

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 16, 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, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Ryan Bjerke with CentraCare, Melissa Thompson with Swift County-Benson Health Services, Ann Johnson, Swift County Administrator Kelsey Baker, Roxy Lewis, Laura Ostlie, Police Officers Mike Nedeau, Brennen McAlpin and Brenden DeHaan.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. Pay request #1 from KHC Construction, a pay request from Prairie Five CAC, a purchase request for load management equipment and Normandy Beach was added. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

Next was the consent agenda. Evenson questioned why the anonymous plowing letter was included in the packet. Wolfington said it was addressed to the Council, and he said he felt it was the intent of the author for them to see it. It was agreed upon by the Council they cannot answer the letter as there is no way of responding to an anonymous letter. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- December 2, 2019 City Council Minutes
- Gambling Permit – Northern Lights Trails Bingo – April 4, 2020
- 2019 Cigarette Licenses for Benson Food Shop, Holiday Station, Darold's SuperValu, Glacial Plains and Dollar Store, Inc.
- Cemetery Board – Greg Zniewski
- DeMarce Theater Closing Letter
- Anonymous Plowing Letter

Donations:

\$5,000 – CHS Hometown Pride Reward – Kid Day Trailer

Electronic Transfers:

Payroll: \$157,141.46 - December 5, 2019

Journal: \$1,738,429.91 – November 2019

The Mayor called for anyone with unscheduled business. Ann Johnson approached the Council about the north end of the Civic Center. She expressed concern the School Board will not accept the Civic Center Board's lease proposal. She asked the Council consider fixing up the north end of the Civic Center for the Community and presented a list of activities that could utilize the space. She asked the Council to consider this option. Wolfington informed the Council two businesses have approached the City and are interested in leasing the north end of the Civic Center as well.

Thompson and Bjerke approached the Council to discuss the merger of Swift County-Benson Health Services and Carris Health, and CentraCare. Bjerke said he thought they would be coming to the meeting tonight for a lease signing, where CentraCare would take on the assets and liabilities of Swift County-Benson Health Services. CentraCare reviewed the Benson Hospital's finances and decided to put a pause on the agreement and wait further for a recommendation. He went on to say healthcare in Minnesota has taken a turn with the closing of some small hospitals as well as the changes in Medicare

reimbursements, they decided they need to move forward with caution. Currently there is a management agreement which states CentraCare remains committed to healthcare in the area, they still want to go forward with the \$1.6 million Epic software purchase and conversion, which will be a 3 year forgivable promissory note. They feel there will be value to Benson as well as CentraCare/Carris for better patient care. Thompson said Benson has had a management agreement with CentraCare/Rice for a while and we have seen the benefits of the agreement through purchasing power as well as management assistance. Bjerke said the ambulance service will be rolled into the CentraCare EMS group. All employees of the Benson Hospital will become CentraCare employees, leased back to the Benson Hospital. The plan is to turn the local basic life support ambulance into an advanced life support service, which is how the other ambulance services run. He went on to say 2019 was favorable for the hospital and 2020 looks even more so. Wolfington said the City is being asked to approve that the hospital sign a promissory note for the cost of the Epic Recordkeeping system in the amount of \$1.6 million, at a 6% interest for a total of \$1,924,262.28. This note shall depreciate over 3 years. It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the hospital promissory note with CentraCare Health Systems as presented.

Wolfington said the Swift County-Benson Health Services Board would like to present community member Jill Martin to fill a position on the board. After discussion, it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously approved Jill Martin to the Swift County-Benson Hospital Board with her term expiring 12/31/2022.

Wolfington said the TIF request by the hospital was next on the agenda, but Thompson said they are not ready to discuss TIF at this time.

Wolfington informed the Council the furnace in the north bay of the Street Garage is in need of replacement. Hawley's Inc. presented two options. Both options were reviewed. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the first option for a Co-Ray-Vac Infrared heat system with one 150,000 BTU burner and one vacuum pump with 90% efficiency at a cost of \$9,879.00.

An ordinance amending the Traffic Code, Chapter 73 for All Terrain vehicles was discussed. Police Chief Hodge said a citizen approached him last summer asking the City to allow side by side ATVs. The Council asked if it was necessary. Pederson asked if there are any commercial snow removal services using them. Hodge said yes, and the law allows this use already. He also stated he approves of the proposed ordinance. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, Seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to amend Title VII: Traffic code. Chapter 73: Snowmobiles: All-Terrain Vehicles of the Benson City Code of 2003.

Hodge discussed wanting to bring back the K-9 program to the Benson Police Department. He asked Officer DeHaan to approach the Council. He is asking for a \$24,471 down payment on the program which will go toward dog training school and the officer's lodging for the March training. Hodge said he wanted to get the down payment taken care of now to reserve the dog. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the pay request for a down payment on the K-9 program.

The LELS contract was reviewed. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the new LELS contract running January 1, 2020 – 12/31/2022.

The 2020 Council meeting dates were discussed. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve of the 2020 Council Meeting dates as presented.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the following Public Utilities Bad Debts list as of December 31, 2019:

ACCT. NO.	NAME	ELEC	WATER	SEWE	TAX	GARB	PEN	ST SWR	TOTAL
101-0020-02-10	Laushanda Williams	1121.04	0.00	0.00	20.39	15.03	29.90	6.83	1193.19
101-0059-00-09	John Vigil	704.30	87.59	198.72	32.93	22.00	27.19	10.00	1082.73
101-0073-00-04	Martin Enconnucion	31.06	20.93	29.25	4.51	9.53	0.00	4.33	99.61
102-0006-00-03	Colin Brooks	54.47	20.37	28.31	6.04	9.23	0.00	4.20	122.62
102-0009-00-07	Glenda Wince	26.83	0.00	0.00	4.29	11.00	0.00	5.00	47.12
103-0135-00-07	Kyle Gunderson	529.30	68.66	92.76	24.30	41.19	22.99	11.45	790.65
104-0047-00-04	Sara Kobberman	141.06	33.92	51.17	6.40	16.68	4.64	7.58	261.45
104-0143-16-08	Miranda Creech	76.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	76.54
104-0143-23-37	Trenisha Long	110.23	0.00	0.00	5.24	0.00	3.27	7.00	125.74
104-0196-00-12	Cori Gades	56.01	33.17	55.97	7.93	18.25	2.65	8.30	182.28
201-0020-00-09	Jesse Knuteson	0.00	9.68	16.33	1.19	5.32	0.00	2.42	34.94
201-0084-00-06	Tiffany Needham	239.64	21.34	35.90	3.28	4.26	3.51	1.93	309.86
202-0011-00-07	Angela Ellingson	356.01	42.58	59.71	18.28	47.46	8.92	8.85	541.81
202-0035-00-12	Todd Pincock	295.04	86.54	84.38	19.56	27.50	12.58	12.50	538.10
202-0072-00-06	Dillion Groebner	522.11	7.74	13.07	3.61	4.26	7.25	1.93	559.97
202-0076-00-05	Bernard Drivdahl	154.07	107.31	129.38	21.53	42.17	12.19	19.17	485.82
202-0095-00-08	Kristy Mondor	647.89	221.45	302.67	73.57	142.65	91.65	44.84	1524.72
202-0095-00-09	Kathy Blaha	321.42	58.62	124.66	20.64	22.73	15.39	10.33	573.79
205-0007-00-23	Nora Rodriguez	71.30	0.00	0.00	4.91	0.00	1.72	7.06	84.99
205-0105-00-03	Wayne Janiszkeski	162.95	0.00	0.00	9.01	0.00	8.03	13.60	193.59
205-0202-00-10	Dustie Queen	28.86	0.00	0.00	1.27	0.00	.16	2.52	32.81
205-0303-00-09	Sumiet Lohar	20.13	0.00	0.00	1.38	0.00	0.00	2.20	23.71
205-0413-00-36	Vashti Silas	168.37	0.00	0.00	11.58	0.00	5.31	10.74	196.00
205-0528-00-15	Tasha Batiste	103.87	0.00	0.00	6.08	0.00	2.64	8.03	120.62
205-0534-00-09	Allissa Allen	175.22	0.00	0.00	8.81	0.00	4.37	8.06	196.46
205-0535-00-11	Melissa Bonk	260.53	0.00	0.00	17.91	0.00	5.97	8.72	293.13
205-0554-00-08	Joy Nelson	510.73	0.00	0.00	35.11	0.00	13.33	11.10	570.27
205-0610-00-08	Jeannette Ruffin	302.80	0.00	0.00	15.96	0.00	7.80	7.13	333.69
205-0612-00-10	Amanda Stadtherr	104.45	0.00	0.00	7.18	0.00	2.28	7.10	121.01
301-0123-00-01	Elaine Schultz	131.16	0.00	53.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	184.25
301-0123-00-02	Richard Geyer	152.25	25.63	240.54	34.01	180.70	118.23	78.50	829.86
302-0053-00-04	Matthew Hammel	288.00	144.27	322.70	18.91	27.68	20.86	12.58	835.00
302-0107-00-07	Krystal Swierenga	98.98	99.35	66.04	16.86	37.52	4.01	9.79	332.55
302-0114-00-22	Jacob Engler	511.89	50.25	70.45	40.94	23.68	8.70	10.76	716.67
302-0114-00-23	Russell Cameron	334.08	85.39	138.94	22.86	30.25	12.12	13.75	637.39
303-0024-00-01	Mike Hoffman	43.11	13.13	19.12	3.57	6.23	0.00	2.83	87.99
303-0113-00-04	Timothy Pillatzki	20.88	9.54	13.07	2.91	8.26	0.00	1.93	56.59
303-0132-00-06	Mariah Strickler	155.58	81.58	106.88	20.10	38.83	2.74	15.83	421.54
304-0002-00-22	Jackie Solomon	74.24	69.54	114.32	13.52	37.26	7.44	16.93	333.25
304-0092-00-06	Hillary Erickson	7.96	8.47	11.25	1.49	3.67	0.00	1.67	34.51
304-0187-00-09	Veronica Tolifson	389.22	104.51	142.53	31.25	46.45	20.12	21.11	755.19
304-0187-00-10	Eric Lopez	339.30	115.39	132.89	32.05	30.94	9.66	9.07	669.30
304-0214-00-19	Michael Mitchell	4.75	0.00	0.00	.33	0.00	0.00	0.77	5.85
304-0215-00-18	Jazamine Gonzalez	132.58	0.00	0.00	9.11	0.00	4.78	15.00	161.47
305-0014-00-11	Mark Floyd	97.95	0.00	0.00	6.70	0.00	1.02	5.44	111.11
305-0015-00-28	Gharndshkumar Dave	45.88	0.00	0.00	3.15	0.00	0.00	4.13	53.16
305-0017-00-10	Patricia Green	55.34	0.00	0.00	3.80	0.00	0.74	3.56	63.44
305-0021-00-19	Melissa Bullard	12.84	0.00	0.00	0.88	0.00	-0.85	1.06	13.93
305-0023-00-09	Juan Perez	77.32	0.00	0.00	3.46	0.00	1.49	4.35	86.62
305-0049-00-21	Jada Hernandez	131.71	0.00	0.00	9.06	0.00	3.74	11.13	155.64
305-0059-00-24	Serina Lebeau/Erik Lopez	123.33	0.00	0.00	8.47	0.00	1.47	10.10	143.37
305-0059-00-26	Anish Natu/Ketan Keska	32.31	0.00	0.00	2.23	0.00	0.41	4.13	39.08
305-0064-00-09	Melinda Richards	131.27	0.00	0.00	5.98	0.00	4.05	7.00	148.30
305-0073-00-08	Pashen Martin	48.52	0.00	0.00	3.34	0.00	0.51	3.41	55.78
305-0110-00-05	Russell/Allisandra Nelson	297.31	101.57	181.80	30.48	37.03	17.30	16.83	682.32
305-0125-00-06	Colin Brooks	99.76	109.68	185.08	20.30	60.32	18.15	27.42	520.71

305-0206-00-09	Krystal Swierenga	113.57	0.00	0.00	7.81	0.00	2.87	7.00	131.25
305-0209-00-09	Frank Higdon	146.13	0.00	0.00	7.79	0.00	3.22	8.10	165.24
305-0216-00-06	Heaven Myatt	192.20	0.00	0.00	4.65	0.00	4.44	5.10	206.39
305-0219-00-09	Amy Broten	30.39	0.00	0.00	2.09	0.00	0.58	5.75	38.81
401-0035-00-02	Leah Scott	428.54	92.69	153.14	23.40	30.69	20.81	10.32	759.59
402-0011-00-15	Brock Solomon/L Weldo	322.43	82.12	95.63	25.30	31.17	10.15	14.17	580.97
402-0074-00-23	Ray Vanseveren	408.92	66.14	274.17	3.24	26.26	0.00	0.00	778.73
402-0074-00-24	Tim Johnston	116.29	63.86	98.66	15.51	32.15	3.66	14.62	344.75
402-0158-00-01	Terry Flodstrom	474.05	29.07	110.63	11.23	15.00	8.45	6.82	655.25
402-0158-00-02	Erin Stueckrath	207.29	40.43	46.13	7.88	15.03	6.58	6.83	330.17
402-0189-00-11	Rachael Kellen	250.82	129.77	181.13	34.09	87.03	32.74	26.83	742.41
403-0062-00-02	Nick Molden/Ethan Solo	58.74	0.00	0.00	6.28	22.90	1.17	5.81	94.90
501-0089-00-07	Unique Boutique	12.10	18.33	24.75	2.09	0.00	0.00	8.80	66.07
501-0129-00-06	Samantha Shelstad	9.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	9.90
502-0093-00-21	Chantz Saterbak	134.59	0.00	0.00	12.74	35.78	4.23	9.76	197.10
601-0135-00-15	Kyle Kurkosky	55.02	32.89	35.86	5.50	0.00	1.90	3.19	134.36
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>14094.34</b>	<b>2,393.50</b>	<b>4,041.08</b>	<b>908.25</b>	<b>1,304.09</b>	<b>651.23</b>	<b>695.49</b>	<b>24,087.98</b>

Councilmember Schreck presented the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION SETTING ASSESSMENTS FOR WATER AND  
SEWER SERVICES RENDERED BY THE CITY OF  
BENSON, MINNESOTA FOR 2019 PAYABLE 2020  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2019-33)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Benson City Council that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 444 that the assessment roll for 2019 Sewer and Water Bills as prepared by the City Manager is hereby approved and made a part therefore; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assessments hereinafter noted shall be submitted to the County Auditor on or before December 17, 2019 and placed on the tax roll for collection with the taxes collectable in 2020.

Account Number, Name & Address	Legal Description & Parcel No.	Sewer	Water	Totals
102-0009-00-07 314 10 <sup>th</sup> St. N Glenda Wince	City of Benson Lts 14,15 & 16 Blk 2 23-0012-000-01	\$33.75	\$20.00	\$53.75
202-0076-00-04 211 19 <sup>th</sup> St. N Ebnet Investments LLC	Arthur Thornton Addition Lts 1 & 2 Blk 51 23-0320-000-01	\$73.53	\$43.03	\$116.56
301-0065-00-14 703 15 <sup>th</sup> St. S Kristine Knuteson	Southside Addition Lot 9 Blk 7 23-0913-000-01	\$371.25	\$28.04	\$399.29
302-0057-00-01 200 15 <sup>th</sup> St. S Randy Olson	Morris & Payte's Addition Lts 1 & 2 Blk 42 23-0257-000-01	\$438.75	\$85.24	\$523.99
303-0030-00-06 1942 Wisconsin Ave Matthew McPhail	Fairview Addition E 75 FT Lots 1-6 Blk 4 23-0801-000-01	\$146.00	\$60.00	\$206.00
303-0087-00-03 207 21 <sup>st</sup> St. S. Dennis Moreland	Fairview Addition Lots 16-18 Blk 7; S 20' Lot 15 Blk 7 23-0825-000-01	\$157.87	\$95.35	\$253.22
304-0002-00-21 & 23	Morris & Payte's Addition	\$122.06	\$76.80	\$198.86

201 17 <sup>th</sup> St S Ebnet Investments, LLC	Lts 23 & 24 Blk 43 23-0279-000-01			
306-0262-00-02 704 18 <sup>th</sup> St. S Al Hall	Westwood Acres Addition Lot 3 Blk 2 23-1300-000-01	\$135.00	\$80.00	\$215.00
402-0185-00-12 212 9 <sup>th</sup> St. S Jose Salinas	City of Benson Lots 10,11, & 12 Blk 6 23-0029-000-01	\$526.50	\$68.04	\$594.54
402-0189-00-12 200 9 <sup>th</sup> St. S Ebnet Investments, LLC	City of Benson Lots 1, 2, & 3 Blk 6 23-0026-000-01	\$88.87	\$59.87	\$148.74
403-0096-00-02 417 13 <sup>th</sup> St. S Dean Christenson	Railway First Addition Lts 27 & 28 Blk3: S5 Ft Lot 29 Blk 3 23-0345-000-01	\$202.50	\$108.09	\$310.59
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$2,296.08</b>	<b>\$724.46</b>	<b>\$3,020.54</b>

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded:  
 AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared  
 Resolution 2019-33 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve a pay  
 request from Stantec Engineering for engineering services for the 2020 Comprehensive plan in the  
 amount of \$9,358.75.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve a pay request  
 from Stantec Engineering for 2019 general engineering costs in the amount of \$6,988.23.

It was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a pay request  
 from Stantec Engineering for engineering services for water plant remediation in the amount of  
 \$3,499.87.

It was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a pay request  
 from Stantec Engineering for engineering services for wastewater treatment plant flood protection in the  
 amount of \$940.00.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve a pay request  
 from Stantec Engineering for engineering services for the wastewater filter replacement in the amount of  
 \$48,992.01.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE FINAL GENERAL AND LIBRARY OPERATING BUDGET  
 AND GENERAL CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET  
 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020 FOR THE CITY OF BENSON, MINNESOTA  
 (RESOLUTION NO. 2019-34)**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Final General and Library Operating Budget and General Capital  
 Outlay Budget for the City of Benson, Minnesota, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 and  
 ending December 31, 2020 is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Budget is summarized as follows:

**Revenues**

Taxes - General Fund	1,496,352
Taxes – Library	117,764
State Grants and Aids	1,261,062
Other Revenues	<u>831,884</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>3,707,062</b>

**Expenditures**

General Government	402,716
Public Safety	1,368,048
Highways, Streets and Roads	664,390
Parks and Recreation	537,220
Library	121,164
Capital Outlay	390,000
Other Expenditures	<u>223,524</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>3,707,062</b>

**Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures** **\$0**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager shall cause the entire final Operating Budget to be printed and filed in the City Office for inspection and reference by the public.

Councilmember Buyck seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2019-34 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL 2019 PROPERTY  
TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2020  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2019-35)**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, Minnesota that the following proposed sums of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2020, upon the taxable property in the City of Benson, for the following purposes:

General Fund Levy	\$756,319
Police Personnel	740,033
Library Fund Levy	117,764
G.O. Equipment Bonds 2014 – Golf	47,959
G.O. CIP Bonds 2014 - Street Garage	71,500
G. O. CIP Bonds 2017 - Police Department	<u>88,069</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,821,644</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following sum of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2020, based upon the market value of the taxable property in the City of Benson, for the following purpose:

G.O. Swimming Pool	\$ <u>71,090</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,090</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$60,170.25 is irrevocably appropriated from the Utility Fund to the equipment portion of the \$1,130,000 G. O. Bond, Series 2012A Fund to cover that portion of the 2020 tax levy.

Councilmember Schreck seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2019-35 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$351,316.76.

Wolfington presented a pay request for the wastewater treatment plant. It was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve pay request #1 from KHC Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$10,291.35.

Next was a pay request from Prairie Five Community Action Council for Prairie Five Rides for 2019. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the pay request in the amount of \$10,388.73.

Pederson presented a purchase request for load management equipment. It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the purchase order with OmniPro Software request in the amount of \$37,800.

Next Wolfington explained in 1944 Benson native William McGowan was shot down over Normandy Beach. His remains were found just before the Anniversary of D-Day . The family plans to intern his remains in France, and has invited a representative from the City of Benson to attend. Reed and Shelly Anfinson of the Monitor News plan to attend. The Mayor said she ran into the descendants of Mr. McGowan at the League of Minnesota Cities Annual conference. Wolfington said he feels the Community would be eager to contribute toward sending a delegate to the funeral, which is planned for June 26, 2020.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:40 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk