

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2016**

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

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Glen Pederson administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed council member Sue Fitz.

Mayor Landmark asked for any additions to the agenda to which there were none. A motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

The City Manager summarized the three sites for the City Hall and Police Department projects and estimated construction costs (new construction costs are estimated at \$150-\$190 per sq ft):

- Captain Eaton Park site for both City Hall and Police Dept. \$2,012,500
- Armory site for both City Hall and Police Dept. \$2,457,600
- Loen Electric site for Police Dept. only \$390,000

Initial discussion focused on the Armory and the need to do something with that building even if it is not used for either of these two projects. Discussion focused on using the entire office and gym space for both city hall and police department. The City Manager expressed concern about the structural stability of the building and putting a large amount of money into a 90 year old structure. The Council discussed needing a structural report before making any decisions. Consensus was to recess the meeting at 6:08 p.m. for a short time in order to walk over to the Armory and go through the building.

The meeting was called back to order at 6:42 p.m. Discussion was held on obtaining a structural and environmental review of the building along with any government restrictions that might be in place from when the city acquired the Armory.

Motion was made by Fitz seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to direct staff to obtain a structural engineering report of the Armory to include a full environmental analysis and also to review any legal restrictions in place from when it was purchased from the State of Minnesota.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk