

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Heinzig. Members present: Terri Collins, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heinzig & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: Gary Landmark. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Public Works Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Sally Jones, Brooke Dillon, Bill Bridgeland, Joan Razink, Marla Forbord, Ashley Henriksen and Firemen Chief Jeff Reuss, Mark Schreck, Bob Hoberg and Tom Ascheman.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Heinzig asked for any changes to the agenda. Wolfington asked to move the Parking Citations to the March 6, 2017 meeting. There were no additions to the agenda. No consent agenda items were moved to the regular agenda. A motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended. It was moved by Collins, Seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- February 6, 2017 City Council Minutes
- Charter Communications Price Increase Letter
- Police Report
- Gambling Permit for the Swift County Gobblers on March 24, 2017

The Mayor Pro-Tem asked for people with unscheduled business, to which there were none.

Former Fire Chief Mark Schreck and current Fire Chief Jeff Reuss approached the Council and presented their annual Fire Report for 2016. Chief Reuss thanked Schreck for his years serving as Fire Chief. Mayor Pro-Tem presented Schreck with an American Flag in appreciation for his years of service.

Next Wolfington and Pederson discussed the Benson Fire Relief Association for the firemen. PERA offers a cost analysis of retirement coverage in the statewide volunteer firefighter retirement plan. A study can be done to see if it would be more beneficial to have PERA manage the Fire Relief Retirement Association Investments. It is time consuming to administer, and becoming more difficult for the volunteer firemen to stay abreast of all the issues. After discussion, it was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve having PERA conduct a cost analysis to include the Fire Relief Association in the statewide retirement plan.

Mayor Pro-Tem Heinzig opened the Public Hearing to discuss the Small Cities Development Program application to the Department of Employment and Economic Development at 5:45 pm. Wolfington presented a draft copy of the application to the Council and audience. He said it is a Federal grant and explained how the program is funded. He talked about the focus area based on returned letters of intent from both commercial and residential owners. He explained the income guidelines and the amount of equity a homeowner will need in order to participate if the City of Benson is awarded the grant. He also explained what the grant money can be used for. If Benson is awarded the Small Cities Grant, Swift County HRA will process the residential applications and the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission will process the commercial applications. He stated we hope to hear on the grant awards by late spring. Wolfington answered questions from citizens attending the meeting.

It was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission for the Small Cities grant proposal in the amount of \$6,026.35.

Next Sally Jones, Grounds Manager at the Benson Golf Course approached the Council with a Capital Outlay Request for a used 2007 Toro Groundsmaster mower for the rough. They will have trade-in on their old mower. Pederson stated there is \$25,000 in the budget to transfer to the Golf club for them to use for equipment. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the transfer to the Benson Golf Club in the amount of \$24,500.

Wolfington said the Cemetery Board had been looking at benches to be placed on the cement around the columbarium at the Cemetery. They priced 3 curved benches which will take 12 weeks to make and install. The hope is to have them in place by Memorial Day. After discussion, it was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the proposal from Eickhof for 3 curved backless benches for the cemetery in the amount of \$5,546.00.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of an Ordinance to Amend Title IX: General Regulations; Benson City Code of 2003.

Wolfington said the Wastewater Treatment Facility received an operational award from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for 2016. The award is for outstanding operation, maintenance and management of the wastewater system. The award will be presented at the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Wastewater Operations Conference on March 30, 2017 in Brooklyn Park.

Wolfington presented an evaluation done by Stantec on the condition of the wastewater plant. He asked the Council to review it before the next Council meeting on March 6, 2017.

Next Wolfington presented a letter from MnDOT in reference to the railroad crossing on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, east of Benson. This crossing has been selected to install a new railroad crossing signal system with flashers and gates. This project is all at no cost to the City. This project will be included in the 2018-2021 State Transportation Improvement programs, which will be submitted to FHWA for approval.

Police Chief Hodge gave an update on the Police Department building.

Pederson presented a preliminary draft of the floor plan to attach City Hall to the Armory building.

The Council discussed the Chamber of Commerce membership drive. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve a \$50 Government and Retail membership and \$240 membership for the Liquor Store.

Next was the Civic Center roof bids. Wolfington stated there was one bid from Marcus Construction. The bid came in higher than the budgeted amount of \$110,000. Wolfington said there are several leaks in the roof on the north end of the Civic Center where Case is renting. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the bid from Marcus Construction in the amount of \$129,590.00.

Wolfington presented the Order Approving the Annexation of the Girls Ranch from the State of Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings. This makes the annexation official.

Councilmember Collins offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING \$80,000 FROM  
THE LIQUOR FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2017-06)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson owns and operates a Municipal Liquor Store, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has budgeted to transfer \$80,000 from the Liquor fund to the General Fund for calendar year 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorized the transfer of \$80,000 from the Liquor Fund to the General Fund.

Councilmember Evenson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Collins, Heinzig, Olson, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor Pro-Tem declared Resolution 2017-06 duly passed and adopted.

Next was a pay request from Goff Masonry & Concrete for basement repairs to the building at 1226 Atlantic Avenue per the loan agreement with Mi Mexico. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to Goff Masonry & Concrete in the amount of \$10,800.00.

It was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$670,053.70.

Pederson presented the 2017 Budget Books to each Councilmember.

The Mayor Pro-Tem closed the Public Hearing at 6:52 pm.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor