

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 18, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Mayor. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Jack Evenson, Mike Fugleberg, Stephanie Heinzig & Sue Fitz. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Public Works Dan Gens, Assistant City Attorney Ben Wilcox, Bruce & Paulette Jaeger, Barb Nelson, Marlene Kvame, Anita Floodstrom, Pentcho Pentchev, Jill Hawkins, April & Vanessa Bartz, Chad Pillatzki, Wade & Nissa Larson, Al, Bruce and Gary Landmark, Wade & Nissa Larson, Glacial Plains Manager Tom Traen, Police Chief Ian Hodge and members of the Benson Sportsman Club.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve the following minutes:

- August 4, 2014 City Council Meeting

The Mayor noted openings on boards and commissions.

Wolfington noted the amendment to the Airport Maintenance & Operations Agreement with the Minnesota Office of Aeronautics has been signed. The State will reimburse the City 75% of the eligible maintenance and operation costs not reimbursed by any other source, not to exceed \$24,257.20 .

Next was a letter from the Department of Energy stating they are not proposing any overall rate changes, but Western Area Power Administration is proposing modifications to the charge components in order to true up the base and drought adder charges, which requires a minor rate adjustment process.

Wolfington referenced a letter he received from Charter Communications that their broadcast charge will increase from \$3.50 a month to \$5.00 a month beginning August 15, 2014.

The Mayor called for unscheduled business. Chad Pillatzki requested the old Benson Mobil Manor be mowed and cleaned up. Wolfington stated there has been many pieces of correspondence with owner Pete Sampair from White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Wolfington explained there are several gas and water stubs sticking out of the ground as well as exposed tie down stakes still on the property which will damage a mower that may try to mow there, and therefore he is not able to find anyone to go onto the property and mow for that reason. Pillatzki stated the City needs to make this property part of the clean-up effort the City has been implementing over the last year. He also asked about the Cottage Square property, and said it isn't mowed regularly. Wolfington said the owners have made a deal with a farmer who has planted alfalfa there and is planning on three cuttings on the alfalfa this year. He stated the property is for sale and hopes it will be developed one day.

Next Paulette Jaeger approached the Council along with several of her neighbors expressing concern with the Benson Ready Mix plant in their neighborhood. Some of the items mentioned were dust control, weeds growing on the property and violation of the noise ordinance. Wolfington suggested there be a meeting with a couple representatives from the neighborhood group and Duininck at City Hall to calmly try to find a solution or compromise to the issues presented by the neighborhood group. The Council directed staff to facilitate the meeting.

Chief Hodge presented a couple minor changes to the West Central S.W.A.T. Team Agreement. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve the West Central S.W.A.T. Team Agreement as presented.

Ian Hodge approached the Council representing the Benson Sportsman's Club. They are in the process of pursuing a non-profit status, and would like to promote hunter education and safety, as well as sporting clays, and law enforcement firearms instruction. They are interested in using City property on the

west side of the old City dump. Wolfington stated this site will need to maintain its current purpose without interrupting public works activities. Hodge reassured if they are permitted to use this site, there will be no activities out there during City working hours, and that they would maintain the area they would use. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to proceed with investigating if this is a feasible use of the land for a shooting range.

Tom Traen approached the Council. He had met with Wolfington on their plan for the diesel fueling station they will be constructing soon. After reviewing the current plan for the site, the underground electrical and the transformer box would have to be moved to allow for truck entrance and egress, which would be very costly. Instead Traen asked the Council to consider an easement of 70' adjacent to their property to the west of the building site across from 11<sup>th</sup> Street North to allow for access, and eliminate the time and expense of moving any electrical services. Wolfington suggested this be dedicated as a public access to allow for possible street development in the future. After discussion, it was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to deem 70' across from 11<sup>th</sup> Street North as a public access. Wilcox will draw up the documents for this.

The City submitted their wellhead protection plan to the state, which has met final approval. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve implementation of our wellhead protection plan amendment as presented to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Next was a review of the revised Blight Ordinance. Wilcox stated the revisions allow for a citation to be issued after a notice has been given to a property owner that has failed to take care of the blight issue. The property owner will then have to appear before a judge. Wilcox said it is a possibility the judge could put correcting the violation back onto the City instead of the property owner. Al Landmark asked if this ordinance would apply to commercial business. Wilcox said it's a residential ordinance. Landmark said he feels commercial business should be held to the same standard as the residents. Floodstrom said the City should promote a community effort to work together and help residents clean and paint their properties. Wolfington encouraged the citizens to go forth and volunteer. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance To Amend Chapter 98: Structures in Disrepair.

Wolfington said there was good feedback from two informational meetings held today on the 5 year street plan and assessment policy. There will be two more open houses next week.

Gens presented a pay request from Breitbach Construction for water and sewer repairs. Gens said there is some final work to be completed, but we are holding a retainer until it is finished. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve pay request #2 to Breitbach Construction in the amount of \$168,521.63.

The Council reviewed the July Budget Report.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fugleberg and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$409,550.34.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk