

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Terri Collins, Jon Buyck, Jack Evenson, Mark Schreck & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Glen Pederson, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Fire Chief Jeff Reuss, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Swift County Benson HealthServices Co-Administrators Melissa Thompson and Dan Enderson and CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. The Mayor removed Sale of Cannibinoid Products from the Agenda and added Building Official Grant. It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- August 15, 2022 City Council Minutes
- August 22, 2022 Special City Council Minutes
- July 1, 2022 Cemetery Board Minutes
- Charter Communications Channel Change
- Pioneerland Library System – Benson Librarian Hire – Deb Forbrook
- Gambling Permit – Benson Golf Club - November 21, 2022
- Electronic Transfers:
  - Payroll: August 25, 2022 - \$96,493.44
  - Journal Entries: July - \$3,965,727.49

There was no one with unscheduled business.

Enderson and Thompson approached the Council and gave a presentation to the Council outlining the proposed affiliations between Swift County-Benson HealthServices and CentraCare, as well as Scandihaven with Cura. Thompson said facilities, bonds and appropriations will remain under the Hospital District ownership, Centracare will lease the facilities from the District for 30 years with a 30-year renewable lease, the District's current fund balances and other assets will transfer to CentraCare and CentraCare will assume responsibility for liabilities, expenses and operations. Further transaction details were outlined. Enderson went on to say the terms for the District mirror the terms for Cura. Premiere Health needed to establish a new 501C3 hence the new tax-exempt organization name for Scandihaven will be Cura. Enderson said the terms of the leases are driven by the language in the bonds. Lastly there are several important dates for public hearings and approvals through the month of September with a plan to sign documents on October 1, 2022. If approved, the agreements will go into effect on January 1, 2022. There were no further questions and the Mayor thanked Thompson and Enderson for coming.

Next was a mutual aid Voluntary Memorandum of Understanding with Scandihaven for mutual aid assistance in the event of a disaster for use of the Armory Facility as an evacuation site. After discussion it was moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the Voluntary Memorandum of Understanding with Scandihaven.

Tweed approached to discuss an MPCA Small Community SWC Resilience Grant opportunity. This grant is for communities with a population of 10,000 or less. The funding will help communities assess vulnerabilities to include improving storm water resilience and reducing local flood risk. She went

on to say she would like to explore what exactly what funding is available and what the grant entails. She said the deadline for the grant application is October 18, 2022. Buyck asked how much it will cost to write the grant, to which she said it will be included in the CEDA fees the City already pays. She said there is a webinar on the grant this coming Thursday she plans to listen in on. It was then moved by Olson, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to allow Tweed to move forward with the application if the grant is applicable to the City.

Next was a pay request from B.G. Amundson for curb and concrete work on the Wisconsin Avenue street project. Gens said there were several instances where they had to take out curb and cutter as water connections had moved encroaching onto the boulevard. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to B.G. Amundson in the amount of \$63,237.25.

Pederson informed the Council of the MRES Regional Policymakers Dinner Tuesday, September 20, 2022. He said he, the Mayor and Rob Wolfington will be attending. If anyone else wishes to attend they should contact staff at City Hall to register.

Next was the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) 2023 dues request. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to add the CGMC dues to the 2023 budget in the amount of \$6,407. It was then moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve \$870 to go into the 2023 budget for the Voluntary Assessment for the Environmental Action fund.

Pederson presented a quote for electric meters. He said the Council approved an agreement with Eaton to replace meters and load management equipment earlier this year. This quote is for inventory to have on hand. It was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the quote from Eaton for electric meters in the amount of \$28,121.37

Next Pederson discussed the 2023 tax levy. He said by the next Council meeting the Council has to have the preliminary budget set. He then presented a draft levy with a 5.3% increase over last years. He reminded the Council once the preliminary levy is set, they can lower the final levy in December, but cannot raise it. Pederson continued to review the budgets and options for the Council to consider. There being no other questions from Council, Pederson said he will bring the levy recommendation to the next Council meeting.

Pederson then went on to discuss how to finance the new top mount fire truck we recently took bids for. He presented leasing options for the fire truck. Several financing options were laid out for Council consideration. The COVID ARPA funds were discussed and what the funds can be used for. It was the consensus of the Council to fund the fire truck by using 1/3 of the cost out of the ARPA funds, 1/3 out of the Fire Capital Outlay and 1/3 of the funds to come from the General Fund reserves, and to use the Utility Reserves to pay for the AMI system.

Next Tweed discussed a grant Councilmember Schreck brought to her attention for training of a full time building official. There is \$65,000 available for training for a full- time employee and \$30,000 available for part-time training. Tweed said if we received the full-time funding option the employee must be a benefitted employee when they are done with training. There are only 5 grants available. There was discussion on the grant. It was then moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to have Tweed apply for the full-time grant option.

Gens approached to give a public works update. He said the elevator crane is set to start demolition tomorrow. He said Chris from LandTeam came to do a final survey on the Gusty's road project on Thursday. Work is expected to start later this week. The Clearwell project is progressing. They are forming the walls, will pour the concrete and then work on the top. The WTF project will close out by the end of the month.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Schreck seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:54 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk