

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 6, 2019**

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, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Swift County HRA Director Vicki Syverson, MIDCO Representatives Steve Johnson and Paco Erickson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda, to which there were none. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

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

- April 15, 2019 City Council Minutes
- April 22, 2019 Special City Council Minutes
- March 18, 2019 EDA Minutes
- February 27, 2019 Cemetery Board Minutes
- April 2, 2019 Donation by Skold Memorial - \$50.00
- April 12, 2019 Donation by Beautify Benson T-Shirts - \$60.00
- Electronic Transfer to General Fund-March 2019 \$1,590,012.11
- Electronic Transfer for Payroll-April 11, 2019 - \$95,947.68
- Electronic Transfer for Payroll-April 25, 2019 - \$87,913.18

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

Steve Johnson and Paco Erickson from MIDCO Business approached the Council to discuss the business's plan to bring fiber-optic network through Benson this summer. They plan to connect at the Swift County Courthouse. They hope to offer diversity with internet and wireless services options. He said they are not here to target any businesses. He said their company was awarded the Swift County Courthouse part of the project and is here to answer questions and inform the public of the project. The Mayor asked when they will be coming through Benson. Erickson replied after State and Railroad permitting, he hopes they will come through the end of July this year. Once they are in town, they will be notifying residents affected with door knockers and the marking flags will have their contact information on it.

Next Wolfington presented information from Minnesota Department of Commerce outlining Missouri River Energy Service's (MRES) 2017 Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) results, along with a 2019 CIP Plan in reporting. Companies like MRES providing electric service to municipal utilities like Benson can invest in CIP activities. The information presented today reflects an aggregate effort of MRES Members. Our rebate program was discussed.

Syverson approached and discussed the success of the Swift County Demolition program since its inception. She presented a spread sheet of past demolition grant matches. She also presented a current demolition matching grant request for a property at 815 – 17<sup>th</sup> St. S. The property owner is not choosing the low bidder for demolition and will have to pay the difference between the low bid and the chosen bid price. Wolfington recommended approval of the request. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck

and carried unanimously to approve a matching demolition fund request to Erin Schlieman in the amount of \$1,789.00.

Wolfington discussed the success of the small cities grant program. Syverson said she and Jen Frost from the Swift County RDA attended a housing institute workshop, and have applied for a grant through the Federal Home Loan Grant Program. The grant monies will go to help residents with home repairs and will resemble the small cities program and encompass the entire county. It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to show support in the grant application process.

Wolfington said the current digital sign isn't working and the structure around it is in tough shape and the posts in the ground are rotting. The Mayor said it isn't in the budget this year to replace. Wolfington said he has a quote to move and replace the current sign with a two sided sign and surrounding structure in the amount of \$65,000. If we take the old one down, the City crew will take it down time permitting. After discussion, it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to take the community sign down.

Pederson presented three policies First is an Electronic Funds and Wire Transfers Policy. This policy defines electronic funds and policies in transferring funds. The second was a Credit Card Use Policy which defines allowable expenses, credit limits and terms of use, along with a credit card agreement between the City and the employee. The last policy is a Social Media Policy which outlines the purpose, policy, scope, rules of use and personal social media use. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the Electronic Funds and Wire Transfers Policy as presented. It was then moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the Credit Card Policy as presented. And finally it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and approved unanimously to approve the Social Media Policy as presented.

Wolfington recapped the Strategic Planning event. Marcy Douglas, the facilitator from MRES, will recap all the notes within the next 30 days. The Council provided positive feedback on the session.

Wolfington said MRES is looking into possibly bringing a 2<sup>nd</sup> transmission line into Benson. He said engineers will be in contact with MISO, and if approved could take 3-5 years to execute. Wolfington discussed 2 possible routes to bring the line into town, and he said he will be attending a meeting on it tomorrow. If we do get the 2<sup>nd</sup> transmission line into town, it would offer added electric service reliability.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:19 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk