

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
OCTOBER 16, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Evenson. Members present: Jack Evenson, Chris Carruth, Dan Enderson, Nancy Maanum, Mark Schreck. Members Absent: None. Also present: Director of Finance Lisa Kent, City Clerk Valerie Alsaker, City Manager Kyle Harris, Police Chief Ian Hodge, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed, City Attorney Don Wilcox and Reed Anfinson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. Harris asked to remove items 8 & 9 from the agenda. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- October 2, 2023 City Council Meeting
- MRES Annual Generation Verification Test Capacity Testing
- Electronic Transfers:
Payroll: October 5, 2023 - \$117,355.72

Mayor Evenson asked for anyone with unscheduled business, to which there was no one.

Harris approached the Council. He said at the last Council meeting, there was discussion on the renewal of the Air Quality Permit Application for the power plant. He presented an agreement for professional services with DGR Engineering to complete the permit. This process is a heavy lift. DGR has helped us through this permitting process in the past. The permit is due by July of 2024. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve using DGR Engineering to assist the City in completing our Part 70 Air Emission Permit agreement as presented.

Harris then discussed the possibility of adding generators to our power plant. There are incentives for the City to do so, however, some cities that have moved forward with this incentive found unanticipated costs of additional emissions controls. Harris then asked Council to consider having DGR do a preliminary assessment to see if we would be subject to this expense. This would not be a full feasibility study. After discussion, it was moved by Maanum, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve having DGR conduct a preliminary study of our generators at a cost of \$3,000.

Next Harris presented the School Resource Officer (SRO) Services Agreement with Benson Schools. The last time this agreement had been updated was 2006. The contract addresses recent legislative changes for SROs, as well as a more defined reimbursement to the City. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the amended SRO contract with Independent School District #777 beginning January 1, 2024 through the 2024-2025 School year as presented.

It was moved by Enderson, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$812,091.50.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 5:40 p.m. for the City Manager's six-month review.

The Mayor reconvened the City Council meeting at 6:15 p.m. He said the City Manager received a positive review from the City Council.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Maanum, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk