

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 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.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. An application to the Planning Commission was added to the agenda. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- February 19, 2019 City Council Minutes
- October 9, 2019 Cemetery Board Minutes
- Humane Society Response to Tara Beyer Letter

There were no persons with unscheduled business.

Wolfington discussed at the Planning Commission meeting held earlier today. There was a public hearing on zoning assignments. The City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance to assign zoning on February 4, 2019, and today was the public hearing. Property owners around the proposed zoning areas were sent a notice and some showed up at the public hearing with questions. Wolfington went on to describe the properties located from Stony Ridge Foods on Hwy 12 going east along the railroad to the City limits, then west from the elevator along the railroad to the river. These two properties are proposed extensions of the I-1, limited industrial zone and each of these strips of land abuts the existing I-1 zone. Then the Girls Ranch, which was annexed into the City had not be assigned a zoning designation. It is proposed to be zoned B-2, General Business. Wolfington said Stony Ridge asked if the proposed zoning would accommodate their business expansion, to which he said it would. Wolfington explained B-2 was the closest zone they could give to the Girls Ranch, and went on to explain if the Girls Ranch closes or sells, the activity cannot remain the same as it is now. He said they had a conference call with the Girls Ranch this morning. Wolfington said the Planning Commission recommended approval of the second reading of the proposed ordinance. He also informed the Council, Stony Ridge will need to move the billboard owned by Lamar Sign to the east in order to achieve their future expansion needs, which the City has no issue with as it is not a new sign, but a relocation. MnDOT sent a letter via email to Wolfington stating they will not allow the relocation of the billboard as they feel the area the billboard will be relocated to is not a buildable lot, which will mean Stony Ridge will not be able to expand. Wolfington feels they came to a wrong determination and is asking the City Attorney to draft a letter explaining the details. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the 2nd reading of an Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map by Rezoning Certain Land in the City of Benson, Swift County, Minnesota.

Next was a letter from the Pioneerland Band Festival Committee requesting support of the June 14, 2019 Band Festival Parade. Wolfington stated there are four events the City Supports through tourism funds; Rib Fest, Kid Day, Easter Egg Hunt and the Band Festival Parade. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to support the Pioneerland Band Festival in the amount of \$3,500.

Next was a letter from the UMVRDC, stating Prairie Five Rides is applying for funds to begin the planning process for the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) in west central Minnesota. The letter is to inform agencies like us, giving each town the option to apply as well and to be the RTCC. The Council expressed no interest in applying.

Wolfington recapped his visit to Washington, D.C. last week. Each year there is a legislative rally. Among items lobbied for, MRES lobbied for power management agencies like MISO to stay federally funded and not privatized so municipalities can still use it. MRES paid all expenses for Wolfington.

Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 10 a.m., the Council will have a quorum at the walk through tour of the old Fibrominn plant. The City Building Inspector and Line Department Supervisor will be touring as well. The notice of quorum is posted in the entryway to City Hall.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve Ron Laycock to the Planning Commission with his term ending December 31, 2021.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk