

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Terri Collins, Mark Schreck and Lucas Olson. Members Absent: Jack Evenson and Jon Buyck. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Land Team Engineer Tom Klemmenhagen, Laura Ostlie and several residents of the north end of the Hawleywood development.

Wolfington welcomed everyone and stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible flood prevention options in the north end neighborhoods of the Hawelywood addition. He recapped the previous June 2019 flood meeting. Klemmenhagen was asked to dust off the plan and with new information reconfigure flood protection options. He noted the original levee will be moved south of the powerline easement. He said the cost estimates are about the same as the cost estimates from 2013. He went on to say he feels there is a \$150,000 State DNR Grant reasonably available. In 2013 when we applied for the grant, he said we returned it for lack of desire by the homeowners to do the project, which wasn't looked upon favorably by the DNR. He said if we were awarded the grant, that would go toward the homeowner's share of the project, but there are no guarantees the City will be awarded the grant. Current cost estimates for the project is \$513,870.96. Half of this cost would be paid by the City of Benson, 25% would be paid for by assessments to affected residents and the remaining 25% would be paid by grant if we receive it.

Klemmenhagen said the 100 year floodplain was established by FEMA after these homes were built. Several homes were impacted. He said the bigger the impact on the home, the bigger the assessment will be to the homeowner. He said the base levee we are discussing today is not an Army Corp of Engineers grade of levee and not take anyone out of the flood plain. This base will be at 1034' elevation and give a base to build from. The City of Benson would then add bagsters, or flood stops on top of the levee.

The Golf Course road will be raised about 2' to provide protection to the homes along the road, and use bagsters if needed. As for the north leg running east and west, because of the power line easement holder, the levee will have to be moved to the south off the easement onto the stakeholder's property. Here the proposal is to build a retaining wall 3' x 2' x 1' through the back yards running east and west, then deploy flood stops on top of the levee in the event of a flood. The flood stops need a flat surface to sit on. Klemenhagen also proposed blocking storm sewers as well which will require pumping water over the levee or road.

An easement may need to be obtained from the property owners to build and access the levee in their back yard.

Wolfington said the structure costs are not figured into the report. In the event of a flood, the City will execute an Emergency Declaration to deploy bagsters (which we have on hand) and lease flood stops from Custom Roto Mold. These costs will not be assessed to the home owners. Wolfington said he feels flood expenses could be FEMA reimbursable.

Klemmenhagen said the levee on the north end will have a flat back to the north, and have a 4 to 1 slope which could slope 12' or so into the homeowner's back yard. Wolfington said this is not the final design, but cautioned the lowest elevation will have the highest levee in their back yard.

There was discussion and questions by the home owners. There was concern by a north end homeowner that it would ruin his back yard. Other possible options were discussed. Another homeowner

stated even if the levee is constructed, the residents will still be in a flood plain, mortgage holders will still be required to have flood insurance and have a property tax assessment for the levee.

Wolfington stated the next step will be to have a few individual conversations with homeowners, find out the interest level of those affected and decide whether to move forward. If the consensus is to move forward, the City will be required to have a public hearing in 2020 to get public feedback as well

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:29 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk