

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
BENSON GOLF CLUB
MARCH 27, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Mayor Collins at the Benson Golf Club. Members present: Terri Collins, Jack Evenson, Lucas Olson, Mark Schreck & Jon Buyck. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Marcy Douglas with Missouri River Energy Services, Jon Dokken, Anne Johnson and electronically Hillary Tweed with CEDA.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive the community priorities as identified by the previous evenings strategic planning meeting that was attended by members of the EDA, BIDC and City staff in order to create a work plan for Hillary for the upcoming year.

Marcy Douglas first reviewed the Strategic Plan Summary that the council generated back in 2019. Accomplishments since then were noted. Long Range Goals were reviewed for Infrastructure, Housing, Community Appearance, School, Collaboration, and Activities.

The Council was then given the priorities identified under the three groupings of Housing, Workforce, and Marketing. The Council discussed specific tasks and set 3, 6, 9, and 12-month goals in which to be completed by.

A discussion centered around the Armory was held. Marcy created a worksheet to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Defined uses, and Benefits of the facility. Wolfington reported that large amounts of Federal Funding is coming down that could be used to upgrade the facility. A conversation had been held with the County for using it for a joint meeting facility. How this facility could be replaced with a new city hall and community center was discussed. A vote on the demolition of the facility is on the agenda for the April 5 Council meeting. The Mayor encouraged all members to request additional information if needed before then.

The City Manager requested direction from the council regarding the Federal EDA Grant that was submitted for the WWTP Flood Project and Sewer line upgrade to the former Fibrominn site. Construction costs are exploding and there is concern that the cost of both projects will exceed the total amount of the grant being requested. Options considered were to continue as is, request an amendment for a larger amount, or to remove the sewer line portion and proceed with a reduced project. To continue as is might require a larger city share of the project. After discussion the consensus of the council was to remove the sewer line portion of the grant application and change the narrative.

There being no further business upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 Pm.

Mayor

City Clerk