

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Lee Westrum, Bob Claussen, Gary Landmark, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: None. Also present: Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, City Attorney Don Wilcox, Bob Lange, and Val Alsaker.

Under Unscheduled Business, Val Alsaker asked the Council if the Prom After Bash Committee could store their Prom After Bash stuff in the basement of the Armory. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the request and directed staff to prepare a memorandum of understanding.

Bob Lange from Lange Associates reviewed the 2007 insurance coverage with the Council. He informed the Council that there is a savings of about \$20,000 for the insurance this year.

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

- a. November 27, 2006 SCBH Board Meeting
- b. December 21, 2006 Benson EDA Meeting
- c. December 14, 2006 Safety Committee Meeting

The Mayor reviewed the following correspondence:

- a. UMVRDC dated December 27, 2006. The Mayor volunteered to be a candidate for the Swift County municipal representative to the UMVRDC.

The City Attorney reviewed the railroad property purchase and lease agreement with the Council. It was mentioned there needs to be additional negotiations regarding demolition of some of the buildings and also the lease amount. The railroad is developing the agreement to purchase/swap land. This was informational with no action taken at this time.

It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the following Fire Department Officers for 2007:

Chief:	Greg Lee
1 st Assistant Chief:	Lonnie Hagen
2 nd Assistant Chief:	Mark Schreck
Captain:	Randy Weber
Lieutenant:	Tom Ascheman
Secretary:	Tom Hoffman

The Public Works Director presented a capital authorization request to purchase a new pickup for the Public Works Director through the State Bid. The pickup will be E-85 compatible. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to authorize the purchase of a 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 4-WD Crew Cab from Swenson Motors in the amount of \$30,323.51. The Electric Utility will fund the purchase.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve advertising for bids to purchase a Forty (40) Foot Aerial Man Lift Device with Service Body for the Municipal Electric Utility Department. Bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m. on January 22, 2007.

The Finance Director presented a proposal from Total Register Systems Inc. to purchase an upgrade of hardware and software for the inventory and cash management system at the Benson Liquor Store. It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the purchase from Total Register Systems Inc. in the amount of \$5,409.

Invoices from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) and Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) were added to the agenda. It was moved by Westrum, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve an invoice for membership to the CGMC in the amount of \$4,748. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Westrum and carried unanimously to approve an invoice for membership to MMUA in the amount of \$3,358.

Member Claussen brought up that if the City is planning to work on the Northeast Railroad Park this coming summer that it would be nice to plant similar size trees that were planted in the North Central Railroad Park this past summer. The Public Works Director indicated that the Northeast Railroad Park work is planned for this coming summer. Member Claussen said he will talk to the nursery that the trees were purchased from to start that process.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk