

**MINUTES – BENSON CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 17, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Anne Johnson, Gary Landmark, and Paul Kittelson. Members absent: Bob Claussen. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Finance Director Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Police Chief Jim Crace, and Chuck Koenigs.

At 5:30 p.m. the Mayor recessed the meeting and the Council went on a bus tour of Benson to discuss and review the alternate routes for the Electric Transmission Line.

At 6:02 p.m. the Mayor reconvened the meeting at City Hall.

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

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

- a. March 3, 2008 City Council Meeting
- b. March 3, 2008 Benson Planning Commission Meeting
- c. December 17, 2007 Benson Area Tourism Board Meeting
- d. January 21, 2008 UMVRDC Meeting

The City Manager reviewed the following correspondence with the Council:

- a. MPCA dated 3.4.08 RE: Certificate of Commendation for outstanding operation, maintenance and management of the Benson Wastewater Treatment System.
- b. Bicycle Around Minnesota dated 3.6.08 – There was a consensus of the Council to grant their request for a permit to consume alcoholic beverages on August 20 at the Benson Swimming Pool Park.
- c. Big Stone Transmission dated 3.3.08

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the following liquor licenses effective April 13, 2008 contingent upon receiving the necessary paperwork:

Club On-Sale Liquor License:
Benson VFW

Sunday Liquor License:
Benson VFW
Benson Bowler
Benson Golf Club
Duffy's Bar and Grill

On-Sale Liquor License:
Benson Bowler
Benson Golf Club
Duffy's Bar and Grill
Mi Mexico

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve an Off-Sale 3.2 Beer License to Holiday Stationstore, Inc. effective April 13, 2008.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the following licenses effective April 1, 2008:

Rollerskating License:
Svor's Family Roller Rink

Garbage Collection License:
Mattheisen Disposal

Sewer Tap License:
Grossman Plumbing and Heating
Hawley's Inc.
Craig's Refrigeration

At 6:08 p.m. a conference call was conducted with Troy Metzger and Chad Rasmussen of DeWild, Grant, Reckert and Associates of Rock Rapids, IA to discuss the status of the BNSF Railroad permit for the Electric Transmission Line.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve extending the initial term of the existing Capacity Purchase Agreement with Missouri River Energy Services from December 31, 2008 to December 31, 2018.

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

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MUNICIPAL
STREET IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BILL
(RESOLUTION NO. 2008-04)**

WHEREAS, special assessments can be onerous to property owners and are difficult to implement for some cities; and

WHEREAS, special assessments are not always useful for funding collector streets and other streets that do not abut private property; and

WHEREAS, property tax dollars are generally not dedicated and are sometimes diverted to more pressing needs such as public safety, water quality and cost participation in state and county highway projects; and

WHEREAS, municipal state aid (MSA) is limited to cities over 5,000 population and cannot be applied to more than 20% of a MSA city's lane miles; and

WHEREAS, existing MSA is not keeping up with needs on the MSA system; and

WHEREAS, all Minnesota communities benefit from multiple options for funding local roadway projects,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Benson requests that the Minnesota Legislature pass a bill that will allow cities to use additional funding tools for financing local roadway projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Benson requests that Governor Tim Pawlenty allow a bill that is passed by the Legislature that will allow cities to use additional funding tools for financing local roadway projects to become law.

Council Member Fitz seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Landmark, Fitz, Johnson, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2008-04 duly passed and approved.

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

**RESOLUTION CLOSING THE G.O. REFUNDING
BONDS OF 2002 FUND
(RESOLUTION NO. 2008-05)**

WHEREAS, in 2002 the City of Benson refunded a Fire Equipment Bond and Library Bond in order to take advantage of lower interest rates, and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2008, the final payment on these bonds were paid in accordance to the debt schedule, and

WHEREAS, there remains a cash balance and delinquent tax receivable from the levy of taxes to make the debt service payments, and

WHEREAS, the City of Benson wishes to use the remaining funds for similar uses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Director of Finance calculate the balance due each purpose of the refunded bonds and to transfer all remaining balances and taxes receivable into the Library Fund and General Capital Outlay Fund for Fire Department Capital Outlay.

Council Member Johnson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Johnson, Landmark, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen. Whereupon the Mayor declared Resolution No. 2008-05 duly passed and approved.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from WCEC, Inc. for the Benson Power Plant in the amount of \$6,989.14.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve two pay requests from Bonestroo for a total amount of \$6,215:

1. Water Supply and Distribution Plan - \$2,525
2. Benson Water Well Test Drilling - \$3,690

The Public Works Director informed the Council that the following three bids were received on March 12, 2008 to Crush and Prepare Salvage Material:

Kraemer Trucking and Excavating, Cold Spring, MN	Unit Price: \$3.92 per ton
Duininck Brothers, Inc., Prinsburg, MN	Unit Price: \$4.50 per ton
Central Specialties Co., Alexandria, MN	Unit Price: \$4.32 per ton

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to award the bid to Crush and Prepare Salvage Material to Kraemer Trucking and Excavating at \$3.92 per ton.

The Public Works Director informed the Council that the following two bids were received on March 12 for the 2008 – 2010 Tree Removal Contract:

Bidder	Item and Est. Quantity	Unit Price	Total Amnt
Motzko Const. Benson, MN	Clear and Grub - 5000 inches (225 trees)	\$14.25/inch	\$71,250
	Grub Only (stump removal) - 600 inches	\$ 1.70/inch	\$ 1,020
	Prune Branches - 300 inches	\$ 1.00/inch	\$ 300
	Excessive Stump Diameter	\$ 1.70/inch	
	Emergency Maintenance - 30 hours	\$95.00/hour	\$ 2,850
Carr's Tree Service Ottertail, MN	Clear and Grub - 5000 inches (225 trees)	\$ 15.95/inch	\$79,750
	Grub Only (stump removal) - 600 inches	\$ 2.75/inch	\$ 1,650
	Prune Branches - 300 inches	\$ 15.75/inch	\$ 4,725
	Excessive Stump Diameter	\$ 2.75/inch	
	Emergency Maintenance - 30 hours	\$135.00/hour	\$ 4,050

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to award the bid for the 2008 – 2010 Tree Removal Contract to Motzko Construction.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to discuss the proposed amendment to Chapter 90: Animals, at the April 21 City Council meeting.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to schedule the Board of Review from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm on April 21.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$641,690.65.

The Police Chief informed the Council that Sergeant Bob Borden has submitted his resignation effective May 3.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to approve the following exempt salaries as recommended by the Personnel Committee:

	2007	2008
City Manager	\$72,072	\$74,594
Finance Director	\$60,375	\$63,998
Public Works Director	\$56,700	\$60,100
Police Chief	\$55,387	\$58,710
Building Official	\$49,875	\$51,620
Police Sergeant	\$23.22/hr	\$24.38/hr
Liquor Store Manager	\$41,475	\$42,926
Administrative Assistant	\$18.37/hr	\$19.00/hr

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Johnson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk