

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Mayor. Members present: Mike Fugleberg, Paul Kittelson, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heinzig & Sue Fitz. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, and Police Chief Ian Hodge.

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

- January 2, 2014 City Council Meeting

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to appoint Judy Hoberg to the Cemetery Board with her term ending December 31, 2016.

Kittelson stated there has been some discussion on combining various boards and commissions. There will be more discussion to come.

Wolfington presented a request from the Benson Hockey Association requesting 50% reimbursement for a scoreboard they purchased September 2012 in the amount of \$6,000. It was the consensus of the Council to table this until the next Council meeting and request a representative of the Hockey Association attend that meeting.

The Mayor acknowledged overnight travel for new Council Members Heinzig and Evenson who will attend the League of MN Cities Newly Elected Official Orientation January 31-February 1, 2014 along with the City Manager.

The City Council acknowledged the 2014 City Council meeting dates.

Chief Hodge approached the City Council with proposals for two squad car purchases which are in the budgets for 2014. The first vehicle is a Ford Interceptor which will replace the 2007 Dodge Durango, with K9 kennel, radio and parts installation for a cost of \$38,647.87. The second vehicle is a Ford F150 truck with radio & parts installation, which will replace the 2007 Chevy Impala at a cost of \$35,834.11. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the two police vehicles as presented.

Wolfington presented a safety alert from the Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration notifying the general public and emergency responders that recent derailments and resulting fires indicate that the type of crude oil being transported from the Bakken region may be more flammable than traditional heavy crude oil. He stated there are classes in Morris and Willmar within the next 30 days if anyone would like to go and learn more. Heinzig and Fitz showed interest in attending a class. Wolfington also said the employees have had a Global Harmonization System training which deals with unified labeling of chemicals in the work place and a class later in the year with the State Patrol on hazardous items on roadways.

Next Wolfington presented a sample special assessment policy for public improvements and maintenance costs from the League of Minnesota Cities for the Council's review. Wolfington asked the Council to read through the sample policy. At the next Council meeting the City Manager from Morris will talk about his experience with special assessments. Wolfington said he sees a lot of potentially costly infrastructure projects in the future.

Nelson approached with bids taken on the 2014 Utility Improvement Project. He said these same bids were taken last July at a cost of \$349,000. The new low bid was from Breitbach Construction. The bid broke down as follows:

15 th Street South water repair	\$141,824.38
Church Street water repair	76,473.65
15 th Street South/Hall Ave. sewer repair	67,167.99
Kansas Ave. point repairs	16,942.00

After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the low bid by Breitbach Construction in the amount of \$302,408.02.

Next Wolfington presented a draft Title VI Language Assistance Plan for the Heartland Express. We are required to have a plan that tells us how to help non-english speaking riders to ride the bus. Wolfington recommended approval. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the Title VI Language Assistance Plan for the Heartland Express as presented.

It was moved by Evenson and seconded by Fitz to approve the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities 2014 membership dues in the amount of \$5,239.00

Wolfington presented the cost of two more Welcome to Benson signs from Precast Systems for the Hwy 12 east entrance and the Hwy 9 west entrance. The signs would be identical to the signs added last summer. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of two more Welcome to Benson Signs in the amount of \$13,100.

Wolfington noted a farewell coffee for Elliot Nelson on Friday, January 17, 2014 at 3pm in the Council Chambers.

Wolfington informed the Council final interviews for the Public Works Director were conducted with the personnel committee. There were two internal and two external finalists. Evenson from the Personnel Committee recommended staff extend a job proposal to Dan Gens. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to offer Dan Gens the Director of Public Works position.

Councilmember Fitz offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REREPRESENTATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2014-02)**

WHEREAS, THE Governing body of the City of Benson, Minnesota has entered into an agreement to establish The **Missouri Basin Municipal Power Agency, d.b.a. Missouri River Energy Services (MRES)**, and as a member thereof is entitled to a representative who shall represent the Municipal Utility in the business of MRES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Rob Wolfington be and he/she is hereby authorized and appointed as the representative of the City of Benson, Minnesota, to represent the Municipal Utility in the business of MRES, with the powers, duties and responsibilities as provided in said agreement. The alternate representative, Paul Kittelson, is hereby authorized and appointed with equal powers.

Council Member Evenson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fugleberg, Fitz, Kittelson, Evenson, Heinzig NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2014-02 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from LandTeam Incorporated for engineering services on the 2014 Utility Improvements in the amount of \$6,500.

Pederson presented the following 2014 Budgets for approval:

- Community Development Revolving Fund
- EDA Budget
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2005
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2009
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2011
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2013
- Concrete Projects Fund
- Storm Water Fund

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the budgets as presented.

Council member Fugleberg offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING \$80,000 FROM
THE LIQUOR FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND
(RESOLUTION NO. 2014-03)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson owns and operates a Municipal Liquor Store, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has budgeted to transfer \$80,000 from the Liquor fund to the General Fund for calendar year 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorized the transfer of \$80,000 from the Liquor Fund to the General Fund.

Council Member Fitz seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fugleberg, Fitz, Kittelson, Evenson, Heinzig NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2014-03 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the December 2013 bills and warrants in the amount of \$501,907.51

It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve January 2014 bills and warrants in the amount of \$293,015.38.

Fitz reported complaints of the evergreen on the corner of 14th Street South and Wisconsin Avenue blocking the view of traffic heading west.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk