

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 18, 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, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Larry Smith and Lynn Jacobson-Stiehm.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. Wolfington asked to add information on the Small Cities Grant. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

It was moved by Schreck seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- June 4, 2018 City Council Minutes
- Prom Afterbash Armory Use Request
- Thank You from Swift County
- Police Report

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

Next was a request for funds from the Humane Society of Swift County. They are asking for \$2,000 to help with their budget. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to table the request, and to invite a representative from the Humane Society to attend the next City Council meeting.

Wolfington said the Cemetery Board met on May 7, 2018, and an item of concern to the board has been the slow sales of columbarium niches. What they found is our price of \$3,500 per niche is higher than neighboring Cemeteries. Wolfington went on to explain the price was meant to pay for the current columbarium as well as a future columbarium. After the research, the Cemetery Board made the recommendation to the Council to reduce the price to \$2,000 per niche. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to reduce the columbarium niche price from \$3,500 to \$2,000. Two niches have been sold in the columbarium at \$3,000 each. It was then moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to refund these two parties \$1,000 each.

Wolfington said he has had discussions with boards, commissions, committees, the EDA and the BIDC on a request for proposal (RFP) for a Community Alumni Association employee. He stated he didn't have an RFP to show today and asked for feedback from the Council. Evenson stated he felt the EDA had a positive take on the idea at their meeting this morning. Schreck said he would like more information on funding and the responsibilities of the position. Evenson suggested this position be a possible addition to City staff. Wolfington said he felt this position isn't ready to implement. He needs a proposal from Wilcox on this position in his office. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to table this item until there is more information to present to the Council.

Wolfington discussed the orderly detachment agreement and said it is ready to send in to the State. Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**JOINT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN
ORDERLY DETACHMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF BENSON AND TORNING TOWNSHIP
(RESOLUTION 2018-11)**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson (“City”) and Torning Township (“Township”) hereby designate for orderly detachment the lands legally described in the attached Exhibit A and shown on the attached Exhibit B (collectively referred to herein as the “Designated Area”), all located within the City of Benson, County of Swift, State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the City and Township are in agreement as to the orderly detachment of the Designated Area and each determines the detachment is in their best respective interests; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 414.0325 provides a procedure whereby the City and Township may agree on a process for the orderly detachment of the Designated Area; and

WHEREAS, on December 28, 2017, the property owner of the Designated Area submitted a petition for orderly detachment to the City and Township pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 414.0325, subd. 1a; and

WHEREAS, notice of intent to designate an area for orderly detachment required by Minn. Stat. § 414.0325, subd. 1b does not apply in this instance because this Joint Resolution only designates for immediate detachment property for which all property owners have petitioned to be detached; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the City and Township hereby jointly resolve to enter into this agreement to provide for the immediate detachment of the Designated Area into the City upon the following terms and conditions:

1. The City and Township hereby designate the area described in Exhibit A attached hereto and shown in Exhibit B attached hereto as in need of orderly detachment pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 414.0325. The Designated Area consists of 35 acres and the population in the area is 0.

2. The City and Township request the immediate detachment of the Designated Area to the City upon submission of this agreement to the Chief Administrative Law Judge.

3. The Township and City, by submission of this Joint Resolution to the Municipal Boundary Adjustment Unit of the Office of Administrative Hearings, confer jurisdiction upon the Chief Judge so as to accomplish the detachment of the Designated Area in accordance with the terms of this agreement.

4. The City and Township mutually agree that no alteration of the boundaries stated herein is appropriate and that all conditions for detachment of the area legally described herein are contained in this Joint Resolution, and that no consideration by Minnesota Planning is necessary. Upon the execution and filing of this Joint Resolution, Minnesota Planning may review and comment thereon, but shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Joint Resolution, order the detachment of the area legally described herein in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Joint Resolution.

5. The City and Township agree that upon adoption and execution of this Joint Resolution, the City shall file the same with the Minnesota Planning Municipal Boundary Adjustments Office.

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2018-11 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Olson offered the following resolution:

**POLICE OFFICER DECLARATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2018-12)**

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in Minnesota Statutes 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of others; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire plan for eligible employees of police departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated therein and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Benson hereby declares that the position titled Part-Time Police Officer, currently held by John Reigstad meets all of the following Police and Fire membership requirements:

1. Said position requires a license by the Minnesota peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and this employee is so licensed;
2. Said position's primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the state;
3. Said position charges this employee with the prevention and detection of crime;
4. Said position gives this employee the full power of arrest, and
5. Said position is assigned to a designated police or sheriff's department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the above-named employee be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of this employee's initial Police and Fire salary deduction by the governmental subdivision.

Councilmember Evenson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2018-12 duly passed and adopted.

Mayor Collins shared her Beautify Benson project is going well. There were 180 plus another 200 Tee shirts ordered. She commented she has been contacted by a family whose mother passed away that requested to leave some of her money to the community, and the family asked about her project. She went on to say on July 19, 2018 there will be a "Mayor's Mingle". This is also a fundraiser for her project. There will be a social hour, dinner, music and silent auction. Tickets are available from several businesses and at City Hall. She noted the entertainer is from Nashville.

Next was discussion on the community engagement program by Doug Griffiths. Wolfington said this was discussed at the EDA meeting this morning and is in the planning process. The tentative dates are September 16-18, 2018 for him to come. The cost for him to come including travel is \$37,500. The BDC agreed to contribute \$7,500 if he is here for two days. The Sonsteg Foundation has agreed to contribute \$5,000. September is coming fast. Do we want to push this date back for Griffiths to do his *13 Ways to Kill a Community* program? Is this something we could use Xcel dollars for? Wolfington went on to say the City could handle the mechanics of this program but who will engage people participation? Griffiths will be asking what we want to accomplish from the program. The Mayor stated the BDC was not on board with it at first, then came around and felt we could use an independent person to come in from the outside to help us move forward. There was discussion on the state of the community in 3 months and we may need direction. Schreck said the cost is a hard pill to swallow without the Xcel dollars. Wolfington suggested this item be tabled and we can do more research into the program.

The Council reviewed the budget report.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$967,896.42.

Wolfington updated the Council on the Small Cities Grants. They currently have 13 active residential applicants. We have 2 years to fill and complete the grants.

The Council will now take a field trip to the Library for an informational presentation by Benson's Librarian Dawn Daily.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk