

Pederson reported the City has agreed to run the school's levy referendum election along with our local elections this November. He had a request from Swift County Auditor Byron Giese to run this as the county does not have any elections this year.

It was noted the 2011 CGMC Summer Conference is August 3 & 4 in Grand Rapids Minnesota.

Next the Council reviewed an update to the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe (BNSF) Rail crossing project on 12th and 13th St. S. BNSF has proposed replacing the secondary rails on these crossings with concrete crossings in addition to the main line. There are 2 sets of tracks at the 13th St. S. crossing and 3 sets of tracks at the 12th St. S. crossing. Wolfington proposed shifting the budget for the 2011 seal coating to pay for the project. The project is scheduled for the end of August or beginning of September. After discussion it was moved by Claussen and seconded by Landmark to approve replacing the 12th St. S. and 13th St. S. railroad crossings at a cost of \$92,000. After discussion the motion passed as follows: AYES: Kittelson, Claussen, Landmark, Hess NAYS: Fitz

A Quit Claim deed Agreement for the fire damaged home of Dave Clausen in Prairie View Addition was discussed. When the deed was to be recorded, it was discovered there are back taxes owed in the amount of \$2,862.52 that needed to be satisfied before recording the deed with the county. After discussion it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Hess and passed unanimously to pay the back taxes due and enter into the agreement with the Clausens.

Nelson presented a pay request from Boestro Engineering. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and passed unanimously to pay Bonestroo in the amount of \$26,941.42 for improvements to the Water Treatment plant and Sandy's lift station.

Pederson offered a pay request from Minor Dry Wall & Stucco. He recommended approval. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and passed unanimously to pay Minor Dry Wall & Stucco in the amount of \$5,850.00 for repairs and painting of the City Hall building.

Pederson reviewed the bills and warrants. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and passed unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$383,390.84.

Pederson presented the budget report through June 30, 2011 to the Council.

Pederson announced the dates for candidates to file for City Council positions will run from August 9 – 23, 2011.

Landmark reported to the Council the Personnel Committee's suggestion for setting the newly hired Police Chief's salary. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and passed unanimously to set Police Chief Jambor's annual salary at \$60,700.

Landmark discussed the interviews for Police Sergeant, along with the Personnel Committee's recommendation as Paul Larson be appointed as the New Sergeant for the Benson Police Department. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and passed unanimously to appoint Paul Larson as the new Sergeant for the Benson Police Department and set his rate of pay at \$24.76 per hour or an annual rate of \$51,500.

Wolfington informed the Council that Missouri River Energy Services had issued a news release announcing the purchase of 32 megawatts of nuclear power.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk