

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Jon Buyck, Mark Schreck & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Public Works Director Dan Gens and Kristen Molden.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda to which there were none. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Next was the consent agenda. Evenson asked about the Library Board applicant. She is not a City of Benson resident. Wolfington said the City Charter states board members should be Benson residents. He also said the board is no longer a decision-making board, but is an advisory board. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- January 2, 2020 City Council Minutes
- November 4, 2019 Planning Commission Minutes
- Cindy Roggeman to the Library Board with term expiring December 31, 2022
- Electronic Transfers:  
Payroll: \$147,833.14 – January 2, 2020

The Mayor called for anyone with unscheduled business, to which there was no one.

Wilcox approached to give legal opinion on whether the City can be a Chamber of Commerce member. He reviewed the state statute and agreed with Conway Dueth and Schmeising's opinion that by statute we must gain some benefit for donations or support and the donation or support should serve a public purpose. The Council must follow the statute or change the City Charter. It was then moved by Evenson to have the City Manager meet with the Chamber of Commerce manager to see what services they could provide. It was seconded by Olson and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Olson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REREPRESENTATION  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 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 Rivers 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 Robert Wolfington be and 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, Terri Collins, is hereby authorized and appointed with equal powers.

Councilmember Evenson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2020-02 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REREPRESENTATION  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2020-03)**

WHEREAS, THE Governing body of the City of Benson, Minnesota has entered into an agreement to establish The **Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA)**, and as a member thereof is entitled to a representative who shall represent the Municipal Utility in the business of WMMPA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Robert Wolfington be and is hereby authorized and appointed as the representative of the City of Benson, Minnesota, to represent the Municipal Utility in the business of WMMPA, with the powers, duties and responsibilities as provided in said agreement. The alternate representative, Terri Collins, is hereby authorized and appointed with equal powers.

Councilmember Schreck seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2020-03 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Buyck, Seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Title VII: Traffic Code. Chapter 73: Snowmobiles: All-Terrain Vehicles of the Benson City Code of 2003.

Police Chief Hodge approached the Council to discuss a Capital Authorization Request to purchase 5 new defibrillators for the Police squad cars. The current Phillips defibrillators have a recall on them and were purchased in 2004. He said they frequently use the defibrillators as they will reach a citizen in need ahead of the ambulance. Currently they are sharing defibrillators between vehicles. He is proposing to purchase Lifepack 1000 Defibrillators which he is familiar with. They are built for fire and police departments. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the Capital Authorization Request for 5 defibrillators from Advanced First Aid, Inc. in the amount of \$10,590.00.

Wolfington presented a new drug testing policy to the Council. Federal Drug Testing Regulations require all entities with CDL drivers that are required to conduct drug testing must enroll into the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. All CDL drivers in the country must register and the City must register and are required to query the Clearinghouse before hiring a new CDL driver for substance abuse infractions. It is also required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration there be language addressing the Clearinghouse in the drug testing policy. Wolfington went on to say he and Val Alsaker used a template from the League of Minnesota Cities and have updated the City's policy. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the Drug testing policy as presented.

Wolfington discussed the study questions for the Council's annual retreat scheduled for January 24-25, 2020. He said this is a beginning list and he needs input for topics other Councilmembers would like to discuss.

Pederson presented the departmental budgets and discussed each one. It was then moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the following departmental budgets for 2020:

- Liquor Fund
- Garbage Collection Fund
- Utility Fund (sewer, Water Electric) Operating & 10 Year Capital
- EDA Budget
- Xcel Grant Budget

- Storm Water Fund
- Library Endowment Fund
- Perpetual Care Cemetery
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2005
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2009
- Small Cities Grant Fund 2017
- Concrete Projects Fund

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants for December 2019 in the amount of \$803,532.21.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants for January 2020 in the amount of \$364,057.36.

They Mayor said after the Council adjourns, they will tour the Fire and Police Departments.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 5:57 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk