

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 21, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Mayor. Members present: Mike Fugleberg, Ben Hess, Gary Landmark, Paul Kittelson & Sue Fitz. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heinzig and Mark Anderson.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the following minutes on the consent agenda:

- October 7, 2013 City Council Meeting

The Mayor acknowledged openings on the Park Board, Airport Commission, Planning Commission and Benson Area Tourism Board.

The Mayor acknowledged a letter from Bob Buckner referencing trouble with his sanitary sewer. Wolfington asked the Council to carry this forward to an item to follow on the agenda.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to waive the Armory use fee for the Prom Afterbash event on April 26, 2014.

Next the Mayor opened the Public Hearing to review and adopt the updated Swift County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Wolfington explained the plan is being amended to include underground burial of all power lines to protect life and property in the case of violent storms and flooding. Wolfington explained this is something we can apply for through FEMA and will be asking for one million dollars to complete this task. The Mayor asked for public comment. Mark Anderson agreed it was a good idea to ask for the one million dollars. Being there were no more comments, it was moved by Hess, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to adopt the updated Swift County All Hazards Mitigation Plan to include burying electric services. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 5:35 p.m.

Wolfington stated the representative to conduct the Lidar radar demonstration was unable to make it to the meeting tonight. The Mayor tabled this to a later meeting.

Next was the sewer project on 15<sup>th</sup> St. S. that was bid out earlier this year. Wolfington reminded the Council of the bids taken for two water main projects and a sewer main project bid out earlier this year. The bids all came back much higher than expected, and Council action was to reject the bid and rebid these projects out in January of 2014. Wolfington referenced the letter from Bob Buckner, and presented a map of 4 homes that have sewer service through their back yards that was engineered in the 1950's or 1960's. The sewer to these homes were not run to 15<sup>th</sup> St. S., therefore the sewer was built through the back yards. Mr. Buckner has had sewer problems over the last few years. None of the other homeowners have had any problems. The pipe is an old orangeburg pipe, and is starting to fail. Wolfington presented the earlier bid to repair this sewer main, that came in at \$48,445.50, which was estimated to be twice what it should have come it at. Jetting this service could further deteriorate the pipe. Estimated cost for each homeowner to hook into a new system would run around \$8,000 each. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to rebid the project in January 2014.

The City Council acknowledged a letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) notifying the City is in compliance with the carbon monoxide performance test conducted on the 5 Caterpillar power plant generators on June 25 & 26, 2013.

Benson High School submitted a request for a contribution to the BHS Renaissance Program, which rewards students with high academics, as well as exemplary social skills. It was moved by

Fugleberg, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to contribute \$200.00 from the Liquor Fund and \$250.00 from the Electric Fund to the BHS Renaissance Program.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously an invoice from Carr's Tree Service for stump work from the June 2013 storm in the amount of \$25,650.00.

Next the Council acknowledged Change Order No. 1 from Rice Lake Boring, Inc. This is a deduction of \$2,650.00 from the contract for fees the City paid into the railroad to repair the storm sewer running under the railroad tracks.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve Change Order #1 and Pay Request #1 in the amount of \$156,425.30 from Rice Lake Boring, Inc. for the storm sewer repair under the railroad tracks.

Stantec presented a pay request for engineering and inspection services for the storm sewer repair under the railroad tracks on west highway 9. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to pay Stantec in the amount of \$12,448.29.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to authorize staff to pay the final pay request from Everstrong Construction for the new airport hangar when it comes in.

Pederson approached the Council and reviewed an update to the City's Section 125 Plan. After discussion it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve and authorize the City Manager to sign the City of Benson's employee Section 125 Plan.

Next Pederson presented an analysis of the City water rates. Water fees and usages were reviewed to show a deficit in the budget, due in part to reduced water usage, bond payments and the construction of a new water plant. Pederson also presented a proposed minimal water service charge and rate increase over the next two years.

Pederson also reviewed a proposed rate increase in the sanitary sewer rates, stating expenses have escalated in the past several years which will necessitate a rate increase. After discussion, it was moved by Hess, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to amend the water and sewer rates as follows:

<b>Water</b>			
<b>Residential</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Service charge	17.50 per mo.	\$19.00	\$19.00
Consumption			
0-3 Units	\$1.45 per 100 cu. ft.	\$1.50	\$1.55
4-7 Units	\$1.70 per 100 cu. ft.	\$1.75	\$1.80
Over 7 Units	\$2.00 per 100 cu. ft.	\$2.10	\$2.15
<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Service Charges			
5/8 – 1” Meter	\$22.50 per mo.	\$24.00	\$24.00
1 ¼ - 2” Meter	\$34.50 per mo.	\$36.00	\$36.00
Larger than 2”	\$67.50 per mo.	\$69.00	\$69.00
Consumption	\$1.70 per 100 cu. ft.	\$1.75	\$1.80

  

<b>Sewer</b>			
	<b>Current</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Unit Rate	\$4.90	\$5.90	\$6.10
Minimum Charge	\$24.50	\$24.50	\$25.00

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$322,073.23.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Hess, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

---

Mayor

---

City Clerk