

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 7, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, 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, Fire Chief Jeff Reuss, Preston Flolo and Brian Edlund.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. Councilmember Evenson asked to add land purchase agreement with Swift Manufacturing, and Councilmember Olson asked to consider a resolution of support for the Montevideo Veteran's home. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously 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:

- April 16, 2018 City Council Minutes
- March 19, 2018 EDA Minutes
- April 23, 2018 Library Minutes
- Special Use Permit to Dispose of Septic Tank Sludge to Engebretson Septic Service
- Gambling Permit to the Lions Club on August 21, 2018
- Police Report

The Mayor asked for people with unscheduled business, to which there were none.

Mayor Collins noted the Golf Club will be moving unwanted flowers from around the Library out to the Golf Club.

Flolo and Edlund approached the Council and discussed the Biomass Conference April 16-18, 2018. The main item they mentioned was anaerobic digestion (AD). This process is not very popular in the United States yet, but is in Europe. If Brightmark Energy revamped the Benson Power building to use AD, the City's water and wastewater facilities would not be able to handle their demands. Vendors at the conference said there is no odor associated with this process. Wolfington said there may be a team going to either California or Hungary to check out an existing AD plant.

Next Fire Chief Reuss approached the Council with a capital outlay request for a 2018 Polaris Ranger side by side ATV & trailer to be used for grass fires. He said they would like tracks on it to prevent getting stuck in a field. The Ranger will be able to go places our current grass fighting rigs cannot. He discussed quotes from 3 vendors but did not have a trailer cost for a tandem trailer. After discussion it was agreed Reuss will get some firm prices, and bring it back to the Council meeting on May 21, 2018.

Wolfington brought to the attention of the Council that every five years, we have to renew our NPDS wastewater treatment facility permit, and staff is currently working on this process.

Gens approached stating the tree removal contract is up for renewal and presented two quotes. One from Carr's Tree Service and one from A.L.T. Tree Service. Both quotes were very close. Gens recommended A.L.T. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to accept the quote from A.L.T. Tree Service as presented.

Next Gens discussed a failing sewer main on the 600 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Street South. This sewer main has been failing for years. Last year there was a sink hole involving the sewer line. After the repair it looked ok. Now it is collapsing and is being monitored daily. The 200' from the previous patch south to the intersection needs to be repaired. Wolfington disclosed he and Councilmember Olson live on this street. Gens presented two quotes for the project. One was from Grossman & Trump in the amount of \$32,000 and one from T & K Kennedy in the amount of \$28,200. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the quote from T & K Kennedy in the amount of \$28,200.

Wolfington gave an update on the Dairy Conference in Chicago which he attended. Dairy prices are low and the dairy industry has concerns about the plant based products cutting into the dairy industry. He also noted he met with Brightmark Energy while he was there. Brightmark also met with the State of Minnesota and people from the dairy industry. He noted Brightmark will be in Benson in a couple weeks working on their feasibility study to possibly recondition the Benson Power building.

Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING \$80,000 FROM  
THE LIQUOR FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2018-09 )**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson owns and operates a Municipal Liquor Store, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has budgeted to transfer \$80,000 from the Liquor fund to the General Fund for calendar year 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorized the transfer of \$80,000 from the Liquor Fund to the General Fund.

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2018-09 duly passed and adopted.

Next Councilmember Evenson discussed that Eric Carlson, owner of Swift Machine and Fabrication would like to purchase City owned land to the east of his building in order to expand his business. Wolfington said he has State of Minnesota financing. He suggested selling the land for \$1.00 and Carlson would pay all fees as required for the sale of the land. He will not be asking for any TIF or tax abatement. Councilmember Evenson moved to sell Carlson the land for \$1.00, with Carlson incurring all land transfer expenses, authorizing the City Manager and Mayor to execute the agreement. It was seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the sale to Carlson with the aforementioned terms.

Councilmember Olson stated the City of Montevideo is working on building a 70 bed Veteran's home. Currently there are 1,500 veterans not being served by a home in the State of Minnesota. Councilmember Olson offered the following resolution:

**CITY OF BENSON  
COUNTY OF SWIFT  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE EFFORTS OF THE VETERANS HOME COMMITTEE OF  
MONTEVIDEO FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND ONGOING OPERATION OF A VETERANS  
HOME IN MONTEVIDEO, MINNESOTA  
(RESOLUTION 2018-10)**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Benson, Minnesota, acknowledges and appreciates the time, sacrifice, and commitment of service as provided by all Military Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council further acknowledges the importance and purpose of providing care and services for all returning Military Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council deems it reasonable and necessary to promote all such projects which address the ongoing needs of Military Veterans and which also positively impact the economic environment of all citizens of the county;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, Minnesota, hereby endorses the efforts of the Veterans Home Committee of Montevideo for the construction and ongoing operation of a veterans home in Montevideo.

Councilmember Evenson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2018-10 duly passed and adopted.

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 6:05 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk