

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL  
APRIL 19, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Terri Collins, Lucas Olson and Jon Buyck. Mark Schreck attended Telephonically. Members Absent: Jack Evenson. Also present: Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Reed Anfinson, County Assessor Joe Tschida and Darla Schwendemann and CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed. Also Attending Telephonically City Manager Rob Wolfington.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. A variance application for 1102 – 12<sup>th</sup> St. N. was added. It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- April 5, 2021 City Council Minutes
- April 15, 2021 Pioneerland Library Minutes
- Pioneerland Library System New Benson Head Librarian Memo
- News Release CVEC 25 years of Manufacturing Memo

Electronic Transfers:

- Payroll: \$107,058.99 – April 8, 2021
- Journal: \$884, 635.08 – March 2021

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

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. Joe Tschida and Darla Schwendemann with the Swift County Assessor’s office reviewed the past year’s property sales within the City. He also said Pictometry has been updated with a recent fly-over and they are working on an online reference for property owners to see an exact breakdown of their taxes they can view anytime.

Next was to consider bids for work on the anaerobic digester at the wastewater plant. Gens approached the Council to say engineers Stantec conducted the bid opening electronically, reviewed the bids and presented the two bids as follows:

Magney Construction, Inc	\$893,200.00
KHC Construction, Inc.	\$927,000.00

Gens recommended the low bid for approval. It was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the bid by Magney Construction Inc. in the amount of \$893,200.00.

Next Gens discussed the 5 Ziegler CAT engines in the power plant. He said the engines are only able to be warrantied for an additional 6 years. Our current warranty expires in May of 2021. He went on to say if we warranty them for the full 6 years, we will have the expense of an inspection of each engine. Gens recommended renewing for one more year, and budgeting for the final 5-year warrantee expense in 2022. After discussion, it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve a one-year warrantee on each Ziegler CAT engine at a cost of \$4,950.00 each.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation for April 30, 2021, and to declare May 2021 Arbor Month. This year trees will be planted at Northside Rec.

Pederson approached the Council to explain quarterly he reviews all water and wastewater expenses, and determines which qualify for Xcel expenses. Pederson said there were engineering services for the clear well project. Councilmember Buyck offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF XCEL ENERGY GRANT DOLLARS FOR  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES  
(RESOLUTION 2021-12)**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, State of Minnesota, received grant dollars from Northern State Power (Xcel Energy) as part of the Benson Power LLC biomass plant closing, and;

**WHEREAS**, these grant dollars are limited in use for the purposes of economic development, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Council has determined that water treatment improvements qualify as an economic development purpose, and;

**WHEREAS**, the following projects are authorized use of grant dollars:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Transfer Out</b>
2020 Clear Well Project	\$1,119,500.00	\$43,558.50

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that \$43,558.50 as itemized on the attached invoices to be transferred from the NSP Grant Fund to the Water Fund.

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Olson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2020-12 duly passed and adopted.

Pederson said he also had engineering expenses for the wastewater treatment facility deferred maintenance, which the Council recently approved the bill. Councilmember Olson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF XCEL ENERGY GRANT DOLLARS FOR  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES  
(RESOLUTION 2021-13)**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, State of Minnesota, received grant dollars from Northern State Power (Xcel Energy) as part of the Benson Power LLC biomass plant closing, and;

**WHEREAS**, these grant dollars are limited in use for the purposes of economic development, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Council has determined that Sanitary Sewer Collection and treatment improvements qualify as an economic development purpose, and;

**WHEREAS**, the following project is authorized use of grant dollars:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Transfer Out</b>
2020 Deferred Maintenance	\$985,210.00	\$44,223.00

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that \$44,223.00 as itemized on the attached invoices to be transferred from the NSP Grant Fund to the Sewer Fund.

Councilmember Buyck seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Olson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2020-13 duly passed and adopted.

Pederson informed the Council he will be preparing a quarterly update on the Xcel Grant Fund. He also said he will be sending a final invoice for \$3 million which will be the last of the \$21 million we will receive from Xcel.

It was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$508,807.34.

Next was a variance application the Planning Commission heard in a public hearing at noon today. The homeowners at 1102 – 12<sup>th</sup> St. N. wish to add a second ancillary building to their 1.6-acre lot. Buyck is on the Planning Commission and said the homeowner wished to attached the original garage, but it is on a floating slab due to soil and water table issues therefore they are not able to attach the garage. The garage they are proposing will be sized to fit their pickup into, and they will be using the same access as the current garage to get to the new structure. Buyck said it was the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the variance application. Pederson presented the findings of fact from the City Attorney for the Council’s review. After discussion it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the variance application of Jamie & Matt Moe at 1102 – 12<sup>th</sup> St. N. for a 28’ x 32’ second ancillary building on their lot.

Pederson gave an update on the Blue Ribbon Armory committee activities. He said they met last Wednesday with Councilmembers Olson and Evenson along with committee members Ann Johnson, Jon Dokken, Kerry Wilcox and himself. They spent time on possible uses and reviewing tasks. They contacted Andy Engen from Engen and Associates . He did a facility plan in 2015, and will be attending the next Blue Ribbon meeting to go over pros and cons of the building. Wolfington informed the Council in the last couple days the state released COVID Relief money to be used as a grant for public facilities renovation to be used for emergency aid. The grant is due by June 1, 2021 if the committee is interested in applying for it. Pederson went on to say there is a webinar Tweed will be attending specifically for this grant on Friday.

Mayor Collins closed the Board of Review at 6:02 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Olson seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:02 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk