

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
JULY 2, 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 Public Works Dan Gens, Jon Buyck, Don Lenz, Lynn Jacobson-Stiehm and Dawn & Larry Dailey.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. Wolfington asked to add Closing of Xcel, Librarian Dawn Dailey Farewell, San Francisco Trip and Small Cities Grant. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- June 18, 2018 City Council Minutes
- April 16, 2018 EDA Minutes
- Minnesota State Demographic Center Population Estimate
- Librarian Dawn Dailey's Resignation

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

The Mayor asked Dawn Daily to approach the Council. She thanked Dawn for her service to the Benson Public Library and as a token of the City's appreciation, the Mayor presented Dawn an American Flag.

Next was a request for day passes for the Benson Swimming Pool to be used as a fundraiser at the Mayor's Mingle. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve 20 day passes for the Benson Swimming Pool to the Mayor's Mingle fundraising event.

Wolfington discussed a liquor permit request from the Benson Hockey Association for July 21, 2018. The Hockey Association is holding a rib cook-off fundraiser, and Brink's will be catering the event as well. Wolfington stated they would have to provide proof of insurance in order to hold the event. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the liquor permit at the south Shelter at Ambush Park for the Hockey fundraising event Kid Day Weekend with the stipulation they provided a copy of Brink's Caterer's license, a copy of Brink's liability insurance and the Hockey Association's certificate of liability insurance.

Wolfington stated the bid tabulation for the airport above-ground fuel system installation came in. O'Day Equipment was the only bidder. We have worked with them before with good results. There was a change order stating the removal of the current dispenser shed will be done by the City therefore that cost will be deducted from the original bid tally. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the bid tally from O'Day Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$307,251.80.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BENSON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS, ISD #777 FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT REFERENDUM**

(RESOLUTION 2018-13)

WHEREAS, the school is a critical component within the City of Benson; and

WHEREAS, Benson Public Schools has facilities that are deteriorating; and

WHEREAS, the Benson Public Schools Auditorium is currently closed due to failing structure and not able to host fine arts and community performances; and

WHEREAS, the school district has a growing childcare program that helps support the community and businesses of Benson; and

WHEREAS, Benson Public Schools partners with local businesses to provide on-the-job training for students so that these students may stay or go to post-secondary school and return to Benson to fill jobs, buy homes, and pay taxes to grow our community; and

WHEREAS, the plan includes spaces for Benson citizens to use and to gather;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on the 2nd Day of July 2018, the City of Benson declared its support for a proposal for the Benson Public School District Bond Referendum to improve school facilities and help grow our community by attracting and retaining students and families.

Councilmember Schreck seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2018-13 duly passed and adopted.

Wolfington stated 8 years ago the City signed an agreement with PeopleService to provide sanitary sewer service for the City. Gens currently has a Class A license, which is required to run our wastewater plant. The City would like to terminate the contract with PeopleService and hire our own employees to run the plant. Our two new employees would shadow the current PeopleService employees and then take over in October of 2018. Wolfington stated PeopleService has done a good job for us in the past, and he recommended approval of termination of the contract. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve termination of the People Service contract as presented.

Next was an estimate for replacing the awning at the Liquor Store. Gens stated he plans to replace the sidewalk in the area of the awning and put proper drainage in under the sidewalk. The new awning will be a little longer than the current one. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the awning estimate from G & J Awning in the amount of \$6,824.00.

Wolfington presented the Council with possible options for improving security at City Hall. More and more customers come into the billing office and are not on their best behavior. Wolfington said Director of Finance Glen Pederson is in charge of City Hall operations and has done some brain storming on options to make City Hall more secure. He would like to discuss this further at the next City Council meeting along with possible long term options for City Hall. The Mayor said this is a good topic for the strategic planning annual meeting. There was more discussion on moving this planning session usually held in January up to later this year.

Wolfington said Greg Chamberlain from Xcel called last Thursday to say the North Dakota Public Utility Commission approved the sale of Benson Power to Xcel. The paperwork is already executed and the plant is transferred to Xcel. The agreement between Xcel and the City of Benson states the first payment should be transferred to the City within 30 days of the sale.

Brightmark Energy is interested in the Benson Power site and possibly repurposing some of the buildings. They are in the anaerobic digestion business and currently have a plant in Perris, California. Their offices are in San Francisco and Wolfington stated he feels it is appropriate to have two members of the Council go and visit the plant to see plant operations. He went on to say there are no guarantees the Benson Power plant will be repurposed or any time line at this point for Brightmark to come and start any work as they are still working on their feasibility study. Schreck enquired about the relationship between Brightmark and Xcel, to which Wolfington replied good. He also went on to say nothing is certain until a building permit and development agreement are presented to the City of Benson. Wolfington felt travel expense would be covered by the Xcel monies as it will promote economic development. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve sending the Mayor and Evenson to San Francisco, California to meet with Brightmark and tour the Perris plant.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to table the request for funds from the Humane Society until there is a representative present.

Wolfington presented an update on the Small Cities Grant.

The Council will now take a field trip to the Golf Club for an informational presentation by the Golf Club Board on the improvements being made at the club house.

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 6:04 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk