

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Mayor Pro-Tem Fitz. Members present: Mike Fugleberg, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heinzig & Sue Fitz. Members Absent: Paul Kittelson. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Benson HRA Director Michelle Bouta, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Cherrie Stielow and Shannon Herrington.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fitz opened the public hearing on the Wellhead Protection Plan at 5:30 p.m.

Wolfington said on Friday, March 14, 2014 at noon, all three railroad crossings in town and the crossings on the east and west edges of town were blocked for one hour and forty two minutes by several trains stopping on the tracks. Chief Hodge stated he has written six citations in the last thirty days. Wolfington stated trains tying up the tracks for this kind of time are a risk to public safety. He went on to say an ambulance was stuck behind the train during this time that day. Wolfington said Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad will be contesting recent citations in court this Friday.

Next Michelle Bouta from the Benson Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) approached the Council. Bouta said they took bids for an elevator modernization project, which came in significantly higher than anticipated. Bouta estimated they are short about \$70,000 if they use a CD they currently have. The Elevator has been stopping between floors and is a safety issue. Wolfington stated there is a special Benson HRA meeting on April 7, 2014 to discuss the elevators and financing. The project will be scheduled this summer. Bouta asked the Council if they would consider transferring up to \$125,000 from the Community Development Revolving Fund when and if needed. Wolfington will keep the Council posted.

Next Fitz asked if there was anyone present with unscheduled business. Cherrie Stielow and Shannon Herrington asked about having chickens in their back yard. Wolfington said chickens are currently not permitted in the City limits, and there has been no variance given. He went on to say the question should go on to the Planning Commission first. At that time, the Planning Commission could review the ordinance, and send a recommendation to the City Council. Mr. Herrington and Ms. Stielow said they will talk to the Planning Commission.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the following minutes on the consent agenda:

- March 3, 2014 City Council Meeting
- December 2, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting
- January 13, 2014 Park Board Meeting

It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following liquor licenses effective April 13, 2014 contingent upon receiving the necessary paperwork:

**Club On-Sale Liquor License:**

Benson VFW

**Sunday Liquor License:**

Benson VFW

Benson Bowler

Benson Golf Club

Patrick's Pub & Grill

McKinney's on Southside

**On-Sale Liquor License:**

Benson Bowler

Benson Golf Club

Patrick's Pub & Grill

Mi Mexico

McKinney's on Southside

**Sidewalk Café Permit**

Patrick's Pub & Grill, LLC

Mi Mexico

**Off-Sale 3.2 Malt Beverage License:**

Holiday Stationstore, Inc.

It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following licenses effective April 1, 2014:

**Rollerskating License:**

Svor’s Family Roller Rink

**Sewer Tap License:**

Grossman Plumbing and Heating

Hawley’s Inc.

**Garbage Collection License:**

Mattheisen Disposal

Craig’s Refrigeration

The Mayor Pro-Tem acknowledged openings on City boards and commissions.

Wolfington shared correspondence with the Council from Charter announcing their intent to move to an all-digital environment in September of 2014 in the City of Benson. Wolfington also stated there will be a representative from Charter at the April 7, 2014 meeting to discuss the change.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit for the Benson Women of Today for April 4, 11, 25, 2014 and May 2, 2014.

Wolfington presented correspondence from the Minnesota Department of Transportation announcing construction to begin on Highway 29 south of Benson late this summer.

Wolfington reminded the Council he and Dr. Horecka will be at the International Biomass Conference in Florida March 23-26, 2014.

Wolfington initiated a conference call with Stantec Engineer, Mark Janovec to review the draft of the City of Benson’s Wellhead Protection Plan, Part 2. Janovec said our plan originated in 2002. Two notable changes in the plan were 3 wells were sealed and 2 more were drilled. Once the plan is ready, it will be submitted to the Department of Health, and it will take them 90 days to review.

Being there were no questions from staff, Council or the public, Mayor Pro-Tem Fitz closed the public hearing at 6:01 p.m.

It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve a project in the Benson Small Cities grant program in the amount of \$5,157.00.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve conducting the 2014 Residential Tagged Item Pick-Up April 30 – May 2, 2014 as presented by the City Manager.

Next Wolfington presented two bids for tree removal services. Tree Toppers and Dude’s Tiling submitted bids as follows:

	<b>Dude’s Tiling</b>	<b>Tree Toppers</b>
Clear & Grub Trees	\$47.90 per diameter inch	\$20.00 per diameter inch
Grub only (stump)	\$10.45 per diameter inch	\$3.50 per diameter inch
Prune Branches	\$20.25 per diameter inch	\$20.00 per diameter inch
Excessive Stump	\$10.45 per diameter inch	\$3.50 per diameter inch
Emergency Maintenance	\$200.00 per hour	\$180.00 per hour

After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to accept the low bid from Tree Toppers as presented. Wolfington said Tree Toppers owner is related to a MRES employee, but will have no financial interest in the tree removal contract.

Next Mayor Pro-Tem Fitz asked to table the Resolution using K-Bid owned by Councilman Evenson until Mayor Kittelson returned.

Wolfington presented an engineering proposal from DGR Engineering for a Phase I overhead to underground electric line conversion project. The area this project would start in is the northwest corner of town, which includes the City Cemetery. Estimated engineering costs would be \$77,000. The overall project will be in 5 Phases, ending in 2034. Labor will be done in house. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to proceed with Phase I of the overhead to underground project.

Pederson presented a request to add new Librarian Dawn Erickson to the Bank of the West credit card account with a credit limit of \$2,000. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the addition of Dawn Erickson to the City of Benson credit card account.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Ziegler Power Systems in the amount of \$24,825.00 for the annual service invoice on the power plant generators.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$327,586.00.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

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Mayor Pro-Tem

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City Clerk