

**MINUTES - SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 3, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Jack Evenson, Terri Collins, Mark Schreck, Lucas Olson and Jon Buyck telephonically. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, City Attorney Ben Wilcox and Kirk Bustron from Upper Minnesota Valley Rural Development Commission (UMVRDC) telephonically.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wolfington presented a draft Letter of Intent between the City of Benson and Nature Energy for a proposed project to repurpose parts of the Benson Power LLC facility. Their intent is to create biogas at the plant. He went on to say next they will be drafting an agreement to purchase the property from the City of Benson. He read the letter to the Council. Wolfington said he talked to Nature Energy's public relations firm. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the Letter of intent between the City of Benson and Nature Energy.

Next Wolfington presented a \$1,767,106.00 Grant Application to the Federal Economic Development Administration to fund a flood protection project at the Benson Wastewater Treatment Facility, and a project to replace the 3" forced sewer main from the old Benson Power site. The grant will pay 80% of the project cost. The 20% local match is proposed to come from the Benson Economic Development fund (Xcel Grant). The flood protection project will be a ring dyke around the wastewater treatment plant. The cost for the flood protection will run approximately \$965,000 and the sewer line will run \$802,000. The City's 20% contribution will be \$350,300. If we are awarded the grant, we can start construction in 2021. Wolfington thanked Kirk Bustron with the UMVRDC who prepared the grant for all his hard work on the complicated application. Bustron said it is a unique situation as the Federal EDA grants are hard to come by. Since we were approved for the 2019 Local Flooding Disaster the City was allowed to apply. He went on to say he felt we have a good chance at the grant as we only have to compete with other entities that applied that were involved in the same flood event. The Mayor thanked Bustron as well. After discussion Councilmember Olson presented the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FY 2019 EDA DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION
(RESOLUTION 2020-25)**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Benson act as the legal sponsor for the project contained in the DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION Application to be submitted on or before September 11, 2020 and that the City Manager, Rob Wolfington and Glen Pederson, City Clerk/Finance Director as authorized authority are hereby authorized to apply to the DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION for funding of this project on behalf of the City of Benson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Benson has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability to ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of the proposed project for its design life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Benson fully commits readily available and unencumbered funds to this project in the amount of \$353,422 from the Benson Economic Development Fund (Xcel Grant) representing 20% of the project cost.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Benson Manager, Rob Wolfington and Glen Pederson, City Clerk/Finance Director as authorized authority, or their successors in office, are hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Applicant.

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 2020-25 duly passed and adopted.

It was then moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk