

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TELEPHONICALLY
APRIL 20, 2020**

The meeting was called to order telephonically at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Mark Schreck, Jon Buyck & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Swift County Assessor Joe Tschida and Darla Schwendemann and Kirk Bustron with the UMRDC.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. Four pay requests from Stantec Engineering, update to the UMRDC Recovery and Resource Contract, and a purchase agreement for Rob's Motel was added. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and the following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed to approve the amended agenda.

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

- March 23, 2020 Special City Council Minutes
- March 30, 2020 Special Joint City-County-Hospital Minutes
- April 6, 2020 City Council Minutes
- April 13, 2020 Special City Council Minutes
- Swift County-Benson Healthcare Services Financial Assist. Programs
- Electronic Transfers:
 - Payroll: \$100,630.47 – April 4, 2020
 - Journal: \$2,482,310.40 – March 2020

There was no one with unscheduled business.

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 were present via teleconference to give a review of the past years property sales within the City. He has one property owner requesting an adjustment. They would like to reduce the valuation for their parcel due to mold remediation and other work they had to do to the property.

Next the Mayor asked the Council's thoughts on the purchase of the school trades house and placing it on a parcel of land owned by the City of Benson. Wolfington said the house will cost \$64,886.48. This doesn't include the cost of a basement, garage or driveway or moving the house. He asked the Council to discuss if this purchase serves a public purpose. Schreck recommended the Council bring this to the Planning Commission for their insight. He also suggested offering this project to local contractors to see if they would like to develop the property. After discussion, the Council agreed to direct the Planning Commission to study the options at their next meeting.

The Council reviewed a request from Wade Saterbak. In a wind storm, a neighbor's tree fell onto a power pole, breaking it and pulling his electrical service off his house. He had an electrician come and reestablish service. He was charged \$250 to have this done, and is asking the City to pay this for him. Wolfington said the City is responsible for the line from the pole to the house, and the homeowner is responsible for the meter and the meter socket. Wolfington said he brought this request to the Utility

Board, and it was decided the wind storm causing the tree to fall was an act of God, and the City also had a loss in replacing the pole. Wolfington said this resident's electric service is scheduled to be placed underground as part of the annual overhead to underground project this year. After discuss Olson made a motion to decline reimbursement to the homeowner. The motion was seconded by Buyck and the following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

Gens said the sewer lift station at Wood Avenue is old and runs on rails and cables and has broken at the bottom. It is currently an odd size which is harder to repair. He is asking to make repairs to this lift station. He would like to change out the parts and pump so it is the same size as other lift stations in town. He said if we replace this, we can have a standard pump on back-up and be prepared in case of a break-down. Replacing a pump at the current lift station could take a couple weeks. He said the cost will be \$21,189.00 which will cover 4" piping, 2 new 4" pumps with base elbows, 2" stainless steel guide rails, and includes labor to remove the old system and installation of the new system. After discussion is was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and the following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion to replace the Wood Avenue lift station at a cost of \$21,189.00 carried.

Next Wolfington presented the bill for a Kubota tractor which the Council approved at a previous Council meeting. He is presenting the quote because the price approved at the March 16, 2020 meeting has changed. The quote expired, and the cost of the tractor went up \$484.38. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the revised quote for the Kubota L4760HSTC tractor in the amount of \$25,057.76.

Wolfington presented the revised contract with the UMRDC for professional services aiding local businesses with Recovery Resource Information and Coordination as a result of the COVID-19 virus.

Next Wolfington presented a purchase agreement for the old Rob's Motel property located at 198 Hwy 9 NW. This property borders Ambush Park. The property is being offered to the City for \$1.00 in "as is" condition. Wolfington estimated cost to demolish the site will run approximately \$70,000. Asbestos abatement, trailer house removal, junk removal and demolition is all factored into the \$70,000 estimate. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, and seconded by Olson to approve the purchase agreement between the City of Benson and Jerome Properties, Inc. as presented. The following vote was recorded: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Evenson, and seconded by Olson to approve a pay request to Stantec Engineering in the amount of \$8,238.75 for work at the Fibrominn site sanitary system assessment and Glacial Plains rezoning. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Schreck, and seconded by Olson to approve a pay request to Stantec Engineering in the amount of \$20,452.65 for Chlorine damage remediation underdrain repairs to the water filters. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Schreck, and seconded by Evenson to approve a pay request to Stantec Engineering in the amount of \$12,707.58 for Wastewater Treatment Plant Filter Replacement. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Evenson, and seconded by Buyck to approve a pay request to Stantec Engineering in the amount of \$19,838.75 for Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood protection work. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Evenson, and seconded by Schreck to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$1,069,113.68. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Evenson, and seconded by Schreck to reduce the property tax value of parcel #23-0074-000 by \$8,900.00. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor closed the Board of Review public hearing at 6:11 P.M.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk