

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 20, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Mayor. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heinzig & Sue Fitz. Members Absent: Mike Fugleberg. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Director of Public Works Dan Gens and Anita Flodstrom.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the following minutes:

- October 6, 2014 City Council Meeting

Wolfington said the Fire Department applied for two FEMA grants this year. They were denied the first grant for a new fire truck. They received another letter stating they were denied the second grant as well for turn out gear. FEMA has opened another round of grants for next year. The Fire Department will again apply for a chance at these grants.

Wolfington talked about bringing the blight ordinance back to the Council at the November 3 meeting for a first reading of the existing ordinance. He suggested having a public hearing at a future Council meeting to take comments on the ordinance. These comments could then be taken into consideration at a second reading. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to have the first reading at the November 3, 2014 meeting, and a public hearing at the November 17, 2014 Council meeting beginning at 6 p.m.

Next Wolfington presented an article from the League of Minnesota Cities regarding utility franchise fees for street and infrastructure repairs. He said he and Pederson have reviewed a draft of this ordinance, and are making some changes to it and will bring it to the November 3 meeting. Gens made a spreadsheet of projected revenues generated from different fee amounts. There was discussion on different rates for residential, commercial and industrial accounts. If the ordinance is structured like the cable tv franchise ordinance, there is a 10 year limit on the franchise ordinance and then a review of the ordinance which is renewable.

Next Wolfington said Swift County-Benson Hospital has been trying for years to find a close location for a helipad for their critically ill patients that need to be transported by a medical helicopter to a specialized facility. Wolfington met with hospital administrator Frank Lawatsch, Life Link representatives, Chief of Police and the Ambulance Director. Of the three possible sites for a helipad, the location at Tatge Avenue and 20<sup>th</sup> Street South is the preferred site. Wolfington said there will need to be site prep and trees will need to be removed. There was discussion on options, rules and ordinance requirements. Wolfington stated he has contacted Klemenhagen to help with engineering. He is looking at cost sharing with the County.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a Small Cities grant payment in the amount of \$4,931.00

Wolfington presented two options for the Cemetery expansion project. Option 1 offers expansion of 1,134 new grave lots. Option 2 offers 1,000 new lots. The Cemetery board will meet this Friday and offer a recommendation. The Park board reviewed the two options today at their meeting.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$368,256.34.

Wolfington began discussion on bonding for sewer and water work done this past summer, and future expansion of the street department garage. The sewer and water amount he would like to bond for is \$440,000, and the street department expansion amount would be \$450,000. If we bond now, interest rates are low and projected at a rate of 2.6%. The street building would be amortized over ten years, and the sewer and water portion would be amortized over 15 years. The plan would be to have all the documents ready for the November 3, 2014 Council meeting, and a public hearing for November 17, 2014. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to schedule a public hearing for November 17, 2014 and bring all the information on this bond to the November 3, 2014 meeting.

Wolfington handed out master plans to the Council for the Overhead to Underground project.

Wolfington said there is room for one more Councilmember to go to the MRES area meeting this Wednesday.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk