

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Landmark. Members present: Terri Collins, Jack Evenson, Gary Landmark, Stephanie Heinzig & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Police Chief Hodge, Police Sergeant Paul Larson, City Attorney Don Wilcox, Helen & Anita Flodstrom, William and Sandra Woodin, Mark Anderson and Laura Ostlie with the Upper Minnesota Valley RDC.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Landmark asked if there were any changes to the agenda to which there were none. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

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

- July 24, 2017 City Council Minutes
- Calvin Lindblad to the Airport Commission term expiring 12/31/2020
- June & July Police Reports
- Philanthropy in the Greater Benson Area
- Charter Communications Rate Increase and Channel Changes

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

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 5:32 p.m. on three nuisance houses. Sergeant Larson approached the Council. The first property is 810 Kansas Avenue. He provided pictures of the property from June 20, 2017, listing the nuisance conditions. He then had pictures from today showing the progress the homeowner has made. Homeowner Anita Flodstrom stated they just purchased some Round-up to kill the weeds by their trees. The next property was 805 Kansas Ave. Sergeant Larson provided pictures of the property from June 20, 2017, listing the nuisance conditions. He then presented pictures from today showing the progress the homeowner has made. Mr. Woodin stated he had tires in the yard as they are fixing the flooring in the shed they are next to, and when that is finished, the tires will be going into the shed. Woodin also said the wood in his yard is for his wood burning stove this winter. The last property is at 735 Kansas Ave. Sergeant Larson provided pictures of the property dated June 20, 2017, listing the nuisance conditions. He then presented pictures from today showing progress made by the homeowner. Larson expressed concern over a metal building that may not meet ordinance. Mr. Anderson stated he has multiply health issues which make it hard for him to clean up his property in the high heat and humidity conditions. He also stated his property is getting to be too much work for him. The Mayor asked Anderson how much more time he would need to complete cleaning up his property, to which he replied three weeks.

Wilcox asked the Council to review each property to determine if a nuisance still exists, and if so how much time they have to finish cleaning up the property before the City comes in and does it at the homeowner's expense. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously that the property at 810 Kansas had met all the goals of cleaning up the nuisances on the property. Next the property at 805 Kansas was discussed. It was agreed the wood pile needs inspection and a car on the property needs to have parts in it yet to meet all the goals. It was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to declare the nuisances cleaned up with the exception Sergeant Larson will be inspecting the wood pile to be sure it isn't construction material, and to check that the car on the premise has working head lights, and Sergeant Larson is to report back at the August

21, 2017 meeting. Lastly 735 Kansas Ave. still has several items to complete. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to extend the deadline to finish cleaning up to September 5, 2017. Helen Flodstrom addressed the Council stating their neighborhood has come together to help each other and help the Anderson's clean up. She recognized Sergeant Larson for coming to lend a hand on his time off to help as well, and thanked him. It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to close the public hearing at 5:56 p.m.

Next Laura Ostlie with the Upper Minnesota Valley Rural Development Commission (UMVRDC) approached the Council. She is asking for financial support for the Western Minnesota Prairie Waters Regional Tourism program. They have been working hard to promote tourism in the region as a great place to visit, work and live. They have been using drones to get photos of the region they would have never gotten before. There are videos, and marketing materials cities can utilize on their websites or in brochures. She said they are looking for pledges by September 1, 2017. After discussion, it was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the recommended amount of \$3,600.00 to be paid to Western Prairie Waters Regional Tourism Program out of Tourism Funds.

Gens discussed an additional overhead to underground project for 2018 on south highway 29 to Minnesota Ave. This was to be scheduled in the scope of work between the years of 2023-2026. Gens presented a proposed amendment to move this project up in the plan. He wanted to move this part of project up so all the electrical along the highways will be buried throughout town. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve DGR Engineering to execute the preliminary/planning phase of the project at a cost of \$5,800.00.

Gens informed the Council on the latest results of the copper testing in the drinking water. He said they have improved in their results, but still failed by the State's guidelines. 5 Houses out of 20 did not meet the guidelines. He said they will continue to work on solving the problem.

Wolfington said he would like to apply for a grant with the Minnesota Freight Program to construct Gusty's road. He said it is an 80-20% grant. Wolfington stated the total project costs would be \$2.7 million, and our cost if we include sewer and water would be \$500,000. If not, it would drop our match to \$250,000. Applications are due in August and awards will be announced in September or October 2017. Construction would occur in 2019. Wolfington reminded the Council of the Railroad grant for the lights at the railroad crossing on the east end of Gusty's road. After discussion, it was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the letter for the application to be executed by the Mayor.

Councilmember Heinzig offered the following resolution:

CITY OF BENSON RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MINNESOTA HIGHWAY FREIGHT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION (RESOLUTION 2017-13)

WHEREAS, the City of Benson has conducted studies related to the railroad crossings located within the central business district of the City and the problem with trains blocking those crossings; and

WHEREAS, the City of Benson has identified a project to reconstruct Pacific Ave. to a 10-ton road from 9th St. S to 20th Ave. SE in order to provide a connection between 14th St. S and 20th Ave. SE for passenger cars, freight vehicles and emergency services vehicles to use as an alternate route across the BNSF railroad when the central business district crossings are blocked; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation is currently accepting grant applications for freight improvements through the Minnesota Highway Freight Program; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Highway Freight Program can fund up to 80% of the design engineering and construction costs of an eligible project; and

WHEREAS, the reconstruction of Pacific Ave. will benefit the City of Benson and The Minnesota Department of Transportation by improving the ability for freight vehicles to travel within the City of Benson and through the City of Benson without delay due to blocked railroad crossings.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Benson intends to submit a funding application for the reconstruction of Pacific Ave. through the Minnesota Highway Freight Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of its application by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the City of Benson may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the approved project, and that the City of Benson certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Swift County has agreed to be the project sponsor and will be responsible to administer the federal funds while the City of Benson will provide the required matching local funds and other costs associated with the project implementation that are not covered by the grant.

Councilmember Evenson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Collins, Heinzig, Olson, Evenson, Landmark. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2017-13 duly passed and adopted.

Next was a 2018 budget request from Pioneerland Library System in the amount \$85,931. After discussion it was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to make an appropriation in December of 2017.

Gens presented two quotes for cemetery fence to go around the new addition of the cemetery. The quotes were as follows:

Ron Reszel	\$11,858.91
AnDi's Fence All	\$16,681.04

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to accept Ron Reszel's quote in the amount of \$11,858.91.

Next was a pay request from Marcus Construction for work done on the Civic Center roof. It was moved by Collins, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the pay request in the amount of \$24,614.50.

The Council reviewed the June Budget Report.

There being no further business to come before the Council upon motion by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk