

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Mark Schreck, Lucas Olson, Jon Buyck. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Swift County-Benson Health Services Interim Hospital Administrator Mary Ellen Wells, Line Superintendent John Goulet, Swift County-Benson Health Services Chief Financial Officer Dan Enderson, and Golf Course Groundskeeper Sally Jones.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. Gens asked to add an additional bid for the wastewater lift truck. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

It was moved by Schreck seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- January 14, 2019 City Council Minutes
- December 17, 2018 EDA Minutes
- January 25-26, 2019 Strategic Planning Notes
- Charter Communications Broadcast Surcharge Rate Adjustment
- Golf Club Balance Sheet
- Proposal for Services – Benson Civic Center Code & Structural Analysis
- MN Deer Hunters Gambling Permit Date Change to April 12, 2019

There were no persons with unscheduled business.

Mary Ellen Wells, Interim CEO for Swift County-Benson Health Services approached the Council. She thanked the hospital, City and community for making her feel at home. She discussed the future of small hospitals like Benson. The two questions the hospital is asking are should the hospital remain independent or should they look at affiliation with another system. There are 5 major elements being assessed: 1) What services should the hospital offer 2) quality of services 3) facilities & technology 4) people 5) finances. She stressed the importance of the City weighing in and she will be in contact with the City in the near future.

Wolfington presented the current zoning map. There are three areas that have not been zoned. Two are along the railroad track & highway 12 running to the east and highway 9 running to the west. The third is the newly annexed Girls Ranch property. After discussion, it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the 1st reading of an Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map by Rezoning Certain Land in the City of Benson, Swift County, Minnesota .

Wolfington stated over the weekend, the City of Benson was served with a notice of contested case of Fibrominn site assets. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MNPUC). Is taking public comments for the period running from February 15, 2019 – March 1, 2019. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter to the MNPUC.

Next was discussion on four proposals for strategic planning and marketing services. The first was from Doug Griffiths. His proposal was for \$65,000. DWA Consulting Team was for a minimum of

\$50,000. Huelife was at a minimum of \$7,500. Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) and Swift County RDA was free of charge for member cities. Evenson said he wanted to continue with Doug Griffiths for continuity. Olson felt Griffiths cost was too high and was leaning toward MRES/RDA. Schreck, and Buyck were also in agreement with using MRES/RDA. It was then moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck. NAYS: Evenson. The motion carried. Evenson and Buyck volunteered to be on the Strategic Planning Committee. Wolfington felt they would have up to 20 people at the planning event. The dates were set for April 11-13, 2019.

The Christmas incandescent lights on the business buildings down town are aging, and in need of repair. Gens and Goulet approached with examples of LED light replacements. Goulet discussed the significant savings going with LED. Goulet said including labor it will cost \$35,000 to replace all the lights. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to replace the lights with the “sunlight” style LED bulb.

Wolfington discussed the pipeline safety training coming up on the 19th of February. The Council was in agreement it would be a good training event. After discussion, it was agreed to move the City Council meeting that night up to 4:30 p.m. to address any business, then adjourn and go to the training together in Willmar.

Next was a request for support from the First Evangelical Free Church for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve financial support in the amount of \$600 to the First Evangelical Free Church’s annual Easter Egg hunt.

Jones approached with a request to purchase 3 pieces of equipment for the golf course. First was a 2013 Toro 3150 Greens Master mower, to replace the current 1991 greens mower at a cost of \$13,500. The second piece of equipment is a Toro Sandpro sandtrap 3020 rake at a cost of \$6,300. The final piece of equipment is a used John Deere Gator from Midwest Machine for \$4,400. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to allow the golf course the aforementioned pieces of equipment.

Next was the 2019 annual membership dues with Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association. Wolfington said they provided support for sewer, water electric utilities and safety. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the 2019 Dues in the amount of \$6,188.00.

Wolfington & Gens presented designs for the arrival/departure building at the airport. Gens said at the Airport Commission meeting this morning the board did not want the landscaping proposed in the design, but liked the building design submitted. Wolfington reminded the Council the project is 95% federally funded. After discussion it was moved by Olson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the building design, with changes to the landscape design as discussed.

Gens presented a capital outlay request for a new snow plow. The old one has been repaired many times and is splitting down the middle. They keep repairing it and it is at the end of our ability to repair. Gens said we can get \$4,500 in trade-in on the old one. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to purchase a snow plow from RDO Equipment in the amount of \$42,960.00.

Gens said after PeopleService took their pick-up with the crane on it, we do not have a safe way to remove our lift station pumps out for repairs. He presented a capital outlay request for a new truck and crane. The crane is on the state bid at a cost of \$16,649.31. He presented two quotes for the truck. The first was from Midway Ford in Roseville, MN in the amount of \$28,142.84. The second was from Nolan Baker Ford in Kerkhoven, MN in the amount of \$28,622.94. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of the crane on the state bid in the amount of \$16, 649.31, and the truck bid from Nolan Baker Ford in the amount of \$28,622.94.

Next Gens presented several quotes he would like to go out for work in 2019. It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve going out for the following quotes: concrete crushing, chip sealing, bituminous paving, concrete work and tires.

Currently the City of Benson accepts septic and sludge dumping from surrounding services. We are seeing an increase in applications for sludge licenses as surrounding towns no longer take the septage. The waste can be highly concentrated and we never know for sure what is being dumped. Gens went on to request the City no longer issues licenses or accepts outside septage. He said the Willmar wastewater plant is built to handle this waste. If the City decides to no longer accept this waste, haulers will have to go to Willmar or make other arrangements. Wolfington then stated he will change City policy to no longer allow septic and sludge dumping at the City of Benson Wastewater plant.

Pederson presented an annual transfer request. Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING \$80,000 FROM
THE LIQUOR FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND
(RESOLUTION NO. 2019-05)**

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 2019.

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

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 2019-05 duly passed and adopted.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk