

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
AUGUST 3, 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, Kevin Kimmes, Eric Lembke, Ron LaFond, Ryan Capelle with Stantec Engineers and Patrick from Stanley Consultants telephonically.

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 amended agenda.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- July 20, 2020 City Council Minutes
- June 15, 2020 EDA Minutes
- July 13, 2020 Planning Commission Minutes
- Gambling Permit – Swift County Gobblers Change of Date – August 28, 2020
- Gambling Permit – Lions Club of Benson – October 1, 2020
- Governor Walz Emergency Executive Order 20-81
- Electronic Transfers:  
Payroll: \$99,705.41 – 7/30/2020

The Mayor called for anyone with unscheduled business to which there was no one.

Kimmes with Stantec Engineering approached the Council and introduced himself as a Community Development specialist. He handed out a slide presentation discussing past projects Stantec has worked with the City of Benson on the wastewater treatment plant and the chlorine leak at the water treatment plant. Eric Lembke discussed future projects with the Utility Board earlier today and one future project is the need for a clear well. He said a 150,000 versus a 300,000 gallon tank was discussed at the Utility Board and they agreed the 300,000 gallon was the way to go. Another project is the need to paint the inside of the water tower and the difficulty in doing this without a clear well. LaFond discussed the need to replace the anaerobic digester at the wastewater treatment plant. Schreck said Benson ranked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as number 183 on the rehabilitation of the plant. LaFond said the City did not qualify for any grants on that ranking. Kimmes ended with Stantec conducted safety improvement and inspections while they here. There were questions on backwashing of the water filters. The Mayor thanked the Stantec crew.

Wolfington discussed the costs from staggered work shifts and quarantined employee from COVID-19. He asked the Council to approve the expenses so we can transfer those expenditures from the COVID funds. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the Missouri River Energy Services personnel COVID costs in the amount of \$33,979.87. It was then moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the City of Benson Employee Personnel costs in the amount of \$69,232.

Wolfington discussed setting a special meeting to discuss the armory renovations and repairs. After discussion it was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to set a special meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020 at noon in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Collins suggested a

work session after the August 17, 2020 Council meeting for an hour to discuss an economic development position.

Next were two pay requests for work at on the airport arrival and departure building. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve pay request #1 to Kalcon, LLC in the amount of \$130,808.11. It was then moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve pay request #2 to Kalcon LLC in the amount of \$159,600.00.

Wolfington presented an order for razing and removal of hazardous building at 600 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Street South. It is the former Benson Motel. Jacobson approached the Council. He said the balcony access fell down, which makes any upstairs rooms uninhabitable. When asked, Jacobson said he has not been inside the building. The owners have been contacted but have not responded. Chief Hodge said he contacted the realtor who is trying to sell the hotel, and has not heard back from them either. Wolfington said the owners will receive a certified letter with the enclosed order to either raze or repair the building. Schreck asked Jacobson what his guess would be to fix it, and Jacobson replied approximately \$200,000. Wolfington said the order gives them 30 days to obtain a permit and 60 days to complete the work. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the order for raze and removal of a hazardous building at 600 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Street South.

Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO ABATE NUISANCE AND ASSESS COSTS  
(RESOLUTION NO. 20-24)**

WHEREAS, the City Council has heard the report of the City Building Inspector regarding the hotel building on the property located at 600 22nd Street S. in Benson, Minnesota, legally described as Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block 1, Benson Industrial Park 3rd Addition to the City of Benson, Swift County, Minnesota,

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined, based on said report, that the hotel on the above described property is a dangerous or substandard building,

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Chapter 97 of the City of Benson Code of Ordinances and Minnesota Statutes, chapter 463, The City Council of the City of Benson, Minnesota resolves:

1. That the hotel located on the above described property is a dangerous or substandard building according to the definitions provided by the City of Benson Code of Ordinances, chapter 97 and Minnesota Statutes, chapter 463.
2. That an order to raze and remove the above described hotel be served upon the owners of the above described property in accordance with the City of Benson Code of Ordinances, chapter 97 and Minnesota Statutes, chapter 463.
3. That along with said order, the owners of the above described property will be served with notice of a hearing at which the Council will consider any evidence offered by the person or persons having any estate or interest in the above described structure.

Councilmember Evenson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Schreck, Collins, Buyck, Olson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2020-24 duly passed and adopted.

Next were 3 pay requests from Stantec Engineering. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve a pay request to Stantec Engineering in the amount of \$27,936.65 for Wastewater Treatment Facility Filter replacement.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Evenson and carried he Water Plant chlorine damage.

It was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from Stantec Engineering in the amount of \$1,117.75 for work on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Filter replacement.

Wolfington said Chief Hodge is here with Officer DeHaan and new K-9 officer Kane, and they would like to conduct a demonstration out in the parking lot. Mayor Collins said we will adjourn the meeting and proceed to the parking lot.

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 6:23 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk