

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
NOVEMBER 18, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Evenson. Members present: Jack Evenson, Nancy Maanum, Gary Landmark and Dan Enderson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Clerk Valerie Alsaker, Public Works Director Elliot Nelson, City Manager Rob Wolfington, City Attorney Stephen Kowal, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed, Police Chief Ian Hodge, MiniSota Agricultural Museum Board members Ali Bouta, Kelly Michaelson, LeAnn Simonson and Ginger Claussen and Reed Anfinson. Telephonically Eric Payne.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any additions. A pay request from Molden Concrete Construction was added. It was moved by Maanum, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

It was moved by Enderson, seconded by Maanum, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

There was no one with unscheduled business.

MiniSota Agricultural Museum board members approached the City Council with a request to waive the building permit fee for their remodeling project at 1207 Pacific Avenue. Wolfington gave a breakdown of their permit. The cost through our contracted building official company, Inspectron, came to \$3,701.45. \$2,992.15 of that fee goes directly to Inspectron, \$175.00 is a state surcharge fee we send to the State of Minnesota and the City of Benson gets \$534.30 of the fee. Landmark made a motion to refund half of the permit fees. Enderson stated he wanted to do more. Landmark rescinded his motion. It was then moved by Enderson, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve refunding the MiniSota Agriculture Museum \$3,500 of their building permit fee.

Kowal approached the Council to present 2 dangerous dog reports. He reminded the Council on the process that there will be two options to consider. One option is ordering the destruction of the dog, the second is ordering all the conditions listed in the ordinance. The dog owner has the right to call for an independent party investigation.

The first case is a dog at 806 – 12th St. N., that bit/scratched two different postal workers on different days. The postal service is suspending mail delivery on the entire block until there is no longer a threat. Hodge reviewed the case with Council. After discussion, it was moved by Landmark, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to order the dog be destroyed.

The second case is a dog at 510 – 19th St. N., that bit a postal worker while they were delivering the mail. The bite required hospitalization. Hodge reviewed the case with Council. After discussion, it was moved by Enderson, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to order the dog be destroyed.

Next was the second reading of the Cannabis Ordinance. It was moved by Maanum, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve the 2nd reading of an Ordinance to Amend Title XI of The Benson City Code to Adopt Chapter 120 Enacting a Cannabis Ordinance in the City of Benson.

Next was the second reading of the land use ordinance. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the 2nd Reading of an ordinance Amending Benson City Code of Ordinances, Section 154.056 Uses.

Kowal presented the second reading of the amendment to the Hospital Board terms. It was moved by Maanum, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the 2nd Reading of an Ordinance To Amend Section 32.02, Term Limits, Benson City Code.

Wolfington presented a pay request from Benson Public Schools for the 2024 Summer Recreation program fees. He stated this year is less than other years. After discussion, it was moved by Landmark, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve the 2024 Summer Rec pay request to Benson Public Schools in the amount of \$16,773.40.

Next Tweed presented a pay request for engineering fees for Cottage Square Phase III. After discussion, it was moved by Maanum, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve the pay request from Rodeberg & Berryman, Inc. for engineering cost on the preliminary layout design of Cottage Square Phase III in the amount of \$16,738.00. She said there will be a public hearing on December 2, 2024 on the preliminary plat.

Wolfington presented the 4th quarter pay request from Pioneerland Library System. After discussion, it was moved by Enderson, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the pay request from Pioneerland Library System in the amount of \$25,636.75.

Next Hodge presented the annual contract with Countryside Public Health for tobacco compliance services. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the annual contract for 2025 as presented.

It was moved by Enderson, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve bills and warrants in the amount of \$407,971.33.

Kowal approached the Council to discuss the vacancy left on the Council upon Chris Carruth's resignation. He discussed appointing versus a special election. He discussed Minnesota State Statute. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to move forward with a special election.

Wolfington conducted a preliminary review of the final budget staff has been working on. The preliminary budget approved in September included a 12% levy increase. After Finance Director Kent and Wolfington reworked the budget, they currently have it down to a 5.4% increase. Also included are the utility budges. He said he will apply this to the Truth in Taxation meeting on December 2, 2024. He said there are 2 transfers that are not currently in the levy and one is the golf course transfer and a transfer to the EDA fund for their operating expenses. There was discussion on large projects and reserves. Evenson said if the Golf Course asks for a contribution, it would be good to see their budget.

Lastly was a pay request from Molden Concrete Construction for graniflex floor coating around the pool. Enderson enquired about expenses and past studies on pool repairs and where we are at on

upcoming projects. Nelson said this year we moved the electrical components out of the chemical room, and the next big expense to the pool will be to resurface the slide. After further discussion it was moved buy Landmark, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve the pay request from Molden Concrete Construction in the amount of \$13,600.00.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Maanum, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk