

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
MARCH 18, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Evenson. Members present: Jack Evenson, Chris Carruth, Mark Schreck, Dan Enderson and Nancy Maanum. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Clerk Valerie Alsaker, Director of Finance Lisa Kent, City Manager Kyle Harris, Assistant City Attorney Stephen Kowal, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Fire Chief Jeff Reuss, Fire Department Secretary Tom Foley, CEDA Representatives Hillary Tweed and Laura Mitteness, Ben Vadnais, Anne Johnson, John Dokken and Reed Anfinson Telephonically attending: Eric Payne and Rick.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor added a gambling permit for the Baseball Association, further discussion on the Armory and Council Member Appointment on the Airport Board. It was moved by Maanum, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- March 4, 2024 City Council Minutes
- March 1-2, 2024 City Council Work Session Minutes
- February 5, 2024 Planning Commission Minutes
- January 8, 2024 Airport Commission Minutes
- Charter Communications Channel Change
- Gambling Permit - Northern Lights Trails – November 15, 2024
- Gambling Permit – Chippewa Valley Chapter of MN Deer Hunters Assn.- October 4, 2024

Off-Sale 3.2 Malt Beverage License:

Holiday Stationstore, LLC
Family Dollar Store

Sunday Liquor License:

Track Bar & Grill, LLC
McKinney's on Southside
Benson Golf Club
Patrick's Pub & Grill

On-Sale Wine License & Strong Beer

DeMarce Theatre

On-Sale Liquor License:

McKinney's on Southside
Benson Golf Club
Patrick's Pub & Grill
Mi Mexico
Track Bar & Grill, LLC

Sidewalk Café Permit

Patrick's Pub & Grill, LLC

- The following General license effective April 1, 2024:

Garbage Collection License:

West Central Sanitation

Tommy Kraemer Inc.

discussion, it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to have Mitteness apply for Swift County demolition grant funds in the amount of \$2,500 to apply toward demolition of the house.

Harris approached the Council with quotes to haul the ash away from the planned house burn at 1802 Atlantic Avenue. He said the ash has to sit for two weeks after the burn before it can be hauled away. The first quoted is from Larson Gravel & Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$6,800. The quote states they are not responsible for ash and no fill is included in his quote. The second quote is from T & K Kennedy in the amount of \$7,116.00. Included is the removal of concrete foundation and sidewalks to be disposed at the City crush site, dig a hole for public works to cap water and sewer and haul out the ash. He said our crews will haul in fill and level the lot when it is all done. After further discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to accept the quote from T & K Kennedy in the amount of \$7,116.00.

Next Harris presented two quotes for a trailer for the boring machine. When we purchased the boring machine, it was heavier than the last one. The current trailer is too light for the new boring machine. The first quote is from Diamond C Trailers in the amount of \$17,285.00. The second quote is from Farm Rite Equipment at a price of \$23,500 less trade-in of the old trailer of \$3,000 for a total cost of \$20,500. After discussion it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve the trailer purchased for the boring machine from Diamond C Trailers in the amount of \$17,285.00 plus tax and licensing.

Harris presented a pay request from B & B Transformers for several transformers. Council approved going out for quotes on them last year. It was moved by Maanum, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of transformers from B & B Transformers in the amount of \$25,441.59.

Harris had a pay request from ABM Equipment for dielectric testing and boom repairs. This was a scheduled maintenance on the bucket truck. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to ABM Equipment in the amount of \$5,859.15.

Next was the first quarter pay request from Pioneerland Library System. It was moved by Maanum, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the pay request in the amount of \$25,636.75.

Harris presented a pay request from Craig's Refrigeration on boiler repairs at the swimming pool from 2022. The boilers were under warranty, which Craig applied for credit toward the repairs. In the packet is a history of charges and payments, which includes warranty credit. After review and discussion it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to pay the balance on the pool boilers to Craig's in the amount of \$10,638.61.

Next was a Gambling Permit request from the Benson Baseball Association for a raffle for four weekly drawings in May 2024. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the gambling permit request from the Benson Baseball Association as presented.

Mayor Evenson next addressed the addition of the Armory to the agenda. Tweed approached. Evenson said at the last meeting, the Council voted 3-2 not to go forward with engineering. Tweed said the Council has three options: 1. Rebid the scope of work from March of 2023 which came in at \$1.8 million. 2. Move forward with the proposal of services with Engan & Associates which was rejected at

the last Council meeting. With the new alternate scope of work, she reached out to the individual who gave her the \$715,000 scope of work and asked for an anticipated increase for this year and they said you can see a 2-3% increase from last year's bid. 3. Leave the project, reject all bidding for engineering and decide what to do with the building. With this decision, we will have to return grant funding. This will depend on the scope of work we ask for. Enderson said he feels we have a realistic chance of getting back to the \$715,000 scope of work. Evenson said if we do not want to go forward with the estimated \$60,000 for engineering, we have already put over \$215,000 into engineering over the years, with approximately \$200,000 to tear the building down, it's a lot of money to end up without a building. Mayor Evenson then asked for a motion to approve the final engineering proposal from Engan Engineering at a discounted rate of 6% of the project cost so we can let it out for bids. Enderson made that motion, it was seconded by Maanum. There was discussion on getting the bid project together and the State grant requirements for engineering. Enderson said if we go through the process there is a real possibility the project will come in at or below \$1.2 million. He went on to ask if it doesn't come in under that amount, what kind of grant opportunities are there. Tweed said grants are never guaranteed. She went on to say there are other grants available and have positive feedback on these projects, but has not applied as she wanted to be sure we were proceeding and does not want to have to give back more grant dollars if we don't proceed. If bids come back high, she will pursue grant options. Schreck asked how much money could be available. She said one grant which is a private entity, could possibly be a \$150,000 ask. If you go through the State there are larger dollars available, but is a state process. Schreck asked where will get the balance from if the project comes in at \$1.5 million. He continued we would have to raise taxes. Enderson said or we drop the project and return grant money. But we need to get to the finish line by finding out where bids come in. Schreck expressed concerns about having to cut crucial parts of the project if it comes in high. Schreck asked how long do we have to complete the project. Tweed said March 2025. Mayor Evenson called for the vote: AYES: Carruth, Evenson, Enderson, Maanum. NAYS: Schreck. The motion carried.

Next Council appointed Schreck as a Council member liaison to the Airport Board.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$505,294.15.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Carruth, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk