

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 2, 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, Senator Andrew Lang, Representative Tim Miller, Dawn Hegland and Laura Ostlie from the Upper Minnesota RDC and Anne Johnson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. A gambling permit application as added to the agenda. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- December 17, 2018 City Council Minutes
- November 19, 2018 EDA Minutes
- Application to the Library Board by Heidi Haverkamp-Davis
- City of Benson 2019 Annual Safety Calendar

The Mayor introduced Senator Andrew Miller and Representative Tim Miller. They discussed the new Governor, issues facing Minnesota and what they hope to work on in the coming legislative session.

Ostlie and Hegland approached the Council to discuss a contract for professional services between the City and the UMRDC. The UMRDC would provide several services such as attend conferences, loan fund management, marketing of Benson, coordinate project with Brightmark Energy and assist the City Manager. The contract would be for the 2019 year. Wolfington stated he will need help as he will be busy with Brightmark and will be at the legislature lobbying. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the contract with the UMRDC as presented.

Next there was discussion on inviting Doug Griffiths back to Benson. The Mayor discussed how to move forward with marketing Benson. The topic on how to move forward seems to be a community issue, and there was discussion on bringing the school and other entities in the community into planning how to move forward. It was agreed there needs to be a reach out to the School and other entities. After discussion, the Mayor tabled this item until the January 14, 2019 City Council Meeting

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the 2019 membership dues to the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities in the amount of \$5,702.00

Next there was discussion on the chlorine issues in the water plant. The failure of a fitting is going into litigation, however the integrity of the plant is a concern, and repairs need to move forward as soon as possible before the deterioration from the chlorine causes another failure. The City's insurance company, League of Minnesota Cities is very interested in moving the project the forward. The Council discussed the engineer's evaluation done by Crane Engineering.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DECLARING SPECIAL EMERGENCY  
(RESOLUTION 2019-01)**

**WHEREAS**, a chlorine leak occurred at the City’s water filter plant in 2016; and,

**WHEREAS**, it has recently come to the attention of the City that this leak has caused a deterioration in the controls, pumps, motors and valves at the City’s water filter plant; and,

**WHEREAS**, immediate action to respond to the situation is needed in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community because the water plant has no manual overrides and repairs must be made immediately in order to ensure that the plant remains functional.

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that a special emergency exists in relation to the damaged controls, pumps, motors and valves at the City’s water filter plant.

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 2019-01 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT DURING SPECIAL EMERGENCY  
(RESOLUTION 2019-02)**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Benson has declared that a special emergency is in effect; and,

**WHEREAS**, immediate action to respond to the situation is needed in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the immediate hiring of a general contractor capable of assisting with cleanup of debris and restoration of essential services is required in order to effectively respond to the emergency; and,

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota statutes sections 365.37 and 415.01 provide that an emergency contract is not subject to the normal purchasing and competitive bidding requirements because of the emergency.

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the city manager is authorized, without requirement of notice or competitive bidding, to enter into a contract with a qualified contractor of his choice with the ability to assist with cleanup of debris and restoration of essential services as needed to respond to the emergency that is in effect and to purchase such materials as may be necessary for such repairs.

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 2019-02 duly passed and adopted.

Next was a request from Independent School District #777 to cancel the lease they signed for the north end of the civic center a year ago and asked for their 2019 lease payment be returned to them, as they had already paid this. Wolfington recommended terminating the lease agreement as of today, but to retain the \$35,000 to go toward repairing demolition work that has already been done in the north end of the Civic Center by the school. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to terminate the lease agreement immediately and to retain the \$35,000 payment.

The Benson Civic Center Board is looking for direction to do a feasibility study in the north end of the civic center. Wolfington would like to partner with them to do a study to outline what activities can be held in there. Pederson agreed that a proper feasibility study needs to be conducted. After discussion, it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to allow the Civic Center Board along with the City of Benson to order a feasibility study, and bring the report back to the Council. It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to conduct feasibility study with costs not to exceed \$10,000.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the following appointments:

Emergency Chain of Command	Terri Collins Jack Evenson Lucas Olson Mark Schreck Jon Buyck
Economic Development Authority	Schreck and Evenson
Fire Board	Schreck and Evenson
HRA	Olson
Library Board	Buyck
Liquor Committee	Collins and Olson
Park Board	Evenson
Personnel Committee	Schreck and Collins
Planning Commission	Evenson & Buyck
President Pro-Tem	Evenson
Utility Committee	Olson and Buyck
Facilities Committee	Schreck and Evenson
Kid Day Committee	Olson and Evenson
Hospital Board	Buyck
Blight Committee	Collins and Olson
Civil Cases: City Attorney	Ben Wilcox
Civil Cases: Assistant City Attorney	Don Wilcox
Attorney Handling Criminal Cases	Wilcox Law Office

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to designate the Monitor News as the official newspaper in 2019.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously that state banks, national banks, and thrift institutions located either within or outside the State of Minnesota that qualify as depositories under Minnesota Law are hereby designated as depositories for the City of Benson.

Meeting times and dates were reviewed for 2019. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the City Council meeting time and dates as presented.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to authorize the following as check signers on all accounts: Mayor Terri Collins, City Manager Rob Wolfington, Lisa Kent and Director of Finance Glen Pederson.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to authorize the following as check signers on the Incidental Fund: Valerie Alsaker.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to schedule the Board of Review on April 15, 2019 from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

The Mayor tabled exempt wages for 2019 until the January 14, 2019 City Council Meeting.

The City Manager's review was tabled until the January 14, 2019 City Council Meeting.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit for the Chippewa Valley Chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Assn. for February 8, 2019 at McKinney's.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk