

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 3, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Landmark. Members present: Terri Collins, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heintzig, Gary Landmark & Sue Fitz. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson and Lucas Olson,.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Landmark asked for any additions to the agenda. Wolfington asked to add Strategic Planning to the agenda. No consent agenda items were moved to the regular agenda. A motion was made by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended. It was moved by Fitz, Seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Michelle Lee to the Cemetery Board
- Lisa Peterson to the Library Board

The Mayor asked for people with unscheduled business, to which there were none.

Wolfington discussed new Cemetery software for recordkeeping. The new Cemetery expansion is not currently mapped. Elliot Nelson has been working with the Cemetery Board and is willing to get all the new information up to date. After review, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of new Cemetery computer software from CemSites in the amount of \$8,980.00.

Wolfington reviewed the Missouri River Energy Services Red Rock Hydroelectric project.

Next Swift County has been working to bring state prison inmates to the Appleton prison, and is asking for support of the surrounding communities. After discussion Councilmember Fitz offered the following resolution:

**CITY OF BENSON RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT  
(RESOLUTION 2017-01)**

**WHEREAS**, according to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the State of Minnesota's prison population exceeds capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is housing over 500 inmates in county jails where they cannot receive critical rehabilitation services available in State correctional facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Corrections projects the State of Minnesota's prison population will grow by at least an additional 500 inmates by the year 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Minnesota will continue to face financial challenges such as interest, debt service, maintenance, and annual operating costs associated with any new facility construction and/or maintenance of existing, aging facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Appleton is home to a vacant and well-maintained prison facility with adequate space to meet the Department of corrections' current and future needs; and

**WHEREAS**, up to 350 people from 24 surrounding counties worked at the Appleton prison when it was in use, generating an estimated \$15.2 million for the regional economy; and

**WHEREAS**, many ancillary businesses in the region and their workers benefitted when the Appleton prison was in use; and

**WHEREAS**, the region offers robust infrastructure to provide rehabilitation services for State of Minnesota inmates and a great quality of life for working families; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost to the State of Minnesota to lease the Appleton prison is estimated to be \$6-8 million per year, plus annual operating costs – substantially lower than constructing and maintaining new, permanent correctional facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is practical that the State of Minnesota do its due diligence to fairly consider the costs associated with leasing and operating the Appleton prison before constructing new, permanent correctional facilities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2017 the City of Benson City Council declared its support for a proposal for the State of Minnesota to lease and operate the Appleton prison with State of Minnesota public employees to provide much-needed jobs and economic development for the people of West Central Minnesota and to provide effective rehabilitation services for inmates needed to reduce recidivism.

Councilmember Evenson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Collins, Heinzig, Evenson, Fitz, Landmark. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2017-01 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to designate the Monitor News as the official newspaper in 2017.

It was moved by Collins, seconded by Heinzig 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 2017. It was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the City Council meeting time and dates as presented.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to authorize the following as check signers for the following accounts:

<b>All Accounts:</b>	Mayor Gary Landmark, City Manager Robert Wolfington, and Director of Finance Glen Pederson
<b>Incidental Fund:</b>	Lisa Kent and Valerie Alsaker
<b>Hospital &amp; Meter Rent Account:</b>	Lisa Kent
<b>Cafeteria Plan Trust:</b>	Lisa Kent

It was moved by Collins, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to schedule the Board of Review on April 17, 2017 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Next Wolfington presented pay request #2 from O'Day Equipment for the power plant fuel tank. It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to O'Day Equipment in the amount of \$102,695.58.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve Councilmember Heinzig as Mayor Pro Tem for 2017.

Wolfington discussed the Strategic Planning session scheduled for January 20-21, 2017, and reviewed a list of opportunities and risks to be considered. It will be held in the hospital conference room.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor