

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 15, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Kittelson. Members present: Gary Landmark, Ben Hess, Sue Fitz, Mike Fugleberg & Paul Kittelson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, Swift County Assessor Wayne Knutson, Assistant County Assessor Wayne Anderson, Wade Larson and Mike Holte.

At 5:30 p.m. Mayor Kittelson opened the Board Of Equalization Public Hearing.

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

- April 1, 2013 City Council Meeting
- March 4, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting
- April 25, 2012 Cemetery Board Meeting
- April 2, 2013 Cemetery Board Meeting
- April 8, 2013 Library Board Meeting

It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to appoint Pat Hawley to a vacancy on the Economic Development Authority with his term expiring December 31, 2016.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to appoint Greg Zniewski to a vacancy on the Benson Cemetery Board with his term expiring December 31, 2015

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit for the Chippewa Valley Deer Hunters Association on June 15, 2013.

Mayor Kittelson acknowledged correspondence from the Arbor Day Foundation congratulating the City of Benson on earning recognition as a 2012 Tree City USA city.

The Mayor acknowledged a resignation letter from Police Secretary Carol Davidson as of April 27, 2013. Wolfington stated there will be a farewell Coffee for Carol on April 22, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., and at the same time, Ian Hodge will be sworn in as the Police Chief for the City of Benson.

Next was a letter from Don Sergott, asking for the City to waive a fire call fee for Janet Bennett. The Council directed staff to conduct an investigation into the matter.

The Mayor discussed a request from the Benson Cemetery Board to discuss building a columbarium and a request to look into expanding the Cemetery to the north, as the plots are filling up. The Council will invite the Cemetery Board to a future meeting to discuss details and budgets attached to the request.

Next Mayor Kittelson addressed the Northwest Flood Levy situation. He summarized the public hearings and studies, including a study done on a possible new railroad bridge, conducted by LandTeam of Alexandria, MN. Dr. Mike Holte and Julie Murphy expressed their view points on the possible levy construction. After discussion it was moved by Landmark, and seconded by Fugleberg to not build the northwest flood levy. The Mayor called for a roll call vote from each Councilmember. Each Councilmember stated their vote and expressed why they chose to vote how they did. The following vote was recorded: Yeas: Landmark, Fugleberg, Kittelson, Hess, Fitz. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Wolfington informed the Council most of the power plant emission updates are complete. He presented bids for the air emissions compliance testing. DGR conducted a bid process for this. There was a bid from Comprehensive Emission Services in the amount of \$18,000.00, and one from Interpoll

Laboratories, Inc. for \$18,450.00. Wolfington recommended the low bid to the Council. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to accept the bid from Comprehensive Emission Services in the amount of \$18,000.

Mayor Kittelson asked for persons with unscheduled business. Wade Larson approached the Council with concerns about the operation of the Ready Mix plant. Some concerns were hours of operation, dust, and whether there should be a fence around their property. The Council directed City staff to look into the concerns.

Nelson addressed the Council with a quote for purchasing replacement street lights. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve a quote for street lights from Border States Electric in the amount of \$52,375.20.

Nelson had the cost estimates for equipment to remove manganese from the City water supply. There is a quote from VESSCO, Inc. for sodium Permanganate Equipment , one from HACH for a spectrophotometer, and test chemicals and one from Automatic Systems Co. for engineering and panel modifications. All together, it will cost \$\$29,279.89 to implement. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve quotes from VESSCO, in the amount of \$14,954.00, one from HACH in the amount of \$5,219.89 and one from Automatic Systems Co. in the amount of \$9,106.00, totaling \$29,279.89

Next Wolfington presented a map of construction projects to be done by MnDOT for the years of 2014 – 2017. The City of Benson is scheduled for \$3 million of improvements to all the highways coming through town. This will include new signals, pedestrian ramps, sidewalks and overlay.

Mayor Kittelson reviewed the Arbor Day Proclamation. It was the consensus of the Council to approve the following proclamation:

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

Whereas, Benson has been recognized as a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul Kittelson, Mayor of the city of Benson, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2013 as

ARBOR DAY

in the City of Benson, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$447,963.40.

Wolfington presented a request from Anne Johnson, who is conducting a dog show the weekend of April 19, 2013. They will be finishing the competition in the Armory on April 20, 2013. She is asking the Council to waive the rental fee, as the show attracts a lot of people to the area. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to waive the Armory fees for the dog show on April 20, 2013.

Swift County Assessor Knutson came forward and gave a presentation on property valuations for the City of Benson. There was no one in attendance to address the Council on property valuations. He stated values are staying constant.

At 6:30, Mayor Kittelson closed the Board of Equalization Public Hearing.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Hess, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk