

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Paul Kittelson. Members present: Paul Kittelson, Gary Landmark, Ben Hess, and Sue Fitz. Members absent: Bob Claussen. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Public Works Elliot Nelson, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Jackie Johnson, Wendy Munsterman from the Humane Society, Rhonda Opoien and Donna Jackson

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to approve the following minutes on the consent agenda:

- August 15, 2011 City Council Meeting
- August 8, 2011 Park Board Meeting
- August 11, 2011 Safety Committee Meeting
- August 17, 2011 EDA Regular Meeting

The following correspondence was reviewed:

- Prairie 5 Reach out for Warmth Program: It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to support the program in the amount of \$1,000.
- Benson Baseball Association: The Baseball Association submitted a proposal requesting the City of Benson pay for the electric bill at Chief's field. Also submitted was a request to develop Eaton Park into another Baseball field. After discussion, the Council suggested their request go before the Park Board and Planning Commission for recommendations.
- Emergency Services Consulting Shared Fire Service Feasibility Study: Wolfington presented the draft report of the Shared or Cooperative Fire & Emergency Services Feasibility Study to the Council. He reported the final report will follow in the next few weeks, at which time he will meet with the four departments. Wolfington stated he would notify the Council when the meeting will take place.

It was moved by Hess, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 53: Electric to Provide for Power Production and Co-Generation.

Council Member Fitz offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**(RESOLUTION NO. 2011-15)  
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT DISTRIBUTED GENERATION WORKBOOK**

WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act of 1978 (PURA), as amended, requires a utility to buy power and sell power to Qualifying Facilities;

WHEREAS, the City of Benson, Minnesota (City) and Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) filed a Petition of Waiver, which specifies the obligations of the City and MRES to a Qualifying Facility, with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Section 2010 of PURPA, and have been granted such waiver by the FERC;

WHEREAS, the City and MRES have agreed to comply with "Rules of Compliance" as part of the Waiver;

WHEREAS, the City has drafted guidelines and documents to implement the rules of Compliance known as the "Distributed Generation Workbook" to accommodate the QFs in interconnection and power purchase arrangements, which are subject to be updated periodically;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in recognition of the above statements, the City hereby adopts the Distributed Generation Workbook as the "Small Production and Co-Generation Policy".

Member Hess seconded the foregoing motion and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Hess, Fitz, Landmark, Kittelson. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen. Whereupon Mayor Kittelson declared Resolution No. 2011-15 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Fitz and carried unanimously to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 154: Zoning §154.177.

Wendy Munsterman from the Humane Society approached the Council about creating a dog park on City property west of Dakota Supply Group. She stated the Humane Society has raised enough donations to fund most of the expenses to get the park started. After discussion, it was moved by Landmark, second by Hess and unanimously approved for City staff and the Humane Society work with the City Attorney to draft up a document listing responsibilities at the dog park.

Wolfington shared that the City passed the Minnesota Department of Health's tests on lead & copper in the drinking water.

Council Member Fitz offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**(RESOLUTION NO. 2011-16)  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE**

WHEREAS, the City of Benson operates a transit system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Benson desires to purchase, through the State of Minnesota Cooperative Procurement Process, a vehicle to be used in the transit system; and

September 6, 2011

**WHEREAS**, the vehicle cost is allocated 20% local share and 80% State/Federal share of the “contract amount”; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Benson staff has reviewed the vehicle options offered by approved multiple contracting vendors; and

**WHEREAS**, the staff recommends purchasing a vehicle from North Central Bus Sales, Tony Vetter for the reason of cost and fleet consistency and past vendor performance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Benson City Council hereby authorizes the purchase of a new transit bus from North Central Bus Sales, Tony Vetter in the approximate amount of \$55,815.00.

Member Landmark seconded the foregoing motion and the following vote was recored: AYES: Hess, Fitz, Landmark, Kittelson . NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen. Whereupon Mayor Kittelson declared Resolution No. 2011-16 duly passed and adopted.

Council Member Hess offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED 2011 PROPERTY  
TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2012  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2011-17)**

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, Minnesota that the following proposed sums of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2012, upon the taxable property in the City of Benson, for the following purposes:

General Fund Levy	\$596,422
2011 LGA/MVHC	198,390
Police Personnel	526,999
Claussen Properties II Abatement	22,000
Library Fund Levy	100,496
G.O. Capital Street Equipment 2006	<u>35,516</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,479,823</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following sum of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2012, based upon the market value of the taxable property in the City of Benson, for the following purpose:

G.O. Swimming Pool	<u>79,562</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$79,562</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will hold its Truth in Taxation Hearing on Monday, December 5, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Benson City Council Chambers. Comments may be made by calling 320-843-4775 or by mail to 1410 Kansas Avenue, Benson, MN 56215.

Member Fitz seconded the foregoing motion and the following vote was recored: AYES: Hess, Fitz, Landmark, Kittelson . NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen. Whereupon Mayor Kittelson declared Resolution No. 2011-17 duly passed and adopted.

Council Member Hess offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET  
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2012 FOR THE CITY OF BENSON, MINNESOTA  
(RESOLUTION NO. 2011-18)**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed Operating Budget for the City of Benson, Minnesota, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2012 is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget is summarized as follows:

<u>Revenues</u>	
Taxes - General Fund	\$1,321,811
Taxes - Library Fund	100,496
State Grants and Aids	1,002,977
Other Revenues	<u>1,019,744</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,445,028</b>

<u>Expenditures</u>	
General Government	\$572,815
Public Safety	932,409
Highways, Streets and Roads	555,360
Parks and Recreation	357,585
Public Transit	159,756
Public Library	100,871
Capital Outlay	388,000
Other Expenditures	<u>200,092</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,266,888</b>

September 6, 2011

**Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures**

**\$178,140**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager shall cause the entire Proposed Operating Budget to be printed and filed in the City Office for inspection and reference by the public.

Member Fitz seconded the foregoing motion and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Hess, Fitz, Landmark, Kittelson . NAYS: None. ABSENT: Claussen. Whereupon Mayor Kittelson declared Resolution No. 2011-18 duly passed and adopted.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve pay request #1 from KHC Construction for water treatment plant improvements in the amount of \$145,690.00.

Wolfington updated the Council on the following projects in the City: Creamery demolition, Clausen house demolition, Benson Market demolition, Airport Layout plan, possible Storm Water Ordinance, Flood Protection engineering, RICE upgrade to the Power Plant generators, Highway 12 underground electric conversion, 13<sup>th</sup> Street sewer and water repair, Sandy's lift station project, North Water Filter Plant project and the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Street railroad crossing improvements.

Munsterman appealed to the Council for help paying her \$1,000 insurance deductible due to a sewer back-up in her basement. After discussion, Mayor Kittelson directed Wolfington and Nelson to work with Ms. Musnterman in reviewing her expenses in effort to resolve the request.

Nelson informed the Council of a water break discovered today west of Westwood Manor on Hall Avenue.

Donna Jackson asked the City Council when the City plans to bury the electric lines behind her house. Wolfington addressed the question stating the City is burying lines throughout the City, working on primary and distribution lines first. She also discussed the possibility of the electric lines on the same pole as her cable tv service interfering with her cable service. After discussion she will bring her information from Charter Cable TV and discuss this with the line crew.

It was moved by Fitz, seconded by Hess and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

---

Mayor

---

City Clerk