

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
JULY 19, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Terri Collins, Lucas Olson, Mark Schreck, Jack Evenson and Jon Buyck. Members Absent: None. Also present: Director of Finance Glen Pederson, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed, Public Works Director Dan Gens, City Attorney Ben Wilcox, Anne Johnson, Kerry Wilcox, Jon Dokken, Diane Doscher and Pioneerland Librarian Andrew Kelton.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda to which there were none. It was moved by Evenson seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

Mayor Collins asked to make a correction to the July 6, 2021 City Council Minutes to reflect a donation from Eric Payne from a \$200 donation to a \$2,000 donation. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- July 6, 2021 City Council Minutes
- June 7, 2021 Planning Commission Minutes
- June 29, 2021 Armory Blue Ribbon Committee Minutes
- 2022 Pioneerland Library System Budget Request - \$94,811
- Electronic Transfers:
 - Journal Entries: June - \$2,004,770.69
 - Payroll: July 15, 2021 - \$131,570.61

There was no one with unscheduled business to come before the Council.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing on Charter Changes for municipal elections at 5:31 p.m.

Anne Johnson with the Armory Blue Ribbon Committee approached the Council and presented the Committee report. She said the report contains information from the last 3 months of meetings. Included in the report is the architect report, committee minutes, history of the Armory and she identified the top uses for the Armory as Recreation, Emergency Management, Public Health, Governmental, Group Rentals and Community Classes. She also noted the financial section with possible funding sources to pay for renovations. The committee is hoping for the grant award which would allow for a very nice renovation. The Mayor thanked her for her presentation and the committee for all of their work.

Wilcox approached the Council with an amendment to the zoning ordinance for Council consideration for allowing a slaughter facility on property zoned I-1, I-2, I-3, B-2 & B-3. Mayor Collins said she wants to visit slaughter houses in other towns for more information on the operation of these facilities. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, and seconded by Buyck to approve the 1st Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 154: Zoning; §§ 154.02 and 154.056 of the Benson City Code of 2003. The following vote was taken: AYES: Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Olson. It was then moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to set a public hearing on the zoning change for August 16, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Gens approached with a pay request. With all the work on the trickling filter, it became apparent the doors to the trickling filter were not closing properly. Instead of trying to repair them, Gens felt new

ones would be better. It was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to Rubin Construction, LLC in the amount of \$7,751.63.

Gens asked the Council to start thinking about the possibility of water restrictions. With the lack of rain this year, many towns have put yard watering restrictions in place. Gens went on to say he would like to start advertising using DNR recommendations for watering such as what times and how much to water. He said this is also addressed in the City of Benson Ordinances. Olson asked if we have seen a draw down in our wells. Gens said they have seen a drop in the aquafer, but it isn't critical yet.

It was moved by Evenson, and seconded by Olson to approve a pay request from LandTeam Incorporated for engineering services for elevator demolition in the amount of \$5,737.56. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: Schreck. The motion carried.

It was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson to approve a pay request from LandTeam Incorporated for Gusty's Road engineering services in the amount of \$6,450.80. The following vote was taken: AYES: Olson, Collins, Buyck, Evenson. NAYES: Schreck. The motion carried.

Councilmember Olson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF XCEL ENERGY GRANT DOLLARS FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES
(RESOLUTION 2021-18)**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, State of Minnesota, received grant dollars from Northern State Power (Xcel Energy) as part of the Benson Power LLC biomass plant closing, and;

WHEREAS, these grant dollars are limited in use for the purposes of economic development, and;

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that Sanitary Sewer Collection and treatment improvements qualify as an economic development purpose, and;

WHEREAS, the following project is authorized use of grant dollars:

Name	Budget	Transfer Out
2020 Deferred Maintenance	\$985,210.00	\$157,679.02
2020 WWRP Flood Protection	\$964,794.00	\$5,280.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that \$162,959.02 as itemized on the attached invoices to be transferred from the NSP Grant Fund to the Sewer Fund.

Councilmember Evenson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Schreck, Collins, Olson, Buyck, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2021-18 duly passed and adopted.

Pederson presented the June 2021 budget report. He said he will start the estimated budget numbers for the 2022 budget soon.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$444,330.56.

Mayor Collins closed the public hearing at 5:49 p.m.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the 2nd

Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Section 2.05, Vacancies in the Council, and Section 4.01, the Regular Municipal Election, of the Charter of the City of Benson.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Providing for Special Elections to Fill Certain Vacancies in Elected Offices at Times Other Than the Regular City General Election.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Evenson seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk