

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 14, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Mark Schreck, Lucas Olson, Jon Buyck. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Human Services Director Catie Lee, Swift County Administrator Kelsey Baker, School Superintendent Dennis Laumeyer, Trudy Kaiser and Chamber of Commerce Director Holly Erickson

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Laumeyer approached the Council. Wolfington said the Planning Commission had a public hearing at noon today for a conditional use permit application for the school to expand Northside School, bringing the footprint closer to the setbacks than allowed by ordinance. He presented a site drawing of the project to the Council. Olson asked if any utilities would be affected, to which Wolfington stated no. Laumeyer explained the design and layout. Wolfington said the Planning Commission recommended approval, and that the Conditional Use Permit met ordinance specifications. After discussion, it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Northside School.

Next Lee and Kaiser approached the Council to discuss leasing the Senior Center building for a County run drop in center for mental health consumers as well as the general public. Lee stated she has received grants and donations for the program, and that the County Commissioners are in support of the program. Kaiser explained several activities and programs they hope to offer at the drop in center, which are open to anyone who wishes to come. Lee said they are planning a soft open in March 2019 and a grand opening in April 2019. She also said the Senior Citizens will be scheduled to use the center on Mondays for their activities, and the drop in center will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the lease at the Senior Center building with Swift County Human Services for a term of one year.

Erickson with the Chamber of Commerce approached. She discussed the up-coming events at the Chamber of Commerce. She stated she is working for the Chamber of Commerce and Anderson Law Office, in the Law office building. She said their annual meeting will be Friday, January 18, 2019 at McKinney's for a meal, meeting and music. She discussed the membership drive. After discussion, it was moved by Collins seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve a 2019 Chamber of Commerce membership from the liquor fund. It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve a 2019 Chamber of Commerce membership from the utility funds.

The Council recessed at 5:54 p.m. to tour the water treatment plant.

The Council reconvened at 6:22 p.m.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda, to which there were none.

It was moved by Schreck seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- January 2, 2019 City Council Minutes
- Benson Police Report for December 2018
- Charter Communications Tribune Broadcasting Notice

- Notice of Potential Claim & Joint Inspection – Bassford Remele

There were no persons with unscheduled business.

Wolfington presented a draft of the Purchase and Sale Agreement document from Xcel for the purchase of the Fibrominn land. He said he wanted to make the document public. He said the City hopes to purchase the Fibrominn site and execute the document by the end of summer. Brightmark Energy has signed a letter of intent, but we have not received a development agreement from them. The City will be a conduit for the land sale. We would own the property long enough to slide the document across the table to Brightmark Energy. The land will be sold “as is condition” meaning any environmental issues would revert back to the party who caused the issue. He discussed the history of the sale and asked the Council to generate questions on the document over the next 30 days.

Pederson produced the departmental budgets and discussed each one. It was then moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the departmental budgets for 2019 as presented.

Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REREPRESENTATION  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2019-03)**

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 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 Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2019-03 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Olson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REREPRESENTATION  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2019-04)**

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 Evenson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2019-04 duly passed and adopted.

Wolfington presented a membership application to the Great Plains Institute. They lobby for bioenergy incentives at the legislature. Brightmark Energy is interested in changing legislation for bioenergy tax incentives, which will help with their Performa and financing their project. They are interested in lobbying the legislature, and have joined the Great Plains Institute and have asked the City of Benson to join the organization as well. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the 2019 membership to the Great Plains Institute in the amount of \$2,500.

Wolfington presented a request from the Prom Afterbash committee looking for financial support. The Council discussed they are currently allowing the Afterbash in the Armory for a week free of charge for the event. Chief Hodge offered they donate to the Afterbash, and Councilmember Schreck stated the Fire Department does a mock crash before Prom. It was agreed by the Council they will not donate financial support in lieu of services already donated.

Next Wolfington discussed Doug Griffiths' proposal of \$65,000 for strategic planning and marketing services. He went on to say he and the Mayor have asked for proposals from two other companies, and stated the proposals will be in the Council Retreat packet. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to table this agenda item until after the Council Retreat.

Wolfington presented a proposal to purchase a run-down house at 211 – 18<sup>th</sup> St. N. The seller agrees to sell the property to the City for the amount of taxes and utilities due on the property which total \$2,124.00. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to proceed with the purchase of 211 – 18<sup>th</sup> St. N. as presented in the purchase agreement. Wolfington stated the legal heir of the property at 703 – 15<sup>th</sup> St. S. contacted him and is going to sign the property over to the City.

Next was a contract extension for tree removal services the City has with A.L.T. Tree Service. They are asking for a contract extension and increase for 2019. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the contract extension and increase for the 2019 season as presented.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$242,075.72.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$451,320.41.

The Council went into closed session at 6:56 p.m. for the City Manager's review.

The Council reconvened at 7:32 p.m. The Mayor stated the Council gave the City manager a satisfactory review. She also said the exempt salaries have been reviewed and some market adjustments were made to the administrative salaries. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve administrative salaries for 2019 as presented:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Current 2018</b>	<b>Proposed 2019</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>	<b>Dollar Increase</b>
Rob Wolfington	City Manager	94,550.00	100,225.00	6.0%	5,673.00
Glen Pederson	Director of Finance	85,400.00	90,500.00	6.0%	5,100.00
Dan Gens	Public Works Director	76,550.00	81,800.00	6.9%	5,250.00
Ian Hodge	Police Chief	77,900.00	81,800.00	5.0%	3,900.00
Tom Lee	Liquor Store Mgr.	49,500.00	51,480.00	4.0%	1,980.00

Valerie Alsaker	Administrative Assist.	\$22.40	23.65	5.6%	1.25
Paul Larson	Sergeant	30.55	31.80	4.1%	1.25
Michael Jacobson	Building Official	31.60	32.85	4.0%	1.25

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk