

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
JANUARY 4, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Terri Collins. Members present telephonically: Jack Evenson, Mark Schreck, Jon Buyck & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington and Director of Finance Glen Pederson. Attending telephonically are Public Works Director Dan Gens and Reed Anfinson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. Three City Board applications were added. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- December 21, 2020 City Council Minutes
- Electronic Transfer: Payroll: December 31, 2020 - \$79,915.79

The Mayor asked for anyone with unscheduled business to which there was none.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve an extension of the current City Council Appointments until the first meeting in February.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to designate the Monitor News as the official newspaper in 2021.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously that state banks, national banks, and thrift institutions located either within or outside the State of Minnesota that qualify as depositories under Minnesota Law are hereby designated as depositories for the City of Benson.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to authorize the following as check signers on all accounts: Mayor Terri Collins, City Manager Rob Wolfington, Lisa Kent and Director of Finance Glen Pederson.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to authorize Valerie Alsaker as check signer on the Incidental Fund.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the City of Benson Electronic Funds and Wire Transfers Policy as presented.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to schedule the Board of Review on April 19, 2021 from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

It was moved by Buyck, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the following City Boards & Commission Appointments:

- MacKenzie Dokkebakken to the Park Board term expiring December 31, 2023
- Ron Hanson to the Park Board term expiring December 31, 2023
- Dan Enderson to the EDA term expiring December 31, 2024

Wolfington explained MRES through good investing and cost reductions in running the coal plant, and COVID issues, had enough money left to offer a rebate to the City of Benson in the amount of \$43,315.19. Pederson said the Utility Commission met and discussed ways to give this money back to the utility customers. They agreed to credit electric utility customers through the purchased power adjustment clause. It was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the rebate as discussed.

Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 01)**

WHEREAS, THE Governing body of the City of Benson, Minnesota has entered into an agreement to establish The **Missouri Basin Municipal Power Agency, d.b.a. Missouri Rivers Energy Services (MRES)**, and as a member thereof is entitled to a representative who shall represent the Municipal Utility in the business of MRES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Robert Wolfington be and is hereby authorized and appointed as the representative of the City of Benson, Minnesota, to represent the Municipal Utility in the business of MRES, with the powers, duties and responsibilities as provided in said agreement. The alternate representative, Terri Collins, is hereby authorized and appointed with equal powers.

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Collins, Olson, Buyck, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2021-01 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATION
(RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02)**

WHEREAS, THE Governing body of the City of Benson, Minnesota has entered into an agreement to establish The **Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA)**, and as a member thereof is entitled to a representative who shall represent the Municipal Utility in the business of WMMPA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Robert Wolfington be and is hereby authorized and appointed as the representative of the City of Benson, Minnesota, to represent the Municipal Utility in the business of WMMPA, with the powers, duties and responsibilities as provided in said agreement. The alternate representative, Terri Collins, is hereby authorized and appointed with equal powers.

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Collins, Olson, Buyck, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2021-02 duly passed and adopted.

Next was a pay request from the UMVRDC for the costs associated with the last small cities audit ending December 31, 2020 and administrative services. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to the UMVRDC in the amount of \$12,535.80.

Councilmember Olson offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF XCEL ENERGY GRANT DOLLARS FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES
(RESOLUTION 2021-03)**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, State of Minnesota, received grant dollars from Northern State Power (Xcel Energy) as part of the Benson Power LLC biomass plant closing, and;

WHEREAS, these grant dollars are limited in use for the purposes of economic development, and;

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that water treatment improvements qualify as an economic development purpose, and;

WHEREAS, the following projects are authorized use of grant dollars:

Name	Budget	Transfer Out
2020 Clear Well Project	\$1,119,500.00	\$8,446.65

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that \$8,446.65 as itemized on the attached invoices to be transferred from the NSP Grant Fund to the Water Fund.

Councilmember Schreck seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Collins, Olson, Buyck, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2021-03 duly passed and adopted.

Councilmember Schreck offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF XCEL ENERGY GRANT DOLLARS FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES
(RESOLUTION 2021-04)**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Benson, County of Swift, State of Minnesota, received grant dollars from Northern State Power (Xcel Energy) as part of the Benson Power LLC biomass plant closing, and;

WHEREAS, these grant dollars are limited in use for the purposes of economic development, and;

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that Sanitary Sewer Collection and treatment improvements qualify as an economic development purpose, and;

WHEREAS, the following projects are authorized use of grant dollars:

Name	Budget	Transfer Out
2020 Deferred Maintenance	\$985,210.00	\$8,050.15
2020 WWTP Flood Protection	\$964,794.00	\$4,064.50

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that \$12,114.65 as itemized on the attached invoices to be transferred from the NSP Grant Fund to the Sewer Fund.

Councilmember Olson seconded the foregoing resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Evenson, Collins, Olson, Buyck, Schreck. NAYES: None. Thereupon the Mayor declared Resolution 2021-04 duly passed and adopted.

The Mayor noted the next Council meeting will be the Annual Strategic Planning session held on January 22-23, 2021 noting to hopefully hold this session in person.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Schreck, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk