

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Jack Evenson, Sue Fitz & Stephanie Heinzig. Members Absent: Mike Fugleberg. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Fire Chief Mark Schreck, Larry Smith, Tara Ulmaniec, Terri Collins, Swift County-Benson Hospital Administrator Kurt Waldbillig, Swift County-Benson Hospital Board Chairman Kory Johnson, Duane Flanders, Swift County-Benson Hospital Foundation Members Jay Alsaker, Ron Laycock, Larry Kenyon and Jerry Peterson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- August 3, 2015 City Council Minutes
- July 6, 2015 Planning Commission Minutes
- June 29, 2015 Swift County-Benson Hospital Minutes
- July 27, 2015 Swift County-Benson Hospital Minutes

Wolfington presented a notice from CenterPoint Energy announcing a rate increase filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Interim rates will be implemented on October 2, 2015 with final rates implemented in 2016.

Schreck approached the Council to announce the Benson Fire Department has been awarded a FEMA grant in the amount of \$150,564.00. The Fire Department plans to replace outdated air packs and turnout gear. A condition of the grant is we are required to contribute a cost match in the amount of \$7,528.00. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to accept the FEMA grant with the condition the City invests \$7,528.00. Schreck went on to say they were also awarded a training grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Minnesota Board of Fire Training Education.

Wolfington shared a letter from Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) with the results for the annual urge test outlining calculations for standby generation reimbursement.

Next was a letter from the League of Minnesota Cities introducing the new executive director.

Council members Fugleberg, Evenson, Wolfington and Gens will be attending the MRES Municipal Power Leadership Academy on September 16-17, 2015.

Mayor Kittelson discussed the Assisted Living project. Peter Jesh with Summit Development gave the City four proposals for the project. Three of which ask for possible bonding options. Three of the options would give the Swift County-Benson Hospital Foundation some form of ownership. The fourth option would be done totally by Summit Development. All four options ask the City for Tax Increment Financing. The Mayor directed that a decision be made on which option will be used to build the facility by the October 5, 2015 City Council meeting.

Schreck shared he researched ladder trucks in June. He mentioned if they purchase their air packs and turn out gear from the same company they purchase a new ladder truck from they could save money on the purchase of the new ladder truck. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried

unanimously to reaffirm the commitment to give Wolfington the authority to pursue research on the capital purchase financing of a ladder truck in 2016.

Hodge approached the Council with his July 2015 police report. Hodge also told the Council he has 7 old radios that are no longer useful to the Benson Police under the 800mh system. He would like to sell these radios to Williston, ND. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve release of the 7 radios to the Willison, ND Police Department for \$250 each.

Next Gens presented a change order and a final pay request from Johnson Excavation for the Southside Sewer project. After review, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the change order from Johnson Excavating in the amount of \$10,705.42. Next it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the Final Pay Request from Johnson Excavation in the amount of \$21,853.22.

Gens presented his Public Works report. Wolfington said he is pleased with the progress on all the projects going on this year.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve pay request #2 from Kue Contractors, Inc. for work on the street garage addition in the amount of \$50,500.00.

Next was a letter from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities with an update on their agenda for the next legislative session, and the 2016 dues assessments. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the 2016 dues in the amount of \$5,596.

Wolfington presented a final Kid Day report. The Council commended the volunteer Kid Day Committee for the great job they did.

Next was a request for support for a broadband service grant application. Swift County and Federated Telephone Cooperative are partnering to apply for a State of MN Border to Border Grant in the amount of \$5 Million to bring fiber to the premise in unserved areas of Swift County.

The following resolution was offered by councilmember Fitz:

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR FEDERATED TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE BORDER TO BORDER BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT GRANT OCTOBER 2014
(RESOLUTION 2015-13)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson is aware of Federated Telephone Company's intent to apply for the Broadband Development Grant Program to be submitted to the State of Minnesota in September 2015 for funding to provide fiber to the premise in rural Swift County areas that are unserved with broadband;

WHEREAS, the City of Benson considers broadband an essential part of community infrastructure because it offers many opportunities including but not limited to: global access to buy and sell goods, telecommuting that allows residents to work for employers outside of the area from a home office, helping residents age in place with online access to healthcare and provides opportunity for increased social interaction for all residents;

WHEREAS the officials of the City of Benson feel it is in the best interest of their community to endorse said project because it presents the potential to increase economic prosperity of residents and businesses within the County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Benson hereby endorses Federated Telephone Cooperative's Swift County Fiber to the Premise project and supports their efforts to increase broadband access to Swift County.

Council Member Evenson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Kittelson, Heinzig, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2015-13 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve a pay request to LandTeam Inc. for engineering services for the Benson Golf Course Irrigation system in the amount of \$8,341.23.

Pederson said the Historical Society has an area for genealogy and had been looking for some early 1900's birth and death records. The City has records in the basement of the vault, and Pederson recommended to the Council to transfer these records over to the Historical Society. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to enter into an agreement with the Historical Society to transfer birth and death records from 1914 to 1940 to the Historical Society.

Wolfington presented a Heliport Safety Zoning Ordinance to the Council. He said the purpose of this ordinance is to protect the airspace. He said there will be a public hearing, first and second reading of the ordinance. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the ordinance at their noon meeting today. Wolfington mentioned the far south end of the flight pattern spills out of the City limits into Torning Township, and will require a joint ordinance. After discussion it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a public hearing at the October 19, 2015 City Council Meeting at 5:45 p.m.

The following resolution was offered by councilmember Evenson:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING LOCATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTING FOR
2015 GENERAL ELECTION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2015-14)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson is holding a General Election on November 3, 2015 to elect a Mayor and two (2) City Council members and

WHEREAS, the City is required to designate a location for absentee voting.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that City Hall, 1410 Kansas Avenue, Benson, MN 56215 is designated as the location for absentee voting at the City General Election.

Council Member Fitz seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Kittelson, Heinzig, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2015-14 duly passed and adopted.

The following resolution was offered by councilmember Fitz:

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD
(RESOLUTION NO. 2015-15)**

WHEREAS, The City of Benson is required by Minnesota Statute 203B.121; Subd. 1 to establish an Absentee Ballot Board effective September 8, 2015; and

WHEREAS, this board will bring uniformity in the processing of accepting or rejecting returned absentee ballots in the City of Benson; and

WHEREAS, the Absentee Ballot Board would consist of a sufficient number of election judges or officials as provided in sections 204B.19 to 204B.22;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City Council of the City of Benson hereby establishes an Absentee Ballot Board to consist of the following individuals as provided in sections 204B.19 to 204B.22 to perform the task.

City Manager	Rob Wolfington
City Clerk	Glen Pederson
Administrative Assistant	Valerie Alsaker

Council Member Evenson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Kittelson, Heinzig, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2015-15 duly passed and adopted.

The following resolution was offered by councilmember Fitz:

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED 2015 PROPERTY
TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2016
(RESOLUTION NO. 2015-16)**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, Minnesota that the following proposed sums of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2016, upon the taxable property in the City of Benson, for the following purposes:

General Fund Levy	\$623,859
Police Personnel	631,000
Library Fund Levy	112,142
G.O. Equipment Bonds 2014 – Golf	44,706
G.O. CIP Bonds 2014 – Street Garage	<u>69,014</u>
Total	\$1,480,721

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following sum of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2016, based upon the market value of the taxable property in the City of Benson, for the following purpose:

G.O. Swimming Pool	\$ <u>69,807</u>
Total	\$69,807

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will hold its Truth in Taxation Hearing on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Benson City Council Chambers. Comments may be made by calling 320-843-4775, email to staff@bensonmn.org or by postal mail to 1410 Kansas Avenue, Benson, MN 56215.

Council Member Evenson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Kittelson, Heinzig, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2015-16 duly passed and adopted.

The following resolution was offered by councilmember Evenson:

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE PROPOSED GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016 FOR THE CITY OF BENSON, MINNESOTA
(RESOLUTION NO. 2015-17)**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed Operating Budget for the General Fund of the City of Benson, Minnesota, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016 is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget is summarized as follows:

<u>Revenues</u>	
Taxes - General	\$1,254,859
Taxes - Library	112,142
State Grants and Aids	1,248,064
Other Revenues	<u>1,209,430</u>
Total Revenues	\$3,824,495

<u>Expenditures</u>	
General Government	\$615,450
Public Safety	1,047,640
Highways, Streets and Roads	598,530
Parks and Recreation	432,160
Public Transit	186,125
Public Library	114,542
Capital Outlay	500,000
Other Expenditures	<u>244,750</u>
Total Expenditures	\$3,739,197

Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures **\$85,298**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager shall cause the entire Proposed Operating Budget to be printed and filed in the City Office for inspection and reference by the public.

Council Member Fitz seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Kittelson, Heinzig, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2015-17 duly passed and adopted.

The Council reviewed the July budget report.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$339,317.27.

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

Mayor

City Manager