

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 15, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. 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, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Swift County RDA Manager Jennifer Frost, Swift County Assessor Wayne Knutson, Darla Schwendemann, Roxy Lewis, Dave Tolifson and Steve Benson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

- Charter Communications – Spectrum On- Demand Service
- 2.25.19 Donation to the Fire Department by Jean Fragodt - \$200.00
- 4.2.19 Donation to Beautify Benson T-Shirt Sales \$24.00
- 2.1.19 Donations by Library Patrons - \$44.89
- 3.5.19 Donations by Library Patrons - \$64.37
- 4.2.19 Donations by Library Patrons - \$33.62
- April 1, 2019 City Council Minutes

The Mayor asked for people with unscheduled business. Tolifson and Benson said with the spring weather, the east end of Pacific Avenue (aka Gustie's Road) is impassable. They and three other families use this road to get to their homes and are wondering how it can be repaired. The road is currently barricaded to stop traffic, however drivers keep moving the barricades, and kids are tearing up the road. Wolfington said this area of town was annexed into the City of Benson about 15 years ago. Several grants have been applied for to get funding to fix the road. It is a wet area and will need proper engineering, and from previous estimates it could cost \$4 million to fix and pave the road. There is currently a grant submitted to the federal government to fix that road as well as upgrade railroad crossings, however we have not heard back on that and it is a waiting game at this point. Wolfington said past grant writing has cost \$30,000 trying to get funding to fix Gustie's Road. The Mayor thanked Tolifson and Benson for expressing their concern.

A motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation for April 26, 2019, and to declare May 2019 Arbor Month.

Wolfington shared an invitation from MRES to tour the Laramie River Station on August 27-28, 2019. If anyone is interested they should contact him.

The Mayor Opened the Board of Review. There was no one in attendance to address the board but it would remain open until 6:00 P.M. Wayne Knutson with the Swift County Assessor's office came forward to give a review of the past years property sales within the City. He has two property owners requesting adjustments. They would like to reduce the valuation for their parcels.

Next Wolfington discussed the planned amendments to rules governing Water Quality Standards by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for class 3 & 4 permit limits. The standards were established in 1960 and are considered outdated and would place an economic burden on cities like

Benson. He asked to send a letter of comment on the proposed amendments stating what we support in the proposed amendments. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter as presented and submit it to the MPCA.

Wolfington discussed the Feasibility Study for a northwest area levee conducted in 2012. He said this proposal went before the City Council and they opted not to proceed with the proposed plans. He said if the Council decided to plan on a levee, they have two options, either pay out right for the construction or assess the 26 property owners for the cost. Wolfington suggested the assessment route. Evenson asked how much it would increase taxes and how much would it cost to build. Wolfington said in today's dollars it could cost around \$700,000 to build, and this amount would be assessed to the affected property owners. He said he isn't looking for a decision right now. Schreck asked how much the recent sand bagging efforts cost. Wolfington said \$18,000. Schreck asked if the levee was built, would the residents be protected to above the 100 year floodplain to which Wolfington replied no. After discussion, it was agreed to hold a neighborhood meeting in the future at the Golf Club to discuss this.

Frost approached the Council to discuss the new program the Blandin Foundation is offering. Last June Swift County was named a Blandin Broadband Community. The group did some visioning and were awarded \$25,000 for their accelerated welding training program. Case partnered with Ridgewater College to offer the class. Case is the host for the lab portion of the class. They had planned for 15 applications, but ended up with 20 which left them with a budget shortfall. The BIDC has pledged \$3,200, and Frost is asking for \$4,050 from the City EDA funds to help fund the program. At the EDA meeting this morning, they recommended approval of financial support. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve an expenditure of \$4,050 to be paid out of the EDA funds.

Next was a quote to purchase crack filler. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of crack filler from Brock White in the amount of \$6,412.50.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve running the annual Tagged Item Pickup May 1-3, 2019. It will be run the same as last year, with the exception there will be no tire pick up this year.

Wolfington presented a pay request for the planned airport arrival-departure building. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the payment to TKDA for professional services in the amount of \$32,130.00.

Pederson approached to discuss the GASB requirement to have the Council approve wire transfers. Currently Wolfington, the Payroll Clerk and Pederson are authorized check signers, but the Council must authorize approval of wires and electronic transfers. This will be an annual action item. After discussion, Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION ALLOWING ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS AND WIRES
(RESOLUTION 2019-08)**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, State of Minnesota, acknowledges the need for wire and electronic fund payments for such payments of Payroll, Payroll Taxes, Sales and Use Tax, Debt Service payments and investment of Public Funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council shall allow the City Manager, Director of Finance and Payroll/Accounting Clerk to make such payments by electronic funds transfers and wire instead of paper checks. These Payments will be approved at a subsequent council meeting.

Councilmember Schreck seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Collins, Buyck, Olson, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2019-08 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Evenson and seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the following electronic transfers:

Payroll:

- 1.3.19 - \$139,592.44
- 1.31.19 - \$79,668.56
- 2.28.19 - \$84,251.13
- 3.28.19 - \$83,810.88
- 1.17.19 - \$84,029.25
- 2.14.19 - \$98,915.40
- 3.14.19 - \$101,888.09

General Ledger:

- January - \$1,433,259.77
- \$1,111,621.14

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$494,025.83.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to close the Board of Review at 6:26 p.m.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjust the valuation on the following parcels:

23-1180-000	\$157,800 to \$150,300
23-0535-000	\$113,400 to \$107,300
23-0535-100	\$94,300 to \$90,100
23-0536-000	\$94,300 to \$90,100
23-0536-100	\$113,400 to \$108,100

The Council discussed further the drainage and rebuilding of east Pacific Avenue.

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 6:37 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk