

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
APRIL18, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Sue Fitz, Ben Hess, Gary Landmark and Bob Claussen. Members absent: None Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Public Works Elliot Nelson, Ed Pederson and Wayne Knutson from the Swift County Assessor's Office and Troy Kennedy of Kennedy Excavating.

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

At 5:30 p.m. the Board of Equalization Hearing was called to order. Ed Pederson, introduced Wayne Knutson, who reviewed and discussed property valuations. Mr. Knutson informed the Council property values for residential and commercial stayed virtually the same from last year. There was no one in attendance to address the council on property valuations. The Council left the hearing open and continued with other business.

It was moved by Claussen, and seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the April 11, 2011 Park Board minutes, and the April 14, 2011 Safety Committee minutes.

After recommendation by Nelson, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve T.A. Lauritsen Septic & Drain's Discharge License.

It was recognized by Mayor Kittelson there are vacancies on the Benson HRA Board and the Planning Commission Board. There was consensus by the Council to advertise for members for these boards.

The Council was informed of the following travel event:

a. The Mayor will be attending the Minnesota Mayors Annual Conference April 29 & 30, 2011.

b. Wolfington will be attending the International Biomass Conference in St. Louis, Missouri May 2-5, 2011.

The next agenda item was to consider authorizing advertisement for bids for demolition of the Benson Market Elevator. Wolfington addressed the Council. There was discussion on EDA money to fund the project. Jason Kirwin from West Central Environmental is finishing the environmental study which is part of a grant we received at the start of the project. There was discussion on LGA cuts and other buildings that have recently come to the attention of the City that are in need of demolition. Claussen stated the creamery building should come down before the elevator because of the failing structure. We are waiting to receive the Creamery Transfer Agreement back from Monson Trust before we can move forward with that demolition. The Dave Clausen house has been approved for demolition upon receipt of that property transfer agreement.

The Mayor asked Troy Kennedy if he has taken any elevators down, and how long he thought it would take to take the Benson Market elevator down. Kennedy said he's taken several down and estimated it would take about two weeks. The Mayor asked if there is value in salvaging anything from the elevator. Wolfington stated we probably do not want to get into the salvage business as it takes a lot of time and there are liability issues. Wolfington noted the permit has been filed with the Railroad and that they will hold it until we have awarded the demolition to a specific contractor.

Claussen asked Wolfington how long would it take to take the creamery building down. Wolfington stated he hoped to have the agreement signed within the next 2 weeks. After asbestos

removal and closing the well, he stated we'd be lucky to finish it yet this year. Fitz made a motion to take the dilapidated portion of the creamery building down and put the Benson Market Elevator on hold until we receive our LGA budget from the State. The motion was seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda, Public Works Director Nelson discussed purchasing a steel roller. Our current roller is 25 years old and has over 4,000 hours on the engine. The request is to purchase a new one from a state bid for \$23,501.81. After discussion, there was a motion by Claussen and second by Landmark and carried unanimously to purchase the steel roller.

Wolfington discussed and reviewed two commercial projects funded by the Small Cities Grant. After discussion, a motion to approve the projects was made by Landmark, second by Fitz and carried unanimously.

Fitz inquired how the flood fight went. Wolfington stated all went well from every aspect. The sand bags have now all been removed from the houses and the street department is sweeping up the small amount of sand left in the street. Wolfington stated we have submitted our costs to the County Emergency Manager and are awaiting word as to their eligibility for reimbursement. There was discussion on what should be done next year. Wolfington stated in order to plan for next year, he will involve Landteam to give us logistics and other information for consideration. He also plans to meet with the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission to explore the possibility of applying for a grant for flood mitigation projects.

At 6:20 P.M., Mayor Kittelson declared a 10 minute recess

At 6:30 P.M., the Mayor reconvened the meeting, and closed the Board of Equalization Hearing.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor

City Manager