

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 20, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Anne Johnson, Bob Claussen, Gary Landmark, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Assistant City Attorney Tara Ulmaniec, Tom Klemenhagen, Ed Pederson and Wayne Knutson from the County Assessor's Office, Dave Ebert, Lonnie Hagen, Rob Lee, Dave Vollan, Brent Hill, Mark Schreck, Tim McGinty, Dan and Kathy Johnson, and Jesse and Jeandrea Nordby Jr.

There was no one under unscheduled business to come before the Council.

At 5:30 p.m. the Board of Equalization Hearing was called to order. County Assessor Edward Pederson came before the Council to review and discuss property valuations. Mr. Pederson informed the Council that a letter was received regarding Parcel No. 23-0905-000 that is in foreclosure. There was no one in attendance to address the Council on property valuations. The Council let the hearing open and continued with other business.

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

- a. April 6, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. April 7, 2009 Benson Cemetery Board Meeting
- c. March 11, 2009 Benson HRA Meeting
- d. March 18, 2009 Special Benson HRA Meeting
- e. April 6, 2009 Benson Planning Commission Meeting
- f. April 16, 2009 Benson EDA Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence with the Council:

- a. Charter Communications dated 4.1.09 RE: Charter Communications Restructuring.
- b. MRES dated 4.3.09. RE: Proposed T-1 Agreement

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit to the Chippewa Valley Chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association for a raffle on December 27, 2009 at the Benson Bowler.

At 5:40 p.m. the Mayor opened the Assessment Public Hearing for the 2009 Atlantic Avenue Sidewalk Improvement Project. The following were present for the hearing: Tom Klemenhagen (Engineer for the project from Landteam, Inc.), Dan and Kathy Johnson, and Jesse and Jeandrea Nordby, Jr. Tom Klemenhagen informed the Council about the project and mentioned that the affected property owners will only be assessed for one-half the cost of replacing the sidewalk in front of their business and not any cost for curb or bituminous. There was a discussion on limiting the amount of time that a business would not have access to their front door. After discussion, it was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to authorize the preparation of plans and specifications for the project.

Dave Ebert and Rob Lee came before the Council to review the Benson Fire Department Relief Association Actuarial Valuation as of January 1, 2009. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve increasing the per year retirement benefit to \$1,100 per year of service. After further discussion, it was moved by Fitz,

seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the increase effective January 1, 2010.

There was a brief review of the 2008 Senior Advocacy Corporation (SAC) Treasurer's Report. The City Manager is proposing about \$7,000 of energy efficiency improvements to the Senior Center building that should help reduce the utility expenses. Staff will present a recommendation at the next Council meeting

There was a consensus of the Council to table the Transit Committee's recommendation until after it is known what the next LGA payment will be.

At 6:30 p.m. the Mayor closed the Board of Equalization and 2009 Atlantic Avenue Sidewalk Improvement Public Hearings. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to accept the County Assessor's recommendation of no change to the valuation of Parcel No. 23-0905-000.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve entering into an agreement with Pinnacle Engineering to complete a Subsurface Phase II Environmental Site Assessment at the Benson Market Site.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that the following two quotes were received to furnish and place approximately 300 ton of bituminous mixture as part of the Nevada Avenue Sewer Project:

Lakes Area Paving & Striping, Inc. Alexandria, MN	\$16,500
Riley Brothers Construction, Inc. Morris, MN	\$17,400

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to award the bid to Lakes Area Paving & Striping, Inc. to furnish and place approximately 300 ton of bituminous mixture in the amount of \$16,500.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to authorize staff to sign a Certificate of Substantial Completion from Harold K. Scholz Company for the Benson Substation Construction Project.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates received the following quotes to purchase two (2) used substation transformers from the City:

Jordan Transformer	\$52,500
Solomon Corporation	\$31,500
T & R Electric	\$30,000
Jerry's Electric	\$18,000
UT Brokers	\$17,000

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to award the bid to Jordan Transformers in the amount of \$52,500.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the First Reading of An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Benson By Adding Chapter 54 to Make Provision with Respect to the Aggregation of Demand Response by the City of Benson on Behalf of Retail Customers.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the Bills and Warrants in the amount of \$243,350.71.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk