

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Sue Fitz, Mike Fugleberg, Jack Evenson, & Stephanie Heinzig. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Fire Chief Mark Schreck, Fire Department Officers Rob Lee, Bob Hoberg, Dan Vollan, Lineman Dave Johnson, Jerry Peterson, Bill Dethloff, Jon Hawley and Rob Hoffman.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- February 2, 2015      City Council Minutes
- January 5, 2015      Planning Committee Minutes
- January 15, 2015     EDA Minutes

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit for the Swift County Gobblers on April 10, 2015.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit for Ducks Unlimited on April 11, 2015.

Fire Chief Schreck and Assistant Fire Chief Rob Lee approached the Council and presented the 2014 Fire Report. Schreck reviewed the recent Insurance Services Office (ISO) report conducted on the Fire Department. The Benson Fire Department received a very high rating. He stated one reason our rating improved was having a large water supply available in the new water tower. Schreck mentioned they have incorporated carbon dioxide education during Fire Week. He also mentioned the Fire Department has applied for a FEMA grant for air packs that will need to be replaced next year. Lee said BNSF Railroad invited the Fire Department to Pueblo, CO to train on the hazards created by transporting crude oil by rail train. He felt the training was very informative.

Next Jerry Peterson and Bill Dethloff approached the Council on the Golf Club House renovation. Peterson presented goals, and explained the windows are rotting, new doors are needed, new HVAC is needed, the bathrooms are not handicapped accessible and there are some structural and foundation issues. They felt it would be beneficial to hire an engineer to look at the structure of the building and design renovation plans. There have been some sewer issues. Hawley's has cleaned the line twice a year, and grease has been a large part of the problem. After discussion, it was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a structural assessment and building plans by Engan Associates in the amount of \$4,950.

Jon Hawley and Rob Hoffman from the Racquetball Club presented a budget of items they would like to complete. The membership would do as much of the volunteer labor as possible. The sauna refurbish is a priority. The Racquetball Club is applying for \$6,000 in local grants, and is asking for \$12,000 from the City. Pederson stated there are funds allocated in the Parks Capital Outlay budget for improvements. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve up to \$12,000 for the Racquetball 2015 repairs projects.

Next Gens and Johnson approached the Council to discuss the overhead to underground service connection plan. This plan will cover burying the electrical lines from the pole to the home. The City will

pay for the installation by private contractor and when it is complete, the City will sell the service to the homeowner for \$1. Telephone and cable lines will be buried at the same time. The plan for 2015 is to convert 30 homes at an estimated cost of \$30,000. They discussed the contract between the homeowner and City, specifications for the contractor and a pamphlet of explanation of the project. The targeted number of homes per year will be determined by how many can be done a year. After discussion it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the Overhead-to-Underground Residential Conversion plan and conversion installation costs up to \$30,000.

Gens presented an advertisement for bids for the Wisconsin Avenue to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street South Sanitary Sewer replacement. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve advertising for bids.

Chief Hodge approached the Council with a capital authorization request for a new 2015 police vehicle off the State bid. This Ford Inceptor will replace the 2011 Crown Vic which has had several costly repairs. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a 2015 Ford Inceptor SUV squad, with equipment installation and decommissioning of the 2011 Crown Vic in the amount of \$34,875.49

Fitz had a call from a citizen who read the Blighted Property Ordinance passed at the February 2, 2015 meeting that was published in the Swift County Monitor News. The citizen wanted some minor language changes to the ordinance. There was discussion on the items concerning the citizen and it was the consensus to have Fitz ask her to bring the exact language changes to the March 2, 2015 City Council Meeting.

Next was a conference call with Peggy Harter from Stantec Engineers on the Benson Rail Study. She discussed her findings and suggested changes to the four crossings in Benson. After the call, there was discussion on the findings. Heinzig felt it would be good to have the Intelligent Transportation Systems at all three crossings instead of one, and also expressed concern with turning two crossings into one-way streets and how it may affect downtown businesses. Wolfington stated the next step would be to have a diagnostic meeting with the City, Railroad and MnDOT.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the January bills and warrants in the amount of \$544,605.77.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve Pastor William Warnock to the Cemetery Board with his term ending December 31, 2017.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk