

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2014**

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

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

- September 22, 2014 City Council Meeting
- September 19, 2014 Safety Committee Meeting

Wolfington reviewed Charter Communications intentions to merge with Comcast. He presented correspondence from Brian Grogan from Moss and Barnett. Grogan has requested additional information from Charter on the transfer of control to CCH I, LLC. Grogan outlined how he plans to proceed. He is also representing 13 other cities. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to send a letter to Grogan asking Moss and Barnett to continue to represent the City of Benson moving forward.

Wolfington presented a letter from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC). They are currently involved in the legal and legislative fight to stop costly and unnecessary regulation on waste water treatment facilities from going into place. The CGMC feels the MPCA has ignored requests to slow such legislation down and do more independent studies before moving forward with these types of standards.

Next was a memo from the University of Minnesota (U of M), who has been contracted by MnDOT to study manufacturers' and carriers' transportation priorities and challenges in our district. The U of M will be conducting interviews with local business. Wolfington explained the Swift County RDA will be doing the survey work for the City of Benson.

Wolfington presented the petition brought to the October 6, 2014 City Council Meeting. He stated the Assistant City Attorney and City Clerk have reviewed the petition for accuracy. Wilcox stated according to the Benson City Charter, Chapter 5, the petition needed to be signed by qualified electors, which was satisfied. However there are format and technicality issues which render the petition invalid. There was no copy of the ordinance attached, and it was clear by comments on the petition some people signing it did not understand what the petition or ordinance stood for. Pederson said there were 130 signatures on the petition. According the City Charter, 125 signatures were required to validate a petition. We were able to validate 127 signatures. There was discussion on the petition, time line to amend the petition and possible rejection of the petition. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to reject the petition. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to rescind the Ordinance to Amend Chapter 98: Structures in Disrepair. There will be continued discussion of the blighted properties and a possible ordinance presented at a later meeting.

Gens approached the Council in discussing special assessments for infrastructure repairs. A possible alternative to special assessments is to institute a franchise fee on the municipal utility bill. The City of Elk River has gone to this method of funding their street repairs. After discussion the Council directed staff to come back to the meeting with more information on a franchise fee option.

It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to appoint Deb Moore to the Swift County-Benson Hospital Board for a term of three years beginning January 1, 2015.

Councilmember Heinzig offered the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION SETTING ASSESSMENTS FOR FIRE SERVICE CHARGES
BY THE CITY OF BENSON, MINNESOTA FOR 2014 PAYABLE 2015
(RESOLUTION NO. 2014-17)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Benson City Council that the following assessments for 2014 Fire Service Charges as prepared by the City Manager are hereby approved and made a part thereof; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assessments hereinafter noted shall be submitted to the County Auditor on or before October 15, 2014 and placed on the tax roll for collection with the taxes collectable in 2015.

Charges	Name & Mailing Address	Legal Description & Parcel No.	Amount Due
Fire Call	Brian Flaten 210 – 17 th St. N. Benson, MN 56215	Lots 16 & 17, Block 46 Morris & Paytes Addn. 23-0295-000	\$750.00
TOTAL			\$750.00

Council Member Fugleberg seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Kittelson, Heinzig, Fugleberg, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2014-17 duly passed and adopted.

Pederson approached the Council. He explained the company we have been using to print our utility bills have not been providing good service. He explained Innovative Systems in Willmar is interested in our business. He recently toured their facility, and they could accommodate our billing period and timeline for mailing out the utility bills. He also stated he contacted a local vendor and they are unable to print our bills. The agreement would be for 4 years beginning January 1, 2015. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve contracting Innovative Systems to print our utility bills.

Next Pederson presented the list of election Judges for the 2014 General Election. It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to appoint the following election judges:

Phyllis Hartzell	Gene Doscher
Jo Bronniche	Dianne Doscher
Marge Friedlein	Ardis Ellingson
Marge Scheffler	Rose Anne Bowe
Alta Larson	Glen Pederson
Jan Baukol	Val Alsaker
Pam Lawatsch	Mike Scheffler
Karen Wolfington	James Hilleren
Darlene Iverson	

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk