

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Jon Buyck, Mark Schreck & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Director of Public Works Dan Gens, Tom Traen and Jerry Peterson from the Benson Golf Club, Chuck Wilson, Peter Wlazlak, Tim Berens, Mark & Jeff Anderson, Dan & Melinda Chamberlain and Larry Smith.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda to which there were none. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

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

- September 23, 2019 City Council Minutes

Donations:

- Michelle Samuelson – Mayor’s Mingle - \$45.00

Electronic Transfers:

Payroll: \$90,450.062

The Mayor asked for people with unscheduled business. Wilson addressed the Council concerning the Flodstrom residence deadline for repairs. He said the deadline has come and gone. Wolfington said Flodstrom has obtained a building permit which is good for one year. Wilson stated he lives next door and has not seen any contractor working on the house, and doesn’t feel the shingling was done appropriately. Wolfington and Wilson agreed to meet and discuss the progress on the property on October 16, 2019 at 10:00 am. in the City Manager’s office.

Next Wlazlak approached with questions on the ordinance amendment pertaining to parking. He expressed concern about handicapped people not being able to park close to their home especially in the winter, because of the new parking amendment. The Mayor said there are a lot of residents with cars parked on the front yard and it is not a winter issue. She went on to explain the intent is to make these properties more appealing. Wlazlak asked for a friend in the audience if her mother comes to visit with a walker, and parks by the house if this will be permitted. The Mayor said it needs to be black and white and will not be permitted. He went on to ask about the proposed amendment for fences, and questioned fencing in his garden. Wolfington said the proposed ordinance spells out what can be used, and feels a low fence for the garden would be fine.

Berens asked about his specific parking situation in the back yard. Wolfington said the amendment pertains only to the front of your yard, or if you are on a corner lot, it will include the side yard.

The first item on the agenda is a request from the Golf Club for support. Peterson and Traen approached and gave a report on the Golf Club Activities. They showed a \$39,600 profit for the first eight months of the year despite the first two months of the season being extremely wet. They added 10 new members this year, and are offering new programs for youth to try and get them interested in golfing. They discussed the progress they have made on the building improvements. They are hoping to attract

events to the Golf Club when they are done. They have raised \$100,000 from 60 different donors. They went on to say they plan on closing November 2, 2019 for the season. They again asked for \$60,000 from the City; \$25,000 for equipment and \$35,000 for operations. The Mayor said this request will be considered in the 2020 budget, which will be finalized in December of this year.

Hodge approached the Council to share the Police Department has participated in the “Toward Zero Death” Campaign in the past. This program has been managed by the Kandiyohi County Sheriff, but they will no longer be managing this for other law enforcement agencies. He went on to say we will be handling this in house from now on, and is asking for support for the program. After discussion, Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT
(RESOLUTION 2019-22)**

Be it resolved that the Benson Police Department enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, for traffic safety enforcement projects during the period from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

The Benson Police Chief is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments as necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Benson Police Department and to be the fiscal agent and administer the grant.

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Collins, Olson, Buyck, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2019-22 duly passed and adopted.

Wolfington shared a document from the Minnesota Employment and Economic Development Division (MNDEED) on the creamery building. He said in 2012 the City applied for a grant for DEED funds to restore the property, stating within 5 years the City would find a business to use the property and generate taxes again on the property. This letter states the City no longer has to complete annual reports on the project, and we continue to look for a viable business to use the space.

The City’s public access channel is no longer operational. The equipment was located in the school. With the remodel project, they no longer wish to have this equipment located in the school, and have cut the lines. Wolfington presented a PEG access estimate for services from Charter Communications in the amount of \$9,500. He reminded the Council they approved the purchase of equipment earlier this year, and predicts the total all in cost to reestablish the public access channel will be between \$35,000-\$40,000. There was discussion of possibly moving City Hall, and decided it would be more cost effective to decide the fate of City Hall, before going ahead with this project. Wolfington noted what this channel is used for which is public notices, church services and City Council meetings, and discussed other possible options for the public to view these services other than a public access channel. The council agreed they should gather the stake holders, and hold a listening session to see what their feelings are. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to table this until after the stake holder listening session.

Next was a request for support from Prairie Five Community Action Council for their Reach out for Warmth program. Wolfington said we have supported this program annually for several years. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve \$1,000 to the Reach Out for Warmth program from the utility fund.

There was a request from the County for a matching grant for an application for a building in disrepair and in need of rehabilitation. There was a failing garage at 403 – 15th St. N. It is an after project request. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve \$500 in matching grants for the substandard garage at 403 – 15th St. N.

Wolfington presented a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) flood protection feasibility study proposal from Stantec engineering in the amount of \$34,500. He said he feels there isn't adequate flood protection for the WWTF, and we should improve the flood protection there. He said he has Laura Ostlie from UMRDC working on a grant from the US Department of Commerce and US Economic Development organizations in hopes of being awarded a grant to upgrade flood protection at the plant. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson and seconded by Buyck. Buyck asked what the total cost of the project will be after the study. Wolfington said around \$300,000. Schreck asked if we have ever conducted a study on this before. Wolfington said there was a study on the WWTF in 2006. The motion then carried unanimously.

Next was discussion on the ordinance amendment for fencing. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 154: Zoning; § 154.017 of the Benson City Code of 2003.

Next was discussion on the ordinance to amend the parking ordinance. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the 1st Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Title VII: Traffic Code, Chapter 71: Parking Offenses of the Benson City Code of 2003.

Councilmember offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION SETTING ASSESSMENTS FOR FIRE SERVICE CHARGES
BY THE CITY OF BENSON, MINNESOTA FOR 2019 PAYABLE 2020
(RESOLUTION NO. 2019-23)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Benson City Council that the following assessments for 2019 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, 2019 and placed on the tax roll for collection with the taxes Collectable in 2020.

	Name & Mailing Address	Legal Description & Parcel No.	Amount Due
Fire Call	Jesse Wells 314 – 19 th St. N. Benson, MN 56215	McKinney's 3 rd Addition Lot 1 & N. 2 ½' of Lot 9, Block 3 23-0527-000	\$350.00
TOTAL			\$350.00

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Collins, Olson, Buyck, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2019-23 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve a special meeting on Friday, November 8, 2019 at noon, at City Hall to canvass the 2019 General Election.

Wolfington said he had engineering information on the Hawleywood flood plain. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve setting a special meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at the Benson Golf Club at 6:30 p.m. to meet with the Hawleywood flood plain residents.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk