

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Evenson. Members present: Jack Evenson, Chris Carruth and Mark Schreck, Members Absent: Dan Enderson and Nancy Maanum. Also present: City Clerk Valerie Alsaker, Director of Finance Lisa Kent, City Manager Kyle Harris, Assistant City Attorney Stephen Kowal, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Sergeant Scott Girard and Reed Anfinson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor added a gambling permit for the Swift County Gobblers and the Benson Golf Club to the agenda. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- February 5, 2024 City Council Minutes
- January 8, 2024 Planning Commission Minutes
- January 16, 2024 EDA Minutes
- Charter Communications Channel Changes
- Bolton & Menk Pay Request – BBB Master Plan Update - \$7,200.00
- Bolton & Menk Pay Request – Airport AWOS - \$6,000.00
- Magney Construction Pay Request #14 - \$61,646.66 – Bal. to Finish - \$45,085.23
- Electronic Transfers:  
Payroll: February 8, 2024 - \$117,044.50

There was no one with unscheduled business.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Title XIII, Chapter 133 Cannabis Use.

The 2023 Kid Day Report submitted by LeAnn Simonson was reviewed by Council.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the Minnesota Rural Water Association annual membership in the amount of \$1,368.95.

Next Harris presented a bill from the Southwest Initiative Foundation for support in the amount of \$1,000. Harris said the EDA recommended approval of support to Council back in July of 2023. We recently received their invoice. The last time the City paid this was in 2019. Carruth asked what does the City get for their membership. Harris said Tweed is not here today to explain it. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to table this until the next City Council meeting for a more information on this.

Harris brought the bill for the snowflake Christmas lights. There was discussion on the freight. After further discussion, it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to pay Display Sales in the amount of \$12,561.00.

Next Harris said the electrical panel in the pool is scheduled to be moved by staff this year from in the chlorine room, which is a corrosive environment, to another room behind the concessions. He presented a quote from Border States for some parts for the project that have a long lead time. There is an additional charge for stainless steel disconnects, which will last longer. There was a \$20,000 estimate for some other components to the project, to which Harris said he hasn't ordered, and staff said the lead time isn't as long. He said Council can either approve or wait on this quote. After discussion, it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the first quote from Border States in the amount of \$31,575.00.

Harris went on to say we have four pool grates we are required to replace at the pool. He presented a quote to Council. It was moved by Carruth, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the quote from Horizon Commercial Pools in the amount of \$5,668.80.

Next was a quote for 90 street light heads to convert the downtown street lights to LED. Harris said \$40,000 is budgeted for the project. He said he had a quote from another company for slightly more money but decided not to bring it because if we ordered from another company, we would have inventory from two different companies. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the quotation from JT Services for GreebCobra midsize LED street light heads in the amount of \$35,550.00.

Harris said our 2007 dump truck just went through MnDOT certification, and failed. He presented a bill from Huston & Sons Truck Repair, LLC who conducted the inspection. They are a certified DOT inspector. The cost to get the truck certified and back into service is quite costly. We have another truck going in for inspection that is older, which may also have similar issues. Schreck suggested Street Department staff may be able to save on the bill by doing some of the work in house. Carruth said he felt some of this stuff could be caught in the pre-trip setting. After discussion, it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the bill from Houston & Sons Truck Repair, LLC in the amount of \$11,582.74.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$409,383.30.

Harris presented exempt wages to the Council. The Personnel Committee met last August. He said he went on the State website that looked at job classifications as a whole. He went on to say ultimately there was no Police Chief or Finance Director categories but looked at what fit the closest in the private and public sectors. He said what is before you is what has been discussed, what has been approved and is in the budget. It was then moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and approved unanimously to set the exempt wages for 2024 as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Proposed 2024</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>	<b>Dollar Increase</b>
Lisa Kent	Director of Finance	\$86,500	\$91,700	6%	\$5,200
Ian Hodge	Police Chief	\$94,800	\$110,000	16%	\$15,200
Tim Miller	Liquor Store Manager	\$55,000	\$56,650	3%	\$1,650

Valerie Alsaker	City Clerk	\$73,200	\$77,600	6%	\$4,400
Scott Girard	Police Sergeant	\$35.80	\$41.52	16%	\$5.72

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit from NWTF Swift County Gobblers on March 29, 2024.

It was moved by Carruth, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit from the Benson Golf Club Foundation on July 15, 2024.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Carruth, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 5:49 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk