

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
APRIL 4, 2022**

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, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed, Bill Hoberg 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 Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

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

- March 21, 2022 City Council Minutes
- January 24, 2022 EDA Minutes
- February 22, 2022 EDA Minutes
- Stantec Pay Request – WWTP Misc. Upgrades - \$8,238.75
- City of Benson – 2021 Certificate of Excellence in Reliability
- DGR Electric Report for Nature Energy Sight

Sewer Tap License Expiring March 31, 2023:

Grossman Plumbing and Heating	Craig's Refrigeration
Hawley's Inc.	Rapid Response Plumbing & Heating
T & K Kennedy Inc.	

- Electronic Transfers:
 - Payroll: March 10, 2022 - \$108,430.57
 - March 24, 2022 - \$88,805.28

The Mayor called for anyone with unscheduled business. Bill Hoberg approached the Council with pictures of the football practice field to the east of Northside Rec. He said the water does not drain well there and is wondering what the City can do to drain the water. He asked about a storm sewer that might need to be cleaned out. Mayor Collins said she would like the Park Board to review this, make a determination and come back to the Council with a recommendation. The Mayor further directed Gens to gather information on this lot and be available to answer questions to the Park Board. The Mayor said the City will let Hoberg know when the next Park Board meeting is so he can attend.

Wolfington said the City has 3 franchise agreements; cable tv, electric and gas. In the packet today is the CenterPoint Energy franchise ordinance renewal for the Council's consideration. The proposed ordinance is almost identical with the existing one with the exception of addition of state statutes inserted. CenterPoint wanted a 20-year ordinance, but our Charter only allows for 10 years. This franchise agreement generates around \$50,000 a year. It will require a 1st & 2nd reading as well as a publication. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance 184: CenterPoint Energy Gas Franchise Ordinance.

Next Wolfington reported that the Council recently approved the selection of Bolten &

Menk to do an update to the Airport Layout Plan. This update is 90% federally funded, 5% state funded and 5% City of Benson funded. Our share will be about \$6,000. Since the engineering fees for the update is over \$100,000, an independent review of Bolton & Menk's fee was required by the FAA. This review was conducted by Sambatek, who found the fee to be reasonable. Wolfington presented an agreement with Bolton & Menk for the Airfield Masterplan Update. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the agreement with Bolton & Menk as presented contingent on receiving the grant.

Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**CITY OF BENSON
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS
(RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08)**

WHEREAS, The City of Benson is generally authorized to accept gifts and bequests pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 and Minnesota Statutes Section 471.17 for the benefit of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the city:

**VFW - \$500 – Dare Program
Shepherd of the Hills - \$50 – Fire Department Donation
Benson Residents - \$150 – Beautify Benson Shirts**

WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to assist the various city departments and programs as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, The City Council finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The donations described above are accepted and shall be used to benefit the departments listed above, as allowed by law.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Benson on April 4, 2022

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Olson, Collins, Buyck, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2022-08 duly passed and adopted.

Next Pederson presented a resolution for consideration. He said we have received half of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021 and are scheduled to receive the rest in 2022. This resolution doesn't specify what we are spending the funds on it allows us to do the simplified reporting method. The first report is due April 30, 2022, and is the only opportunity we have to select the standard allowance. We will receive \$332,545.86 all-together. Buyck asked if we have established what we are Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**CITY OF BENSON
A RESOLUTION TO ELECT THE STANDARD ALLOWANCE
AVAILABLE UNDER THE REVENUE LOSS PROVISION OF THE
CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND
ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT**

(RESOLUTION NO. 22-09)

WHEREAS, Congress adopted the American Rescue Plan Act in March 2021 (“ARPA”) which included \$65 billion in recovery funds for cities across the country.

WHEREAS, ARPA funds are intended to provide support to state, local, and tribal governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain COVID-19 in their communities, residents, and businesses.

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Recovery Funds provides for \$19.53 billion in payments to be made to States and territories which will distribute the funds to non-entitlement units of local government (NEUs).

WHEREAS, The ARPA requires that States and territories allocate funding to NEUs in an amount that bears the same proportion as the population of the NEU bears to the total population of all NEUs in the State or territory.

WHEREAS, \$332,545.86 has been allocated to the City of Benson (“City”) pursuant to the ARPA.

WHEREAS, The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ensures that governments have the resources needed to fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impacts, maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue, and build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity.

WHEREAS, In May 2021, the US Department of Treasury (“Treasury”) published the Interim Final Rule describing eligible and ineligible uses of funds as well as other program provisions, sought feedback from the public on these program rules, and began to distribute funds.

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2022, Treasury issued the final rule. The final rule delivers broader flexibility and greater simplicity in the program, responsive to feedback in the comment process.

WHEREAS, the final rule offers a standard allowance for revenue loss of up to \$10 million, allowing recipients to select between a standard amount of revenue loss or complete a full revenue loss calculation.

WHEREAS, recipients that select the standard allowance may use that amount, in many cases their full award, for government services, with streamlined reporting requirements.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, MINNESOTA, THE CITY ELECTS THE STANDARD ALLOWANCE AVAILABLE UNDER THE REVENUE LOSS PROVISION OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$332,545.86 TO BE USED FOR THE GENERAL PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

Councilmember Schreck seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Olson, Collins, Buyck, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2022-09 duly passed and adopted.

Mayor Collins said we will adjourn the meeting and go on a tour of City projects.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk