

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Jon Buyck, Mark Schreck & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Police Sergeant Paul Larson, City Attorney Ben Wilcox, City Building Official Mike Jacobson, Helen Flodstrom, Mark Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Zack Moe, Allie Geerdes, James O'Leary, Steve Benson, MRES Regional Supervisor Jeff Bectold, Roxy Lewis and Bill McGeary.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Collins asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. The following items were added to the agenda: MS Bike-a-Thon, and the status of 501 – 16th St. S. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck 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:

- 7.15.2019 City Council Minutes
 - 7.22.2019 Special City Council Minutes
 - 7.1.2019 Planning Commission Minutes
 - Benson's 89th Kid Day Final Report
 - Countryside Public Health Tobacco Compliance Report
- Donations:
- Rose Collins - \$12.00 Tee Shirt
 - Rose Collins - \$8.00 Mayor's Mingle Donation
 - SCHB/Parkview Manor - \$703.00 – Kid Day
 - SCHB/Parkview Manor - \$200.00 – Kid Day
 - Kathy Jenner - \$40.00 – Beautify Benson
 - Benson Patrons - \$4,595.00 – Mayor's Mingle
 - Benson Patrons – 571.00 – Tee Shirt Sales
 - Benson Patrons - \$5,289.00 – Mayor's Mingle Silent Auction
 - Rec - \$368.00 – Bike Tram Bus Tickets
- Electronic Transfer to Payroll: July 18, 2019 - \$103,657.82
 - Electronic Transfer Journal Entries: June 2019 - \$8,210,634.16 and August 1, 2019 - \$122,773.07

The Mayor asked for people with unscheduled business. James O'Leary addressed the Council, asking to change the City Ordinance on ATV operation in the City of Benson. He presented an ordinance from Montevideo, MN to the Council. He said he has visited with Police Chief Hodge. Mayor Collins said the Council will look through the sample ordinance and let O'Leary know when the Council is ready to discuss this.

Mayor Collins re-opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on a hazardous house at 801 Kansas Avenue. This is a continuation of the public hearing from the July 22, 2019 Council meeting. Flodstrom approached the Council. Wilcox approached the Council and said Flodstrom's Attorney, Matt Franzen got out of Court late today and asked to be present via phone, to which the City Council agreed. Franzen introduced himself as Flodstrom's Attorney. He went on to explain the homeowner (Flodstrom) had hired her own home inspector Chad Sportel of Sportel Home Inspections, LLC. Sportel stated his findings from his July 19, 2019 inspection of 801 Kansas Ave. Franzen continued on to list the issues and what the

homeowner has been working on inside and outside of the house, and feels she has met several of the items on the list and asked the City of Benson to give her another month to continue working on repairs, then have Building Official Jacobson inspect what has been done. Wilson said he lives next door and has not seen any activity at the Flodstrom house to indicate construction repairs. Jacobson approached the Council and said no permits have been taken out for any work at the property. He went on to say he is requiring licensed contractors to do the work at the property. All work must meet the building codes. The State Electrical Inspector is required to inspect any electrical repairs. There was discussion by the Council whether to extend the date of completion on the original order to raze or repair, which is August 29, 2019. It was then moved by Olson to extend the order to raze and repair date to 30 days from August 29, 2019 contingent upon Flodstrom securing the proper permits by August 29, 2019. It was seconded by Buyck and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Olson, Buyck, Collins NAYES: Schreck, Evenson. The motion carried. Benson questioned why is it taking so long to get this property cleaned up? Wilcox answered the City was invited into the house. Previous orders were for clean up on the outside. Wilson discussed the fence falling on his yard and questioned if it was on his property when it was put up. Flodstrom said Jacobson helped measure when the fence was placed. Jacobson stated it is the homeowner's responsibility to survey for accurate lot lines, and the City does not survey. Benson said there is an inappropriate message spray painted on the fence, and it should be torn down. Moe said he has been killing rats in his yard he feels are coming from the Flodstrom property. He added his puppy got ahold of a poisoned rat and nearly died. The other neighbors agreed the rats they have seen are coming from the property. Schreck asked if the City can order pest control. Flodstrom agreed to let Jacobson into the out buildings to be sure there are no rats living in them within 1-2 days. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve closing the Public Hearing at 6 p.m.

McGeary approached the Council on behalf of the Civic Center Board to discuss a proposed agreement to remodel the North end of the Civic Center for indoor recreation. It is estimated that \$500,000 is needed to complete the project. The School is interested in renting the space for the gymnastics program. Wolfington suggested the funds come from the General Fund and General Capital Outlay Fund. The Civic Center Board would make the improvements and enter into a lease agreement with the school to pay a \$50,000 annual lease payment to the Civic Center Board, with two balloon payments of \$125,000. The Civic Center Board would use a portion of the \$50,000 lease payments to pay for operating costs and then return the remaining balance back to the City. Wolfington went on to say Xcel is making payments to the City of Benson in lieu of taxes for two years. He discussed possibly sharing this money with the School District and the County. He suggested the School's share could go towards the lease balloon payments. Wolfington also cautioned the figures being used for fixing the north end of the civic center are from bids taken by the school in 2017 and could be higher now. He said the other option is to develop the space into industrial rental. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to hold off on the proposed agreement at this time.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the Pioneerland Library System's 3rd quarter funding request in the amount of \$22,127.25. There was a 2020 budget request from Pioneerland Library System for 2020. The Council agreed to review the request when working on the 2020 budget.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve a 2020 budget funding request from the Southwest Initiative Foundation in the amount of \$1,046.00.

Wolfington discussed the need to reestablish local access channel 180 after equipment failures and losing the connection at the high school. He said he sent a letter requesting a lead to be brought into the Council Chambers at City Hall. He has not heard back from Charter. He presented a quotation from Alpha Video and is asking for authorization to purchase the equipment necessary to run the channel. He said he will not purchase the equipment until he hears back from Charter. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to authorize Wolfington to purchase the equipment once service is established, in the amount of \$18,360.00.

There were two pay requests from Stantec. It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve engineering for chlorine damage remediation in the amount of \$7,879.17. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve engineering for the Wastewater Treatment Filter Replacement in the amount of \$17,441.00.

Next was a request for a second payment from O'Day Equipment LLC for the above ground duel fuel system at the airport. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the second payment request to O'Day Equipment LLC in the amount of \$85,000.00.

Wolfington presented an authorization to proceed with the construction of the new arrival/departure building at the airport. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to authorize Wolfington to sign the agreement to proceed with construction of the new arrival departure building.

Next Wolfington said the Line Department has completed 75 overhead to underground electric services so far this year. Goff Electric has the contract to do this work. They will be short some supplies before the project is finished. Wolfington presented a capital outlay request to purchase materials to finish this year's project. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the capital outlay purchase for material in the amount of \$9,384.00.

Next Wolfington discussed a request from Swift County-Benson Healthcare Services to hold a joint City, County, and Hospital meeting to discuss the hospital reorganization. After discussion, it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to set a special joint City Council, County, Hospital board meeting on September 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Pederson reviewed the June budget report. He discussed an early Local Government aid payment and higher department expenditures.

Next was a contract for repairing the chlorine damage at the water treatment plant. Wolfington said he expected to have the contract, but hasn't received it yet and suggested to the Council they table this item until the contract comes in. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract when it arrives.

The house at 501 - 16th St. S. had a fire in it. Wolfington expressed his desire to get the home taken down as it is unsafe. He informed the Council the City has an escrow for 25% of the proceeds of the insurance money secured for abatement. Wolfington said Jacobson determined it is dangerous. The homeowner hasn't signed off with the City as of yet to allow abatement.

The Mayor discussed the success of the 2019 Kid Day activities.

Collins and Evenson said the MS Bike-a-Thon was a success. There were 400 bikers and 125 support staff that came through Benson. The Mayor thanked all the volunteers for their work put into the event. Wolfington gave Kudos to Mayor Collins for all her hard work with the flowers, the Mayor's Mingle and the MS Bike-a-Thon.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk