

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
JULY 1, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Evenson. Members present: Jack Evenson, Dan Enderson and Chris Carruth. Members Absent: Nancy Maanum. Also present: City Clerk Valerie Alsaker, Director of Finance Lisa Kent, City Manager Kyle Harris, Assistant City Attorney Stephen Kowal, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Renee Jacobson and Reed Anfinson. Online: C. Delong.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Evenson removed City Council Appointments and added Joe Riley Construction Sewer Tap License as an action item and Wastewater Floodwall Bid Tab as an informational item to the agenda. It was moved by Enderson, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- June 3, 2024 City Council Minutes
- June 17, 2024 City Council Minutes
- June 24, 2024 Special City Council Minutes
- April 1, 2024 Planning Commission Minutes
- April 15, 2024 Planning Commission Minutes
- Charter Communications Franchise Fee Payment
- League of Minnesota Cities Notice of Dues Increase for 2025
- Bolton & Menk Pay Request – Airport Master Plan Update - \$8,400
- Cannon Technologies Pay Request - \$73,871.60 – Water Nodes
- Cannon Technologies Pay Request - \$4,985.20 – Water Nodes
- Prairie 5 Com. Action Council - 1st Half of 2024 Operations - \$3,500.00
- Electronic Transfers:
 - Payroll:
 - June 13, 2024 - \$142,593.34
 - June 27, 2024 - \$118,403.42
 - Journal Entries:
 - May 2024 - \$1,070,544.87

There was no one with unscheduled business.

Renee Jacobson approached the Council to discuss damages to a flat cemetery stone last year. She recapped the discovery of small chips and rust on one of their family stones. She is hoping the City of Benson will take responsibility and resolve their concerns. Mayor Evenson stated he has talked to her brother several times and will meet with staff to figure out how to proceed.

Mayor Evenson said there is now a vacancy on the Council, with Councilmember Mark Schreck moving out of town. Councilmember Enderson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A VACANCY
ON BENSON CITY COUNCIL
(RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11)**

WHEREAS, Councilmember Mark Schreck was elected to the office of City Council at the November 2, 2021 municipal election and,

WHEREAS, Mark Schreck will no longer reside in the City of Benson, as of July 1, 2024,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

The Council declares that a vacancy exists on Council effective on July 1, 2024.

Councilmember Carruth seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Enderson, Carruth. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2024-11 duly passed and adopted.

Mayor Evenson then stated he would like to see former Councilmember Gary Landmark appointed by Council to fill out the remaining six months of Schreck's term per City Charter.

Councilmember Carruth offered the following resolution:

**CITY OF BENSON
RESOLUTION APPOINTING PERSON TO FILL A VACANCY
(RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12)**

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists on the Benson City Council.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Benson City Charter the council shall fill the vacancy of a City Council Member with less than a year left on their term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Council appoints Gary Landmark to fill the vacant position until such time that a new council member has been elected and qualified.

Councilmember Enderson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Enderson, Carruth. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2024-12 duly passed and adopted.

Mayor Evenson opened the Public Hearing at 5:37 p.m. on the Benson Police Department drone program. There have been no public comment turned into the City, and there was no one in the audience at this time.

Harris presented the 2025 Western Minnesota Prairie Waters Membership for discussion. Harris said the membership was \$5,000 last year, and this year it is \$6,000. This item will come back to Council for a decision in the future.

The Next was a request for support from the Swift County Benson Hospital Auxiliary in the amount of \$200 for their golf outing fundraiser. The Mayor called for a motion. It was moved by Carruth, and seconded by Enderson. He then asked for any discussion. Enderson said he will vote against this because he feels the City should not be in the donation business. He went on to say the City has supported the hospital over the years. In 2020 the City committed \$1 million to certain capital improvements to the hospital, and they provided money to refund some bonds (in the form of a loan) that were outstanding and saved the hospital a lot of money in interest, and he said he thinks the City has already supported the hospital in that way. He also stated he thinks it's a good cause and will personally support it. The following vote was taken: AYES: Evenson, Carruth. NAYS: Enderson. The motion passed to support the SCBH Auxiliary in the amount of \$200.00 out of the Utility Fund.

Councilmember Enderson offered the following resolution:

**CITY OF BENSON
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS
(RESOLUTION NO. 2024-13)**

WHEREAS, The City of Benson is generally authorized to accept gifts and bequests pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 and Minnesota Statutes Section 471.17 for the benefit of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amounts set forth below to the city:

Patrons – Fire Department Fish Fry Donations - \$5,960.00
CentraCare – Kid Day Donation - \$1,000.00
Joyce Rhode – Cemetery Memorial - \$100.00
Glacial Plains Coop – Kid Day Donation - \$500.00
Huston Motor Sports – Kid Day Donation - \$100.00
Patrick's Pub & Grill – Kid Day Donation - \$50.00

WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to assist the various city departments and programs as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, The City Council finds that it is appropriate to accept the donations offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The donations described above are accepted and shall be used to benefit the departments listed above, as allowed by law.

Councilmember Carruth seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Enderson, Carruth. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2024-13 duly passed and adopted.

Harris presented the Wastewater Plant Floodwall Mitigation bid tabulation to the Council as follows:

Crow River Construction	\$2,745,610.50
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Northdale Construction Company, Inc.	\$3,054,467.61
J.R. Ferche, Inc.	\$3,808,085.60

He reminded the Council the original budget for the project was \$1.6 million. Enderson asked when will Council hear about the entirety of the project. Harris said at the July 15, 2024 meeting, and that today's bid tab was informational.

Alsaker presented a Sewer Tap License for Joe Riley Construction. They are working on the Swift County Human Services addition. In order for them to tap into the City sewer main, they are required to have a license with the City. It was moved by Carruth, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve the Sewer Tap License to Joe Riley Construction.

Mayor Evenson closed the public hearing at 5:50 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Carruth, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 5:51 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk