

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2018**

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, Director of Public Works Dan Gens, Police Chief Ian Hodge and Lisa Kent.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. Wolfington asked to add purchase of an administrative vehicle, and the Mayor asked to remove the City Manager review. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

Mayor Collins welcomed newly elected Councilmember Jon Buyck.

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

- August 6, 2018 City Council Minutes
- July 2, 2018 Planning Commission Minutes
- May 1, 2018 Cemetery Board Minutes
- July 2018 Police Report

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

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing for a nuisance property at 600 – 12th Street South in Benson. Chief Hodge approached the Council with pictures and a narrative on the history of the property, including a history of repeated violations. He went on to say since the homeowner was served with a notice of nuisance on July 16, 2018, he has made progress and constructed a fence in his back yard that adjoins the existing fence on the south side of the property in the back yard. On the north side is a tall hedge. There is no front yard fence. Wolfington stated it is the Council’s job to determine if a nuisance still exists and if so they must direct the City Attorney to send an order for this issue to go to court. Chief Hodge stated he feels there is no longer a nuisance at this property. After discussion it was moved by Olson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to declare the nuisance at 600 – 12th Street South abated, to close the public hearing and directed Chief Hodge to re-inspect the property this fall.

Pederson gave a summary of the August 14, 2018 Special Election as follows:

| | Precinct 15 | Precinct 20 | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | North Side | South Side | Total |
| Registered Voters | | 923 | 886 | 1,809 |
| Votes Cast | | 513 | 467 | 980 |
| Percent Voter Turn-out | | | | 54% |

**FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER
To fill vacancy with a term ending the first Monday in January 2020**

| | Precinct 15 North Side | Precinct 20 South Side | Total |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Jon Buyck | 313 | 263 | 576 |
| Larry Smith | 71 | 67 | 138 |
| Lynn Jacobson-Stiehm | 59 | 65 | 124 |
| Donald Lenz | 56 | 58 | 114 |
| Write-Ins | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Over Votes | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Under Votes | 14 | 14 | 28 |
| Total Votes | <u>513</u> | <u>467</u> | <u>980</u> |

Jon Buyck is duly elected to fill the vacancy with a term ending the first Monday of 2020.

JUDGES OF THE ELECTION

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Alta Larson | Gene Doscher |
| Sharon Hagen | Pam Lawatsch |
| Karen Wolfington | Darlene Iverson |
| Jan Baukol | Dianne Doscher |
| Jim Hilleren | Sue Fitz |
| Mike Scheffler | Marge Scheffler |
| LoAnn Hagen | |

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the 2018 Special Election results.

Councilmember Evenson offered the following resolution:

POLICE OFFICER DECLARATION (RESOLUTION NO. 2018-15)

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in Minnesota Statutes 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of others; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire plan for eligible employees of police departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated therein and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Benson hereby declares that the position titled Part-Time Police Officer, currently held by Brennden DeHaan meets all of the following Police and Fire membership requirements:

1. Said position requires a license by the Minnesota peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and this employee is so licensed;
2. Said position's primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the state;
3. Said position charges this employee with the prevention and detection of crime;
4. Said position gives this employee the full power of arrest, and
5. Said position is assigned to a designated police or sheriff's department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the above-named employee be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of this employee's initial Police and Fire salary deduction by the governmental subdivision.

Councilmember Schreck seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Olson. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2018-15 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants.

Pederson discussed the election and the new E-poll books and how the flow for the November election could go more smoothly.

Wolfington discussed The Strategic Planning meeting on August 16, 2018 that was held at the Hospital meeting room. He said it was more of a planning session on what to do with the Xcel dollars as a Plan B if the Plan A doesn't work out. Topics discussed were Wastewater plant improvements, Gusty's Road improvements, hiring a housing and economic development employee, purchasing land for an industrial park possibly south of town, 3 housing projects were discussed and several other ideas that will come in the next 90 days because of budget planning.

Wolfington stated at the last regular Council meeting several options for improving security at City Hall were presented. Mayor Collins said the longer we wait to add security to City Hall, the more of a detriment it is. It was agreed to look at a security window with handicapped enhancements in the billing office. Several ideas were discussed about security for administration upstairs. Hodge said Heartland Security has many options they could suggest for City Hall. Wolfington suggested we come up with a plan to present to the Council. Wolfington invited Kent to the table. She agreed with the security window in the billing office where she works. She felt any system that would require them in the billing office to find someone upstairs before letting them go upstairs would be too burdensome. Security cameras, camera doorbells and walls were discussed. The Mayor directed Pederson to get some costs for the security upgrades discussed.

2019 Parks projects priorities were discussed:

- The swimming pool is in need of repairs. Wolfington said it could take all of the Parks Capital Outlay and we would also have to take from the general fund reserves to pay for all the repairs.
- Flower pots and flowers were discussed. The watering of the new pots are currently being taken care of by Sally Jones from the Golf Club. She is using their gator. Wolfington said if the number of pots double next year along with hanging pots it could take 3 hours to water all of them. Possible financial needs for this project were discussed.
- The playground in Roosevelt park needs to be replaced. Currently repairs are all that is budgeted for this piece of equipment for 2018.
- A new community sign was discussed. The estimate for this at a new location is \$65,000. Pederson mentioned if we do not do the community sign, that money would go back into parks capital outlay.

There was a high priority for pool repairs. trails at Northside rec are deteriorating as well as the roads, trails and parking at Ambush Park. It was agreed to look further into the priorities for the budget and choose which items to focus on.

Purchase of an administrative vehicle was next. Wolfington presented a quote for a 2015 Explorer with 33,000 miles on it. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of a 2015 Explorer from Nolan Baker Ford in the amount of \$26,200.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk