

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL  
APRIL 18, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Jon Buyck, & Lucas Olson. Mark Schreck Telephonically. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Public Works Director Dan Gens, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed, Swift County Assessor Joe Tschida, Swift County Appraisers Darla Schwendemann & Isaac Mumm, Fire Chief Jeff Reuss, Fire Department Truck Committee Members Bob Hoberg, Nathan Motzko and Matt Mattheisen, Golf Club Manager Sally Jones, Troy Kennedy, Jan Trinkle and Reed Anfinson. Also present telephonically CEDA Representative Sarah Weese.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She asked for any changes to the agenda, to which there were none. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

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

- April 4, 2022 City Council Minutes
  - November 8, 2021 Planning Commission Minutes
  - February 28, 2022 Planning Commission Minutes
  - March 21, 2022 Planning Commission Minutes
  - Arbor Day Proclamation
  - Xcel Grant Quarterly Report March 31, 2022
- Electronic Transfers:
- Payroll: April 4, 2022 - \$102,634.39
  - Journal Entry: March 2022 - \$1,291,747.31

The Mayor opened the Board of Review at 5:30 p.m. Tschida approached the Council and asked for anyone with an appeal. Kennedy asked about the raising values and increase in taxes for a house he is an executor for. Tschida said tax rates are determined by statutes, and the local taxing districts. He stated if the value of your house goes up, it doesn't mean the taxes will go up. Trinkle asked about rental values. Tschida said it is currently a buyer's market. He said there is a low inventory of homes and the values are up. There being no other questions, Tschida reviewed the past year's property sales within the City. He then said Schwendemann will no longer be doing the assessing and that Mumm will now be assessing for the County. Tschida said the Board of Review will remain open until 6:00 p.m.

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

Next Jones and Tweed approached with the Golf Club. Jones said she is here with a capital authorization request for a pre-owned Toro Workman HDX-D to replace the old work cart they can no longer get parts for. The pre-owned work cart is a diesel with a cost of 22,500. MTI Distributing will give us a trade in of \$3,500, which brings the total cost to \$19,000. She went on to say they are buying this unseen as it is coming from a different state. She went on to say we have the option to reject the vehicle once we see it. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of the 2017 per-owed Toro

Workman KHX-D from MTI Distributing in the amount of \$19,000 if it meets her expectations.

Next Tweed asked for support for the Golf Club's Rib Fest event on September 10, 2022 as the City has done in the past. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to offer support to the Golf Club in the amount of \$4,500 for rib purchases to be paid out of tourism funds.

Next Chief Reuss, and Firemen Mattheisen, Motzko, and Hoberg approached the Council to discuss the Capital Authorization Request for a 2023 Top Mount Engine Pumper to replace the 1980 pumper. Reuss said the 1980 pumper no longer meets the NFP standards as an emergency apparatus. Buyck said there is \$216,000 in the budget this year, and the new truck will cost between \$400,000 & \$600,000, and asked where the rest of the funding will come from? Hoberg said the specs are bare bones to keep the cost down, and they are not opposed to looking at a demo truck. Reuss said this truck will go on all rescue calls. The Mayor asked Pederson where possible funding could come from. Pederson said the Council could take \$470,00 from the General Fund Capital Outlay earmarked for other departments, or General Fund reserves. There is currently debt service on the ladder truck of \$91,200 per year which goes through 2027 and an option would be to trade in the ladder truck. Schreck offered the idea of leasing. Wolfington said if the Council decided to lease, the lease rate wouldn't be set until right before delivery, which won't be for 12-18 months. After discussion it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the specs for a top mount engine pumper and to determine financing at a later time.

Wolfington said the CenterPoint Energy franchise ordinance is a non-exclusive agreement for delivery of gas to their customers in Benson. The first reading of this ordinance was at the April 4, 2022 City Council meeting. If the Council approves the second reading tonight, the ordinance will be published and the ordinance will go into effect 30 days after publication. It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 184: CenterPoint Energy Gas Franchise Ordinance.

Tweed presented a memo summarizing the proposals received for engineering services for the Federal EDA grant for flood protection around the wastewater treatment plant. There were two proposals obtained as follows:

Bolton & Menk	\$234,917
Moore Engineering, Inc	\$485,000

Tweed went onto say she, Wolfington and Gens scored the RFPs, and would like to recommend the Council approve the quote from Bolton & Menk. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the quote from Bolton & Menk in the amount of \$234,917.

Mayor Collins closed the Board of Review at 6:00 p.m.

Pederson said the end of next week, the new garbage carts will be delivered. He presented the new garbage collection agreement with Mattheisen Disposal. He discussed the changes made to the agreement, mostly in the annual fee increase. This agreement is for 5 years. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the garbage collection agreement as presented.

Next Pederson said the City is at a crossroads with their existing meter reading equipment. MRES sponsors a system by EATON Company. Staff feels this is a better approach. Implementing a new metering program is not cheap and will require an investment in the metering infrastructure to be able to read the meters. This system will be less labor intensive with installation and a more stable system. The total project cost will be \$849,590. The first-year investment will be \$366,190 for the communication

system and computer in the office. He said there are companies that do mass installations reasonably, and he said he may bring this proposal back to the Council for their consideration. It was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the initial purchase of equipment in the amount of \$366,190, plus the annual fee of \$15,800. Then Pederson reviewed the utility budgets and asked for approval for changes to the budgets. He stated the change in the water budget reflects the clear well project. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the amended budgets as presented.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$559,463.69.

Wolfington addressed the Council and gave his final presentation as City Manager before his retirement. He reflected on the state of the City and expressed gratitude for many things. He thanked his wife Karen for all her support over his career.

Pederson said he had met with the personnel committee and said after Wolfington's retirement he is ready to work for the City Council and City of Benson any way he can. He presented a list of terms for review to the Council for his position as City Manager. It was the consensus of the Council to review the terms and draft contract proposal and come back to the May 2, 2022 Council meeting with a recommendation.

It was then moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to appoint Glen Pederson as the acting City Manager as of April 25, 2022 at Noon, until further notice.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:25 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk