

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
MAY 4, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Sue Fitz, Mike Fugleberg, Jack Evenson & Stephanie Heinzig. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Assistant City Attorney Ben Wilcox, Chuck Koenigs, Swift County-Benson Hospital Foundation Members Jay Alsaker and Larry Kenyon.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the following minutes:

- April 20, 2015 City Council Minutes
- April 23, 2015 Special City Council-EDA Minutes

Wolfington presented a letter from Minnesota House of Representatives Tim Miller, explaining a proposed Road and Bridge Act of 2015 creating a new transportation fund which would specifically assist communities with populations fewer than 5,000 with roads and bridges.

Next Wolfington presented an e-mail from Greg Myers at FibroMinn, stating their donation to the Benson Fire Department in the amount of \$18,000 in return for services in assisting FibroMinn while they repair their raw water tank.

The Mayor addressed a request for a family pool pass donation to the Chokio-Alberta Early Childhood program fundraiser. After discussion it was the consensus of the Council to decline the request for a pool pass.

Wolfington spoke to a Variance Application at 209 – 10th St. N. to put a lean-to onto a garage within two feet of the property line. There was a public hearing for the variance at the noon Planning Commission today. Wolfington explained the criteria from the State when considering a variance. Fitz stated the Planning Commission voted unanimously not to grant the variance at 209 – 10th St. N. as it does not meet the criteria laid out by the State. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to deny the variance application.

Wolfington said there was a second Public Hearing at the noon Planning Commission today to consider rezoning the property at Wood Avenue and Hwy 29 N. from R-1 residential single family to R-3 Residential Multifamily. This is for the possible construction of an assisted living facility. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the change. Wolfington read the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. Wolfington also mentioned this type of project is encouraged in the City Comprehensive Plan. Fitz recapped the recommendations from the Planning Commission meeting today. There was discussion that if the re-zoning takes place, but the assisted living facility is not built that the zoning would be returned to R-1. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously if the Assisted Living facility is not built, the Council will consider changing the zoning of the land back to R-1. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the 1st Reading of An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map of the City of Benson. Consensus of the Council was to have a Special City Council meeting on Monday, May 11, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. to consider a 2nd reading of the ordinance.

There was discussion on the Assisted Living facility. It was the consensus of the Council to support moving forward with the project and the next step is to hold a special meeting on how the financing will work for the project.

Next Wolfington presented an insurance liability form from the League of Minnesota Cities to maintain or to waive the tort liability limits established by Minnesota Statutes Section 466.04. This is an annual requirement to review. It was moved Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to not waive the limits for the year 2015.

The Council reviewed and discussed the Public Works Report.

Next Gens informed the Council the transmission went out on the ¾ ton Street Department pickup. Cost to replace it will run \$3,000, and the value of the vehicle is only \$1,500. Gens said Parks have the money in their budget for a new pickup. The new pickup would go to Parks, and the Street Department would get the Park's current pickup. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to purchase a new pickup on the State bid for \$23,405.

Pederson stated last year the Council approved a loan for improvements at the Civic Center, and the bank is in the process of finalizing the loan. After discussion, Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE AUTHORIZED
SIGNERS FOR CIVIC CENTER LOAN GUARANTEE
(RESOLUTIUN NO. 2015-07)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson owns the land and buildings commonly known as the Benson Civic Center, and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has charged the Benson Civic Center Board with the managing and operation of the facility; and,

WHEREAS, the Benson Civic Center Board approached the City Council in 2014 to seek approval to install dehumidification equipment in the facility; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council approved the improvements, dedicated the lease payments from the North end of the building to the project, and to guarantee the loan; and,

WHEREAS, the Benson Civic Center Board is financing the cost of these improvements with an installment payment loan.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Mayor Paul Kittelson and City Manager Rob Wolfington are authorized to sign documents on behalf of the City of Benson for the purpose of said loan.

Council Member Heinzig seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Kittelson, Heinzig, Evenson, Fugleberg. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2015-07 duly passed and adopted.

Next the Mayor referred to a request for a "Slow Down Children at Play" sign on the 700 block of 12th Street South. Wolfington stated there will need to be two signs, one at each end of the block on a resident's yard 15' from the intersection. There was discussion about people placing personal signs in their yard, which is more eye catching. There was also discussion about the reason for the request. It was moved by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to deny the sign request until there is more information gathered, and information given to the homeowners on that block. The Council directed Wolfington and Gens to carry this out.

Wolfington made a conference call to Peggy Harter from Stantec Engineering. She explained the upcoming diagnostic meeting with the Railroad on May 8, 2015. Wolfington stated he and the Mayor will be representing the City at the meeting.

The Mayor declared a recess at 6:13 p.m. for the Council to take a tour of projects in the City of Benson.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Fugleberg, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk