

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
APRIL11, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Sue Fitz, Ben Hess, and Gary Landmark. Members Absent: Bob Claussen Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Chief of Police Jim Crace, Director of Public Works Elliot Nelson and Joe Diederich.

Joe Diederich, 1320 Ada Avenue, came before the Council to again request that a slower speed sign be placed behind the high school because the students are traveling too fast. Mayor Kittleson stated this concern went before the Planning Commission on April 4, 2011 and it was their recommendation that the police patrol the area to survey the problem. At the next Planning Commission meeting there will be a recommendation on this issue. Mayor Kittelson thanked Mr. Dieterich for his recommendation.

It was moved by Landmark, and seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the March 21, 2011 City Council minutes, March 17, 2011 Safety Committee minutes, April 4, 2011 Benson Planning Commission minutes, and April 5, 2011 Cemetery Board minutes.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the following proclamation:

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

Whereas, Benson has been recognized as a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul Kittelson, Mayor of the city of Benson, do hereby proclaim April 29, 2011 as

ARBOR DAY

in the City of Benson, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

The Council was informed of the following travel event:

- a. The Mayor and City Manager will travel to Duluth April 14 and return April 15 for the swearing in ceremony of Chief Crace at the City of Hermantown.

The next agenda item was to review the following bid results:

- a. Sandy's Lift Station bids: Public Works Director Nelson reviewed the bids. He stated there were 9 bidders. The low bid went to States Borders construction, Inc. at a total base bid of \$322,208.50. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the bid.
- b. Well #33 bids: Nelson reviewed the bids for Well #33 improvements. There were 6 bidders. The low bid went to Their Well Company, with an original well construction bid of \$68,715.00. Nelson commented this company did work for us on Well #32, and recommended to accept the bid. It was moved by Hess, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the bid.
- c. Water Treatment Plant Improvement bids: Nelson described the improvements to be made. The entire plant will be gutted, re-plumbed and new fixtures will be installed. There were 6 bidders. The low bid went to KHC Construction, Inc. out of Marshall, Minnesota with a total bid base of \$2,750,000.00. Fitz inquired about KHC Construction. Nelson stated Bonestroo, our engineers for this project, has worked with them in the past with favorable results. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve this bid.

The next item on the agenda was a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Hermantown and the City of Benson regarding shared Police Chief service. Crace addressed the Council updating them on the status of his wife's hospitalization. The agreement states he will terminate his employment with Benson no later than August 1, 2011. Until then, Crace will be working for the City of Benson Monday through Wednesday, and at the City of Hermantown Thursday and Friday. Crace stated he would give a 30 day notice of termination to the City. Wolfington added he and the Mayor will travel to Hermantown on Thursday for Crace's swearing in ceremony. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

Next was discussion on the Creamery Transfer Agreement between Munson Trust and the City of Benson. Wolfington reviewed the agreement with the Council which will transfer ownership of the Creamery building over to the City. They will have storage rights for one year in the non-hazardous portion of the property. The intent is to demolish the hazardous east end of the building. After discussion, it was moved by Hess, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to authorize the Mayor and the City Manager to sign the agreement.

Public Works Director Nelson discussed an engineering services proposal from DGR for overhead to underground electric line conversion. The area of proposed underground conversion is from Stony Ridge east to the edge of town. The area has caused problems, and upgrading will deliver better service as well as improve the appearance of this area. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the Engineering Proposal for \$19,700.00.

Next on the agenda was an agreement to Raze Property and Assess Costs to the Dave and Karen Clausen property at 500 9th St. N., which was badly damaged by fire in 2009. This will be a 4 way agreement between the City, First Security Bank, the Clausens and their insurance company. After discussion, it was moved by Landmark, second by Fitz and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement and to proceed with the demolition once all parties have also signed.

The elevator demolition was the next agenda item. Wolfington said he did not have plans and specs ready for this meeting but will provide them at the next meeting.

It was moved by Hess, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$409,783.42.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor

City Manager