

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Terri Collins, Jon Buyck, Lucas Olson & Jack Evenson. Members Absent: Mark Schreck. Also present: City Manager Chris Webb, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Public Works Director Dan Gens, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed and Joe Maffit, Dan Enderson, Chris Carruth & Reed Anfinson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. A pay request from Joe Riley Construction Inc. and a Resolution authorizing a joint agreement with the Department of Public Safety and the Benson Police Department was added. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- November 21, 2022 City Council Minutes
- October 3, 2022 Planning Commission Minutes
- Facebook Insights for October
- Magney – Anaerobic Digester Pay Request #9-\$24,064.93-Bal to Finish-\$202,375.59
- Magney – Clearwell Pay Request #4 - \$264,174.75 – Bal. to finish - \$1,039,265.84
- Electronic Transfers:
 - Payroll: November 17, 2022 - \$99,823.62
 - Journal Entries: October 2022 - \$2,731,503.04

There was no one with unscheduled business.

Webb presented the Community Education summer recreation report for the past year. He said he met with Community Ed last week. Pool operations were also discussed.

There was a request for support from the Prom Afterbash. The City is not allowed to offer monetary support to organizations. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to deny the request for support. It was discussed the Council will personally support the Afterbash if they wish.

Gens presented an estimate for fuel filters on the caterpillar generators at the power plant. He said the filters on the generators now are old and hard to find. They found 3 and ordered them, but after researching it would be better for the generators if we had new style filters for all 5 generators. We would return the 3 old style. Gens shared the estimate for each engine receiving a new style filter would cost \$5,893.89, for a total cost of \$29,469.45. Buyck asked about the previous discussion of placing a filter before the engines. Gens said it would void any warranties if we modified the system. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the estimate submitted by Ziegler as presented.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**POLICE OFFICER DECLARATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2022-27)**

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in Minnesota Statutes 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of others; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire plan for eligible employees of police departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated therein and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Benson hereby declares that the position titled Part-Time Police Officer, currently held by Noah Marrs meets all of the following Police and Fire membership requirements:

1. Said position requires a license by the Minnesota peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and this employee is so licensed;
2. Said position's primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the state;
3. Said position charges this employee with the prevention and detection of crime;
4. Said position gives this employee the full power of arrest, and
5. Said position is assigned to a designated police or sheriff's department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the above-named employee be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of this employee's initial Police and Fire salary deduction by the governmental subdivision.

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Buyck, Olson, Collins. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2022-27 duly passed and adopted.

Tweed approached the Council to say it is time to renew the CEDA contract with the City. It is a one-year contract, with no changes from last year with the exception of a 5% increase. Evenson said the EDA recommended approval of the CEDA contract to the Council. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the 2023 contract with CEDA as presented.

Tweed presented a Housing Study Proposal to the Council. She said Swift County is updating their housing study. The last time Benson had a housing study done it was in 2015, which portrays the City and County with declining population. The last census states there has been growth in Benson, and she said she feels we could benefit from an updated housing study. This is important for developers. The Swift County HRA asked if Benson would like to participate in a joint study. Total cost for the study is \$16,900. Benson's share would be \$5,500. Tweed said there would be a section in the study that would be Benson specific. Swift County selected CEDA to conduct the study. One of the benefits of having CEDA conduct the study is the Council has the option of committing 25 hours per week of CEDA's time toward the study which will help in keeping the cost of the study down. Evenson said at the EDA Meeting today, they recommended to the City Council to approve moving forward with the housing study and to contribute the 25 hours of CEDA time to the total cost of the study instead of applying it strictly to Benson's portion of the cost. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve conducting the Housing study with Swift County at a cost of \$5,500.

The Council reviewed the October 2022 budget report.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$1,331,413.25.

Next was a pay request from Joe Riley Construction for asphalt patches. Gens said Mark Lee, who got our quote for bituminous work, was unable to finish the patching work. Joe Riley was able to

come in and complete the work. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the bill in the amount of \$29,928.72.

Chief Hodge said every year October through the following September the Police conduct traffic safety enforcement such as the Safe and Sober program. We receive a grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for the extra enforcement. Hodge said the City's match is \$1,500. After discussion, Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT
(RESOLUTION 2022-28)**

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, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

The Benson Police Chief is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments as are 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, Buyck, Olson, Collins. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2022-28 duly passed and adopted.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk