

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
JULY 7, 2008**

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, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, and Kevin Wald.

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

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

- a. June 23, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting
- b. May 27, 2008 SCBH Board Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence with the Council:

- a. Commendation Letter from Chief Crace to Officer Paul Larson dated June 23, 2008
- b. Commendation Letter from Chief Crace to Office Matt Siefkes dated June 23, 2008

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve a Lawful Gambling Permit to the Minnesota Deer Hunters – Chippewa Valley Chapter for a raffle on October 26, 2008 at the Benson Bowler.

Kevin Wald, representing Ritalka, Inc. dba SpecSys, briefed the Council on the company expanding to Benson. They are looking for support to modify the JOBZ Subzone Boundary in Benson. They would like to transfer 4.65 acres of property that is located in a JOBZ subzone to property located outside of the designated JOBZ subzone boundary. The City, Swift County and School District all need to approve the transfer of this property prior to submitting the modification of the JOBZ Subzone Boundary to the State. After discussion, Council Member Fitz offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE JOBZ ACREAGE MODIFICATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2008-11)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson, Minnesota, by Resolution No. 2003-14 approved on the 25th day of August 2003, designated acreage to be included in the regional application for Job Opportunity Building Zones, and

WHEREAS, Ritalka, Inc. has applied to the City of Benson for JOBZ benefits, and

WHEREAS, the current Ritalka, Inc. property lies outside of the designated JOBZ subzone boundary, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development allows JOBZ boundary modifications to promote expansion of existing industries within JOBZ communities, and

WHEREAS, a JOBZ Subzone Boundary Modification must be approved by the County, City and School District, prior to the State of Minnesota authorizing the modification, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Benson authorizes and supports the JOBZ Subzone Boundary modification within the City, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Benson authorizes the State of Minnesota to approve the boundary modification, transferring 4.65 acres from Parcel Numbers 23-1242-000 and 23-1242-100 to Parcel Number 23-1241-000 owned by Ritalka, Inc.

Council Member Johnson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Johnson, Landmark, Claussen, Kittelson. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2008-11 duly passed and adopted.

Council Member Landmark offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT
WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO PROVIDE
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE IN THE CITY OF BENSON
(RESOLUTION NO. 2008-12)**

Resolved that the City of Benson, MN to enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota to provide public transportation service in the City of Benson.

Further resolved that the City of Benson agrees to provide a local share of 20% percent of the total operating cost and 20% of the total capital costs.

Further resolved that the City of Benson authorizes the City Manager and the City Clerk to execute the aforementioned Agreement and any amendments thereto.

Council Member Claussen seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Landmark, Claussen, Fitz, Johnson, Kittelson. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2008-12 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Fitz and seconded by Claussen to approve the Cottage Square Final Plat. The following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Claussen, Landmark, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Johnson.

The City Manager informed the Council about a Redevelopment Grant that he would like authorization to apply for. The grant is to pay for demolition of publicly owned structures that would improve/correct a transportation issue. He is proposing to use the grant for demolition of the Benson Market Elevator building (at 12th Street South and Hwy. 12) citing that there is a line of sight problem at this intersection. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to apply for the Redevelopment Grant as presented.

The Public Works Director briefed the Council on the estimated construction costs for the water well replacement project.

There was a consensus of the Council to delay action on the transformer quote for the SpecSys building until the next meeting.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve a final Pay Request from Srock Construction for the Airport Improvement Project in the amount of \$22,133.70.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to authorize staff to advertise for bids for the 2008 Bituminous Work with the bid opening at 3:00 p.m. on July 21, 2008.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that he has received a request to purchase approximately 8.18 acres of the Southeast section of the gravel pit the City owns in Camp Lake Township. The gravel has been removed from this part of the gravel pit. Staff would make sure there is language in the sale's agreement that the City would be protected from any issues relating to operating a gravel pit adjacent to this property and also that a right-of-way access to the gravel pit be provided on the property. The individual interested in the property plans to build a home on the site. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to authorize staff to proceed forward with the sale of the land.

The City Manager informed the Council that the Swift County Sheriff has approved a Fireworks Display Permit to Shawn Tolifson on July 19, 2008 in conjunction with Benson Kid Day. They will be using airport land for the fireworks display. It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to authorize the Chamber of Commerce to use the airport for the fireworks display on July 19.

The City Manager informed the Council that the low bidder (Motzko Contracting) for the 2008-2010 Tree Contract is unsuccessful in securing a performance bond. He is recommending that the Council cancel the agreement with Motzko Contracting, authorize Craig Beyer (Craig's Tree Service) to remove the first 25 trees that have been identified with Dutch Elm Disease and to rebid the Tree Contract. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to cancel the 2008-2010 Tree Contract with Motzko Contracting, authorize Craig's Tree Service to remove the first 25 trees identified with Dutch Elm Disease at this year's price (approximately \$13,000) and authorize staff to rebid the tree contract.

The Public Works Director updated the Council on the following capital projects:

- a. Transmission Line
- b. Lift Stations
- c. Industry Drive
- d. Cottage Square Subdivision

Council Member Fitz thanked staff for the pedestrian signs.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk