

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Landmark. Members present: Terri Collins, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heinzig, Gary Landmark & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Prairie 5 Rides Manager Ted Nelson, Stan Olson and Shawn Tolifson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Landmark asked for any additions to the agenda. Wolfington asked to add a couple of comments at the end of the meeting to the agenda. No consent agenda items were moved to the regular agenda. A motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Olson 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:

- January 17, 2017 City Council Minutes
- January 20-21, 2017 City Council Strategic Planning Minutes
- January 12, 2017 Safety Committee Meeting
- December 16, 2016 EDA Meeting
- January 18, 2017 Transit Advisory Committee Minutes
- Dan Enderson to the EDA Board with his term expiring 12/31/2020

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

Wolfington stated he had a call from Stan Olson wanting to donate 7.32 acres of land in his subdivision on the south edge of town. Stan discussed the legal transfer of title and that sewer and water is already stubbed in up to the property. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to accept the gift of 7.32 acres of land in the Homewood 8th Addition per the agreement presented.

Next Ted Nelson with Prairie 5 Rides approached the Council to give a 6 month review of the bus service since Prairie 5 took over. He said the merge was very easy and the drivers have done a great job. There will be a new bus coming to the Benson service. He has been evaluating the weekend service. The State sets a 3 ride per hour minimum to justify service. He has plans to discontinue the Saturday and Sunday service. The City has the option to continue the service at a cost of \$50 per hour in order for Prairie 5 to recover costs. He feels weekend service isn't cost effective. After discussion it was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve discontinuing bus service on the weekends starting March 1, 2017.

Next Wolfington gave an update on the status of the Small Cities Grant. There are 20 residential and 6 or more commercial rehabilitations interested. The City must pledge \$33,750 and the revolving loan fund will pledge \$25,000 toward the rehabs. It was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to set a public hearing on the Small Cities Grant for February 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SMALL CITIES
PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION
(RESOLUTION 2017-02)**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Benson act as the legal sponsor for the project contained in the SCDP Application to be submitted on or before February 23rd, 2017 and that the City of Benson Mayor, Gary Landmark and the City Manager, Rob Wolfington are hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for funding of this project on behalf of the City of Benson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Benson has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability to ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of the proposed project for its design life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Benson has not violated any Federal, State or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of its application by the State, City of Benson may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the approved project, and that the City of Benson certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Benson Mayor, Gary Landmark and Benson City Manager, Rob Wolfington, or their successors in office, are hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Applicant.

Councilmember Heinzig seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Collins, Landmark, Heinzig, Olson, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2017-02 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING “SLUM AND BLIGHTING” CONDITIONS
(RESOLUTION 2017-03)**

WHEREAS, The City of Benson is undertaking a program of downtown revitalization and redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, The City of Benson has identified a specific area hereafter referred to as the “target area” in which revitalization activities will occur; and

WHEREAS, The City of Benson has assessed the condition of buildings and the other characteristics of the target area and has determined that the area can be characterized as blighted by reasons of “dilapidation, obsolescence, overcrowding, faulty arrangement or design, lack of ventilation, light, and sanitary facilities, excessive land coverage, deleterious land use or obsolete layout, or any condition of these factors, which are detrimental to the safety, health, morals, or welfare of the “community” in accordance with M.S. 469.002, Sub.11.

FURTHERMORE, the Benson City Council has identified the existence of substandard residential units, the inability of commercial structures to meet codes, the general condition of deteriorating storefronts on the commercial buildings and the existence of dilapidated structures in the area as contributing to the slum and blighting conditions of the target area. (See attached map of target area.)

THEREFORE, BY RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON THE AREA IDENTIFIED AS THE TARGET AREA (SEE ATTACHED MAP) IS CHARACTERIZED BY CONDITIONS MEETING THE DEFINITION OF ‘SLUM AND BLIGHT’.

Councilmember Collins seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Collins, Landmark, Heinzig, Olson, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2017-03 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REREPRESENTATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2017-04)**

WHEREAS, THE Governing body of the City of Benson, Minnesota has entered into the agreement establishing the Missouri Basin Municipal Power Agency, d.b.a. Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), and as a member thereof is entitled to a representative who shall represent the Municipal Utility in the business of MRES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Rob Wolfington be and he is hereby authorized and appointed as the representative of the City of Benson, Minnesota, and is authorized to represent the Benson's Municipal Utility in the business of MRES, within the powers, duties and responsibilities as provided in said agreement. The alternate representative, Gary Landmark, is hereby designated and appointed, and authorized to represent the City with equal powers.

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Collins, Landmark, Heinzig, Olson, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2017-04 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATION OF AUTHORIZED REREPRESENTATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2017-05)**

WHEREAS, THE Governing body of the City of Benson, Minnesota has entered into an agreement to establish The Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA), and as a member thereof is entitled to a representative who shall represent the Municipal Utility in the business of WMMPA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Robert Wolfington be and is hereby authorized and appointed as the representative of the City of Benson, Minnesota, to represent the Municipal Utility in the business of WMMPA, with the powers, duties and responsibilities as provided in said agreement. The alternate representative, Gary Landmark, is hereby authorized and appointed with equal powers.

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Collins, Landmark, Heinzig, Olson, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2017-05 duly passed and adopted.

Wolfington presented two proposals for demolition of two blighted properties. One property had some floor tile and mastic removed because of asbestos. After discussion it was moved by Collins, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve a demolition proposal from T & K Kennedy Excavating, Inc. at 1810 Atlantic Avenue in the amount of \$9,668.00. It was moved by Collins, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve a demolition proposal from T & K Kennedy Excavating, Inc. at 313 – 16th St. N. in the amount of \$7,948.00.

Wolfington discussed that cities across Minnesota are passing ordinances on where level 3 sex offenders can live. Wolfington presented an ordinance to the Council which outlines just that. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the 1st reading of an ordinance to Amend Title IX: General Regulations; Benson City Code of 2003.

Next was discussion on several snow tickets issued during the last snow storm, and the desire of the ticket recipients to appeal their parking tickets. After discussion it was moved by Collins, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to set a public hearing for February 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Police Chief Hodge approached the Council. He presented a purchase agreement for the Loen Building at 2110 Hall Avenue for the new Police Department building. He stated the closing can take place in February, and the Police will take possession in June. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to purchase the property at 2110 Hall Avenue in the amount of \$199,500.

Gens presented three capital authorization requests for a new skid steer, new mosquito sprayer and a new small electrical bucket truck.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a 2017 John Deere Skid Steer in the amount of \$40,000.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a Clarke Cougar Smart Flow mosquito sprayer in the amount of \$9,868.80.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a small bucket for the electric department per State of Minnesota contract in the amount of \$123,424.00.

Val Alsaker, Safety Coordinator approached the Council and presented a program sponsored by the City's health insurance through the Southwest West Central Services Coop, through the Wellness Institute. It is a program the employees sign up for voluntarily. The 2017 program offers a free Fitbit and a \$100 contribution into their HSA or VEBA account by the insurance company if they agree to participate in the program. This program will sunset on 12/31/2017. The objective is to get people moving which in turn will help bring down healthcare costs. After discussion, it was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement for the 2017 program.

Wolfington presented the architectural proposals and scope of work at the Armory for a possible City Hall addition and asked for the Council to accept the proposal to move forward on the scope of work. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the proposal from Widseth, Smith and Nolting as presented.

Next the Council discussed the Strategic Planning meeting from January 20-21, 2017. They liked the moderator, Bill Radio, venue, food and how the meeting was laid out. It was agreed to work on the City Mission Statement and the Council directed Wolfington to bring back some examples of other Cities mission statements.

Next Wolfington did a presentation on the National Flood Insurance and Benson Flood Plain Regulation.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk