

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
OCTOBER 17, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Evenson. Members present: Jon Buyck, Lucas Olson, Jack Evenson & Mark Schreck. Members Absent: Terri Collins. Also present: City Manager Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Reed Anfinson, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed and Jason and Heather Kill.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. Pay requests from Stantec and T & K Kennedy Excavating were added. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- October 3, 2022 City Council Minutes
- September 6, 2022 Planning Commission Minutes
- August 30, 2022 Cemetery Board Minutes
- Pay Request - Bolton & Menk – WWTP Flood Protection Project. - \$58,376 – Bal to Finish - \$176,541
- Pay Request - WSB – Benson South Industrial Park - \$1,585.75 – Bal. to Finish - \$28,414.25
- Electronic Transfers:
 - Payroll - October 6, 2022 - \$99,816.76
 - Journal entries - September 2022 - \$1,418,215.57

There was no one with unscheduled business.

Pederson explained he had a meeting with Bolton & Menk who is doing the airport layout plan (ALP). The FAA contacted Bolton & Menk to notify them it is time for the Benson Airport to update their 5-year capital outlay plan. He went on to say our engineer of record is TKDA. Pederson talked to our TKDA Engineer John Peterson to say the FAA reached out to Bolton & Menk due to them updating our ALP, and he was ok with Bolton and Menk working on the 5-year plan. He presented the draft 5-year plan for Council review and for budgeting information. TKDA Suggested we bump each year's projects down a year, which would put the runway resurfacing project to 2024.

Chief Hodge approached to present the 5-year West Central S.W.A.T. Team agreement renewal. He said this is the same agreement we have had before. He noted we have one Police Employee on the S.W.A.T. negotiation team. After discussion, it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve renewal of the agreement.

Pederson said the County had COVID monies they wished to turn into a grant for Swift County residents to fix up their houses. The City agreed to sponsor up to 4 homes at \$25,000 each. Reimbursement will come out of the Xcel funds upon completion of the work. Pederson went on to say we have already reimbursed one household. The current request is the second and the 3rd request is close to being done. The 4th request backed out. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to reimburse Swift County in the amount of \$22,329.

Pederson presented a study by Rodeberg & Berryman, Inc. to draw up an estimate of what it

would cost to replace sewer, water, storm sewer and road reconstruction on the two blocks on McKinney Avenue between 19th St. S. & 21st St. S. He reviewed the report and estimate for the work to be \$1.146 million. He wanted to bring this to the City Council's attention and what the costs would look like. There was discussion on what special assessments could look like for the 24 homes benefitting from the project. Revenue Bonds were discussed as well. After discussion, it was agreed to bring this to the utility Board to draft up something for future City Council consideration.

Next was a pay request from Craig's for parts and repairs on the pool boilers and other repairs in the amount of \$35,304.74. Pederson said they are hoping for some warranty credits on a couple of the larger parts, and recommended to the Council to pay \$20,000 of the bill to reimburse Craig's and see what comes of the warrantee request. After discussion it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to pay Craig's, Inc. \$20,000 for pool repairs.

There was a request for a donation of a family pool pass for the Swift County-Benson Hospital Foundation fundraiser Emerald Eve. Pederson stated we have sponsored a family pass for several Emerald Eve fundraisers. It was then moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve a family pool pass to the Emerald Eve fundraiser.

Next Alsaker approached the Council representing the Cemetery Board. Over the last year, the board has been working on a request to expand what can be engraved on a faceplate of the columbarium. The first item presented were two changes to the cemetery policies addressing what names and dates are allowed on the face plate in an attachment. This will allow 3 options for a family to choose from. The second policy change recommendation is to go from 4 lines of inscription 3 lines per inurnment at the columbarium. After discussion it was moved by Olson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the policy changes as presented. The second request from the Cemetery Board is to change the pricing on the columbarium in an effort to promote sales. Tier pricing with columbariums is common. Currently all niches are \$2,000 apiece. The changes were presented as follows:

Top Row - \$2,000 per niche
Second Row - \$1,835 per niche
Third Row - \$1,670 per nice
Forth Row - \$1,500 per niche

Alsaker said the intention of the Cemetery Board originally was to price the niche's as such as when the current columbarium was full, there would be enough money left to build another. Changing the price on the niches will not prevent this from happening. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the columbarium niche tier price changes as presented.

Pederson presented a Liability Coverage Waiver Form from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. There is a statutory tort limit for liability for cities that purchase liability insurance from them. We have the option to waive the limit and purchase a higher liability policy from them. After discussion it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. §466.04.

Pederson said with current City Attorney Ben Wilcox being appointed as a Judge, we will need to appoint another City Attorney. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to appoint Assistant City Attorney Don Wilcox as the new City Attorney.

The Council reviewed the September 2022 Budget.

It was moved by Olson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$800,352.54.

It was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Stantec for wastewater treatment plant upgrades in the amount of \$5,662.15.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve a progress pay request from T & K Kennedy Excavating, Inc. for the elevator demolition to be paid out of Xcel dollars in the amount of \$60,000.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk