

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 6, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Sue Fitz, Gary Landmark, Ben Hess and Bob Claussen. Members absent: None Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Director of Public Works Elliot Nelson, Assistant City Attorney Ben Wilcox, Kurt and Logan Flegel

Boy Scout Logan Flegel presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Council. His plans are to build a new batting cage on the south side of Chief's Field, next to the old one. He also proposed a shed and concrete to practice on when conditions are wet. His project cost estimate is \$6,000. He also asked if the Line Department could help run electrical service to the shed. He will be soliciting local organizations for donations to cover the cost of the project. The consensus of the Council was to give their approval to proceed with his project.

Next on the agenda Assistant City Attorney Ben Wilcox updated the City Council on the changes made by the State on the guidelines for granting a variance. He stated obtaining a variance has been changed from having to prove a hardship to stating practical difficulties. Wilcox was at the Planning Commission Meeting earlier today and briefed them on the law change.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the May 16, 2011 City Council Minutes.

Wolfington informed the Council about action taken by the Benson Planning Commission at their meeting today to deny Doug Cook at 615 Groehler Court a variance to put up a 30' x 40' steel pole shed on his property. The Planning Commission voted to recommend denial of the variance application due to the number of ancillary buildings on the site, and due to the size of the proposed building. Mr. Cook was unable to show that his property was restricted to an unreasonable use. A motion was made by Landmark, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to deny the variance based on the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Wolfington discussed a conditional use permit approved by the Planning Commission at their meeting today. Jack Evenson will be running a K-bid business at 503 14th St. S., which would include housing used cars on the lot. After discussion a motion was made by Fitz, seconded by Claussen and carried unanimously to approve the conditional use permit with a 20 foot setback from the corner intersection and compliance with the City temporary sign ordinance

Next was a request from Milton and Lydia Peterson for a quit claim deed to be issued to them for a driveway access they have used for several years and maintained which is owned by the City. It will not affect the right of way, and is a small area of land. The request was approved by the Planning Commission at their meeting today. A motion was made by Hess, second by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the quit claim deed.

Wolfington informed the Council the Minnesota Department of Health has approved the backwash reclaim and air scour systems of the City's Water Treatment Plant #2 rehabilitation project, which is eligible for funding under the Green Project Reserve provisions of the Drinking Water Revolving Fund.

Council Member Claussen offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION DELEGATING LEGAL SIGNING AUTHORITY
(RESOLUTION NO. 2011-08)**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the jurisdiction of Benson, Minnesota, has authorized Rob Wolfington, City Manager or Glen Pederson, Director of Finance to sign any and all grants or required documentation from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at the Department of Public Safety, executed on behalf of the City of Benson.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Bonestroo in the amount of \$17,474.47:

- City of Benson General - \$2,410.00
- Water Treatment Improvements - \$10,284.11
- Sandy's Sanitary Lift Station - \$4,780.36

Wolfington presented a packet from the State of Minnesota Auditor explaining that the Legislature created a Council on Local Results and Innovation, which released a standard set of ten performance measures for cities that will aid residents, taxpayers and elected officials to benchmark their operations. If the city decides to participate, they will be eligible for a reimbursement of \$.14 per capita on local government aid, up to \$25,000 and also exempt from levy limits payable in 2012 if they are in effect. Wolfington stated he would show a list of performance measures at the next Council meeting for their consideration.

The Mayor declared a recess at 5:52 p.m. in order for the Council to take a tour of the projects currently going on in the City.

The Mayor re-convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

It was moved by Claussen, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk