

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Mayor. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heinzig & Sue Fitz. Members Absent: Mike Fugleberg. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Director of Public Works Dan Gens, Anita Flodstrom, Mark Anderson, Tim Essig, Cherri Stielow, Shawn Harrington, Beth Dietchman, Bob Neuman and Jay Alsaker.

The Mayor called for anyone with unscheduled business. Anita Flodstrom presented a petition to the mayor with 130 signatures opposing the Ordinance To Amend Chapter 98: Structures in Disrepair. They Mayor stated the City Clerk and Attorney will take the petition and review it to see that it is in order. It will be brought back to the next Council meeting.

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

- September 8, 2014 City Council Meeting
- July 7, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting

It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit for Ducks Unlimited on November 22, 2014.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a gambling permit for the Rich Cook Benefit December 13, 2014.

The Mayor noted openings on boards and commissions.

Benson High School submitted a request for a contribution to the BHS Renaissance Program, which rewards students with high academics, as well as exemplary social skills. It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to contribute \$200.00 from the Liquor Fund and \$250.00 from the Electric Fund to the BHS Renaissance Program.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to waive the Armory use fee for the Prom Afterbash event on April 25, 2015.

Prairie 5 submitted a request for support with their emergency heating program. It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to contribute \$1,000 from the Utility Fund to Prairie Five's "Reach Out for Warmth Program".

Wolfington informed the Council the Swift County Benson Hospital Foundation is interested in building an assisted living facility in Benson. Alsaker approached the Council sharing research to support the need for an assisted living facility. The Foundation has been working with Peter Jesh from Summit Development. Private ownership is an option, but profits would go out of town. The Foundation is interested in possibly having the Foundation or Hospital own the facility and is looking into an EDA short term loan through GO bonding which would save thousands of dollars in interest. Wolfington explained the EDA does not have authority to bond, and it would require an enabling resolution by the Council to allow the EDA to bond for projects like this. Alsaker said the foundation is in the process of a more detailed study to help better determine the number of units needed. Risk to the City could better be examined and explained by Ehler's and Associates. After discussion, the Council directed staff to continue investigating risks and benefits with Ehler's and Associates.

Councilmember Fitz offered the following Resolution:

**POLICE OFFICER DECLARATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2014-16)**

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 Amber Wasiloski 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.

Council Member Evenson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Fitz, Kittelson, Heinzig, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2014-16 duly passed and adopted.

Wolfington reminded the Council Great River Energy will be working on the switchgear at their substation west of Benson on October 6 and 10. We will be generating on these days and there are no expected power outages as a result of this work.

There was much discussion on the assessment policy. Wolfington discussed how the policy would affect a residential property. Other items of discussion were when a referendum is needed on an assessable project, percentage to assess property owners and the maximum amount that can be assessed. It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to direct staff to draft memos to conduct the feasibility study on a 30% calculation for assessments.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a final pay request to Breitbach Construction for the 2014 Utility Work in the amount of \$46,852.75.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$975,205.91.

It was moved by Heinzig, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve blocking the street off on Idaho Avenue between 13th & 14th St. North for the Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ's "Trunk or Treat" event on October 26 from 4:00-6 p.m.

Mayor Kittelson declared a recess at 6:16 p.m. in order for the Council to take a tour of City Projects.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a Small Cities grant payment in the amount of \$8,357.00.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a Small Cities grant payment in the amount of \$8,312.00.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a Small Cities grant payment in the amount of \$13,909.00.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk