

**MINUTES - SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TELEPHONICALLY
APRIL 13, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. telephonically by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Jon Buyck, Mark Schreck & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Phil Carlson with Stanec, Kirk Bustron from Upper Minnesota Valley Rural Development Commission (UMVRDC) and Reed Anfinson with the Swift County Monitor News.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes to the agenda to which there were none. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

The Mayor called for anyone with unscheduled business, to which there was no one.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Zoning Map of the City of Benson. The following vote was taken: AYES: Buyck, Evenson, Schreck, Olson, Collins. NAYES: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Wolfington said the EDA discussed a possible contract with the UMVRDC to assist local businesses affected by repercussions due to COVID-19. Bustron explained there are two components to the scope of work. First an aggregation of resources available to businesses. Second outreach to the businesses. So far he has compiled a list of about 195 businesses and prioritized them in the following categories: 1-Hospitality 2-Health Retail 3-Manufacturing 4-Healthcare 5-Agriculture & Supplies 6-Construction & Supplies 7-Auto Repair & Parts 8-Media 9-Church & Civic Groups 10-Professionals. He said once the list of businesses is finalized, a letter will be sent out to them, also advertising on the City Website and any social media platforms. Other regional partners will be utilized as much as possible. Assistance will be provided to those businesses interested in finding the proper program that suits the business situation. He estimated they could work with approximately 20 businesses. Mayor Collins asked what happened at the EDA Meeting earlier today. Schreck, who is an EDA member shared some banks are already reaching out to their business customers to help with the PPP and SBA programs. He ended with saying the EDA agreed it would be a good idea to provide helpful resources to the businesses in Benson. The agreement states there would be a \$5,000 down payment, for work up to 300 hours, at \$80 per hour not to exceed \$24,000. Buyck expressed concern over section 5B "Hold Harmless" clause and whether the City is also protected. Wolfington said he would discuss this with the City Attorney. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the agreement discussed provided section 5B is cleared with the City Attorney. The following vote was taken: AYES: Buyck, Evenson, Schreck, Olson, Collins. NAYES: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Wolfington discussed the city wide annual Tagged Item Pick-up (TIP) which was approved for May 6-8, 2020. He asked to postpone the TIP until the fall of 2020 due to COVID-19. He explained the recycling center isn't open for regular business, the City is operating on staggered work schedules, and Mattheisen Disposal isn't comfortable picking up some items approved on the TIP. Mayor Collins said the City will need to be sure to advertise the date change. It was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to postpone the TIP with a date yet to be determined. The following vote was taken: AYES: Buyck, Evenson, Schreck, Olson, Collins. NAYES: None. The motion carried unanimously.

Wolfington said the Wastewater Department has been called out to two sewer clogs due to citizens flushing paper towels and disposable wipes. He said flushing paper products other than toilet paper could plug their personal sewer, which when repaired will be all at their expense to repair. These disposable wipes can also cause costly pump repairs to the City as well. He said he has been on the radio today and plans to go on the radio again tomorrow to ask the citizens help.

There being no other business, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck to adjourn the meeting. The following vote was taken:

Olson, Schreck, Buyck, Evenson and Collins. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk