

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TELEPHONICALLY
JUNE 1, 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, Don Wilcox, Anne Hippe, Sara Hoffman, Shelly Vergin, Brenda Parsley with Conway Deuth & Schmeising, Roxy Lewis, and Shelly Mikkelson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. There were two additions. Pay request from U.S. Water Services, Inc for \$192,800 and Gusty's Road memo. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck to approve the amended agenda. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

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

- May 18, 2020 City Council Minutes
- May 26, 2020 Special City Council Minutes
- April 13, 2020 EDA Minutes
- Electronic Transfers:
Payroll: \$89,723.31 – May 21, 2020

The Mayor called for anyone with unscheduled business and there was none.

The Mayor called on Brenda Parsley to present the City Audit for 2019. Ms. Parsley went through a power point presentation showing changes in fund balances from the prior year. Their audit report shows an unqualified opinion. Motion was made by Schreck and seconded by Buyck to accept the 2019 Audit for the City of Benson. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

Wolfington reviewed a copy of the CARES Act Grant for the Benson Airport. No action was taken.

Wolfington reviewed a copy of Governor Walz Emergency Executive Order 20-63 and its effect on the city. No action was taken.

Next was a review of 2020 Summer Activities. Vergin reported that they have ideas to make it work with social distancing and the current Covid-19 guidelines. Buyck stressed the need to provide swimming lessons. Fee structures, cleaning, and operating guidelines were all discussed. Wolfington advised that the only decision that needed to be made tonight was whether or not to begin making the pool ready and that the operating guidelines could be brought to the June 15th meeting. Motion was made by Evenson and seconded by Buyck to begin making the pool ready. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

Mayor Collins read a memo from Roger Ebnet recommending that Kid-Day be cancelled for 2020. Motion was made by Schreck and seconded by Buyck to concur and cancel Kid-Day. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed. Evenson inquired if that included the car show? Consensus of the council was that was a separate activity and could possibly still be held.

Vergin discussed a reduced Summer Recreation program. Staff is prepared to hold groupings of 10 within the guidelines that have been given. The need to get kids outside albeit in a safe manner was stressed. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck to approve going ahead with a Summer Recreation program. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

Rosie Peterson was on the call to inquire if they still had permission to use the downtown parking lot for a Farmers Market. Motion was made by Schreck and seconded by Evenson to allow them to have a Farmers Market and follow applicable Covid-19 guidelines. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

Ann Hippe reviewed a letter she submitted asking to have a “prom grand march” at Roosevelt Park on Saturday July 25 while following Covid-19 guidelines that will be in place at that time. Motion was made by Schreck and seconded by Evenson to allow them to use the park as requested. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

Wolfington reported that today was the first official day that bars and restaurants could be serving outdoors. Ambush Park camping and shelters are also open today with reduced occupancies.

Wolfington presented two demolition proposals from T & K Kennedy Excavating on the former Rob’s Motel buildings. One is less expensive and allows the fire department to perform training activities but cleanup takes longer due to the ashes needing to settle for 4-8 weeks. Motion was made by Schreck and seconded by Evenson to approve a demo contract allowing fire department training for Rob’s Motel at a cost of \$41,798 with T & K Kennedy Excavating. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

An Appropriation Repayment Agreement of \$1,885,000 with the Swift County-Benson Hospital was presented to the Council. This agreement allows the use of Xcel Grant dollars to refinance some of the Hospital debt at a much lower interest rate of 2%. Closing will not take place until later in July. Monthly repayments of \$14,213.30 will begin in September 2020 and continue until February 1, 2033. The Agreement has been prepared by Attorney Don Wilcox and has been approved by the Hospital Board. It was moved by Buyck and seconded by Schreck to approve the agreement as presented. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

Next on the agenda is a grant agreement of up to \$1,000,000 with the Swift County-Benson Hospital for capital outlay purposes to be disbursed as needed over the next year. It was moved by Buyck and seconded by Schreck to approve the grant as presented. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

It was moved by Olson and seconded by Evenson to approve a \$10,000 invoice to Benson Public Schools for Discovery Kids 2019-2020 school year. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

It was moved by Evenson and seconded by Schreck to approve the final pay request to KHC Construction, Inc. for the WWTP Filter project in the amount of \$7,796.65. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

It was moved by Olson and seconded by Buyck to approve two invoices from U.S. Water Services, Inc. totaling \$190,800 for WWTP Filter Equipment. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: None. The motion passed.

The City Manager reviewed a letter received from homeowners along East Pacific Avenue regarding water drainage. The new owners of the Sylte land to the South are planning to drain the farmland and perhaps there could be an opportunity to extend the tiling to Pacific Avenue for drainage. Councilmembers Schreck and Buyck offered to meet with the City Manager and property owners to see if a benefit to the City could be realized.

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 6:45 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk