

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Gary Landmark, Bob Claussen, and Sue Fitz. Members absent: Ben Hess. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Public Works Elliot Nelson, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Jackie Johnson, Wendy Munsterman from the Humane Society, and Courtney Tolifson.

Superintendent of Schools Lee Westrum came before the council to present information on the upcoming Referendum Levy vote that will coincide with the City's general election. This is a levy that will replace an expiring levy. He estimated that the tax increase on a \$100,000 home would be approximately \$25.

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

- September 6, 2011 City Council Meeting

Mayor Kittelson and Wolfington plan to attend the League of Minnesota Cities Regional Meeting in Bemidji on Sept 28-29th.

The following correspondence was reviewed:

- Charter Communications: Requiring a digital receiver to access to their Music Choice service.
- Charter Communications: Increase of late fees from \$4.95 to \$7.95.

Barry Glienke with Bolton & Menk, Inc. came before the council to discuss the proposed railroad Quiet Zone Study presented to them at an earlier meeting. During the discussion it was mentioned that the Planning Commission had voted to approve the study. No action was taken.

Chief of Police Mike Jambor reviewed with the Council the proposed 2012 Police Department budget. Of note was the addition of another full time officer. Motion was made by Fitz seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to start the hiring process for a full time officer in order to have them ready to begin employment in 2012.

Wendy Munsterman from the Humane Society approached the Council to introduce Courtney Tolifson who will be heading the dog park construction as part of her Gold Award project with the Girl Scouts of the USA. Ms. Munsterman also reported that the agreement between the Humane Society and the City that outlined responsibilities and monetary obligations was ready to be signed. Motion was made by Landmark seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager and Mayor to sign the agreement.

The Council reviewed a letter received from the Benson Baseball Association requesting that the city take over the utility bills at the baseball field. No action was taken.

Public Works Director Nelson presented updates on several public works projects. Motion was made by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to accept Change Order #1 on Well #33 construction for an additional \$719 for prevailing wage rates that would make the total cost of the well eligible for PFA financing.

Stan Olson and Shawn Tolifson came before the council requesting to purchase the lot that the City recently acquired and had finished burning the damaged home that was on it. They were willing to purchase the property for the costs that the City has in the property and would finish the cleanup process. They have bid on a home that the Swift County-Benson Hospital had for sale and would like to move one to that lot. Motion was made by Landmark seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to sell the lot at a price that would reimburse the city of its costs. Further discussion was held on the need to move a second home off of the hospital land and where they could possibly store it. No action was taken.

The Public Works Director went on the report that damage caused by woodpeckers to the 115K transmission line will be repaired on Thursday of this week. The Benson Market elevator should be removed within the next two weeks. The Benson Creamery demolition bids have been delayed 30 days in order to more fully evaluate the lead paint remediation requirements. The 12th and 13th street railroad crossings were substantially complete. Motion was made by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve an invoice for the concrete pads from Omega Industries for \$51,103.75.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from T & K Kennedy Construction for 12th Street South sewer main repair in the amount of \$31,393.75. Staff estimates this total project will cost between \$55,000 and \$60,000.

Regarding the sewer backup claim on the 12th Street project, the City Manager reported that no reimbursement request had been submitted so no action was required.

The Director of Public Works reported that we are still waiting for the control panel for the Sandy's sanitary sewer lift station.

Motion was made by Claussen seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to authorize the purchase of 7,908 feet of fiber optic cable to be used for the water treatment plant and other city communications at an estimated cost of \$6,558.60 plus freight and sales tax.

Finance Director Pederson presented the August budget report.

Motion was made by Landmark seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$339,832.63.

September 19, 2011

Councilmember Claussen reported that members of the EDA have discussed approaching the railroad about the land across from the VFW to see if it might be available for purchase. Motion was made by Claussen seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to direct staff and the City Attorney to negotiate a purchase price with the railroad and bring back to the council for their consideration.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk