

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
AUGUST 17, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Mark Schreck, Jon Buyck & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Jen & Terry Sullivan and Jason Kirwin with Environmental Scientific.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. Patrick's Bean Bag Tournament and Northern Lights Trails Gambling Permit was added. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck 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:

- August 3, 2020 City Council Minutes
- August 10, 2020 Special City Council Minutes
- MRES Red Rock's Dedication Invitation
- Electronic Transfers:
Payroll: \$115,917.78 – August 13, 2020
Journal: \$5,351,702.79 – July 2020

The Mayor called for anyone with unscheduled business. Sullivans approached the Council. They would like to hold a bean bag tournament on Saturday, September 12, 2020. There is a Class Reunion in town that weekend and asked to hold a tournament. They would continue to block 13th St. S. between Kansas and Pacific after the street dance on September 11, 2020, hold the bean bag tournament on Saturday and have the street cleaned up by the afternoon on Saturday, September 12, 2020. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the Sullivan's request.

Next Wolfington introduced Jason Kirwin. He asked him to review the 2016 Armory report and clarify conditions of the Armory. He reviewed the 2016 report and found it was full and complete. He discussed the following items on the report: lead paint, friable asbestos pipe wrap, peeling paint in the basement and asbestos tile. First was lead based paint. It is an issue if ingested, but will not become dust on its own. The EPA advises no sanding, and therefore is safe. He stated the floor tiles in the hall do not contain asbestos, but the mastic that glues them down does contain asbestos. As for the asbestos pipe wrap upstairs, as long as it isn't disturbed it is fine. He said all asbestos must be removed before any demolition. The best way to control mold in the basement is to control the moisture, which we are currently doing. He said the building is safe for temporary occupancy. He said if we decide to demolish the building, we will have to do asbestos abatement, and obtain bids for that. Wolfington said the new gymnastics building may not be done by the first of the year. He asked Jacobson if it is ok to operate the Armory for the next 6 months. He said yes as long as it doesn't go longer. The Mayor said the special meeting was an important meeting and today we gained clarity. Wolfington expects the Armory to be in use through February 2021. Pederson asked how easy would it be to remove the upstairs pipe. Kirwin said it would not be an easy task. The Council thanked Kirwin for his time and expertise.

Next was the 2021 annual dues for the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC). It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to include the CGMC dues in the 2021 budget in the amount of \$5,824. It was then moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried

unanimously to include the CGMC Voluntary Assessment for Environmental Action Fund in 2021 budget in the amount of \$789.

Wolfington said about a month ago, the EDA asked the Council to explore the possibility of an economic development position. He said today at the EDA meeting there was discussion on the position. Wolfington said there are 4 possible options for this position. 1) traditional full-time employee 2) a private non-profit company agreement 3) Governmental partnership similar to the UMRD 4) pursue a grant with the Federal EDA as a Recovery Coordinator. Wolfington said he hoped to drill down on these options. He went on to say he spent an hour on the phone today with the Federal EDA and they said our chances for qualifying for a Federal EDA grant would go up considerably if we had a development agreement on the Fibrominn site, otherwise our chances are slim. Evenson said he has seen work from CEDA and prefers an option with them or explore working with UMRDC. The Mayor stated she would like to hear from CEDA. Wolfington said CEDA is anxious to come and make a presentation. Mayor Collins said she wants to keep our contract with the UMRDC, as it addresses a different skill set. Wolfington gave the history of CEDA. The Council directed staff to contact CEDA for a presentation.

Next there was a pay request from Stantec for geo-tech testing at the old Fibrominn site in preparation for making that site shovel ready. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to pay Stantec in the amount of \$5,160.00. Wolfington added he hasn't gone forward to finish the shovel ready application because once we send it into the State, it will cost \$6,700 for the application review plus engineering fees. Until we hear differently from the party currently interested in the Fibrominn, we won't need to send this in and pay the fee.

Next was a request from Northern Lights Trails Snowmobile Club to move their gambling event back to April 10, 2021. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck to approve the date change.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$2,572,59

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk