

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
JANUARY 3, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Terri Collins, Jack Evenson, Mark Schreck, Jon Buyck & 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, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed and Reed Anfinson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pederson approached the Council to perform the Oath of Office for Mayor Terri Collins and Councilmembers Mark Schreck and Jack Evenson.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. A City Council Meeting date change was added. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- October 18, 2021 EDA Minutes
- December 20, 2021 City Council Minutes
- Electronic Transfer: Payroll: December 30, 2021 - \$84,595.61

The Mayor asked for anyone with unscheduled business to which there was none.

Next was City Council Appointments. It was then moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the following City Council Appointments:

Chain of Command:	Terri Collins [Mayor] Jack Evenson [Mayor Pro-Tem] Lucas Olson Mark Schreck Jon Buyck
Blight Committee:	Terri Collins and Lucas Olson
EDA: [Voting Members]	Mark Schreck and Jack Evenson
Fire Board:	Mark Schreck and Jack Evenson
HRA: [Voting Members]	Lucas Olson [Council opted to leave one spot open]
Library Board: Council Liaison]	Jon Buyck
Liquor Committee:	Terri Collins and Lucas Olson
Park Board:	
Voting Member	Jack Evenson
Council Liaison	[Council opted to leave this position open in 2022]
Personnel Committee:	Mark Schreck and Terri Collins
Planning Commission: [Voting Member]	Jack Evenson and Jon Buyck
Utility Committee:	Lucas Olson and Jon Buyck
Facilities Committee:	Mark Schreck and Jack Evenson
Kid Day Committee:	Lucas Olson and Jack Evenson
Hospital Board:	Jon Buyck

Civil Cases:

City Attorney:

Ben Wilcox

Assistant City Attorney:

Don Wilcox

Attorney Handling Criminal Cases:

Wilcox Law Office

MRES:

Representative:

Rob Wolfington [2022]

Alternate:

Terri Collins [2022]

Western MN Municipal Power

Representative:

Rob Wolfington [2022]

Alternate:

Terri Collins [2022]

It was moved by Olson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to designate the Monitor News as the official newspaper in 2022.

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.

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

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to authorize Valerie Alsaker and Lisa Kent as check signers on the Incidental Fund.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the City of Benson Electronic Funds and Wire Transfers Policy as presented.

Mayor Collins noted there are openings on the following Boards and Commissions:
Park Board, Planning Commission and Airport Commission

Mayor Collins said Wolfington requested he remain the MRES and WAPPA primary contact. He is not asking for any reimbursement from the City once he retires. Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 01)**

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, Collins, Olson, Buyck, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2022-01 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION

(RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02)

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, Collins, Olson, Buyck, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2022-02 duly passed and adopted.

Mayor Collins presented a farm lease renewal on the land to the south of the Homewood Editions with Goff Farms. The changes to the lease from last year include crop rights if the City should sell the land after the crops are planted. The proposed lease leaves the rental rate the same as 2021. It was then moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the farm lease as presented.

Next Gens presented quotes for a transformer for the 2022 underground project as follows:

Howard Industries	\$22,484.00
WESCO	\$28,232.00

After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the quote from Howard Industries in the amount of \$22,484.00.

Next Pederson presented the Enterprise Fund Budgets: Utility Fund (water, sewer and electric), Utility 10-year Capital Outlay and the Liquor Fund. After discussion it was moved by Evenson and Seconded by Olson. Buyck asked about water tower painting. Staff stated it was inadvertently left off the spread sheet in the packet. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Schreck seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a 3% raise for the following exempt wages for 2022:

Robert Wolfington	City Manager	\$109,500.00
Glen Pederson	Director of Finance	\$98,900.00
Dan Gens	Public Works Director	\$89,400.00
Ian Hodge	Police Chief	\$89,400.00
Tom Lee	Liquor Store Manager	\$56,300.00
Valerie Alsaker	Administrative Asst.	\$25.85/hr.

The Mayor noted the next Council meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2022. She asked the Council to move this meeting to January 25, 2021 so Liza Donabauer with David Drown Associates can address the Council on the City Manager search. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to move the January 18, 2022 Council meeting to January 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk