

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
MARCH 20, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Evenson. Members present: Dan Enderson, Gary Landmark, Mark Schreck, Chris Carruth & Jack Evenson. Members Absent: None. Also present: Director of Finance Lisa Kent, City Clerk Val Alsaker, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Fire Chief Jeff Reuss, City Manager Rob Wolfington, Nancy Maanum, Cindy Staton, Samantha Staton, Kaleb Schwendemann & Reed Anfinson. Telephonically Kyle Harris.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. Wolfington asked to add amending Kyle Harris's employment agreement. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Landmark and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda as presented.

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

- March 3, 2023 City Council Minutes
- February 22, 2023 Special City Council City Manager Minutes
- December 21, 2022 EDA Minutes
- February 6, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting

Off-Sale 3.2 Malt Beverage License:

Holiday Stationstore, LLC

Sunday Liquor License:

Track Bar & Grill, LLC
McKinney's on Southside
Benson Golf Club
Patrick's Pub & Grill

On-Sale Wine License & Strong Beer

DeMarce Theatre

On-Sale Liquor License:

McKinney's on Southside
Benson Golf Club
Patrick's Pub & Grill
Mi Mexico
Track Bar & Grill, LLC

Sidewalk Café Permit

Patrick's Pub & Grill, LLC

- The following General license effective April 1, 2022:

Garbage Collection License:

West Central Sanitation

- Pay Request - Stantec – Engineering at the Clearwell & Pump Station - \$13,593.00
- Pay Request - Magney Construction – Clearwell – Pay Request #8 - \$74,037.20 – Bal to Finish-\$769,901.04

▪ Electronic Transfers:

Payroll: Payroll – March 9, 2023 - \$113,302.99
Journal Entries: February 2023 - \$2,139,274.79

There was no one with unscheduled business.

Fire Chief Reuss approached the Council to discuss the 2022 Fire Report. He reviewed the number of calls, breakdown of the calls, financials and current officers. He said they have 3 firemen retiring this year and 3 new firemen coming on.

Cindy and Samantha Staton approached the Council with their desire to see a splash pad installed at Lathrop Park, and asking for approval to put one in. They said they want a drain away system which is a cheaper operating system. They said the only expense to the City would be for the estimated 300 million gallons of water, which they said would drain into the storm sewer. They said Glenwood installed a splash pad for \$220,000. They have volunteers that would like to donate labor to put the splash pad in. Enderson discussed the swimming pool the City currently maintains and the large expense of deferred maintenance needed there. Enderson also asked what is the City's commitment to a splash pad, and who will maintain it. Mayor Evenson proposed a Blue-Ribbon committee to get information together on actual costs, and information on fundraising. Carruth will act as a liaison to the committee from the Council. Mayor Evenson thanked them for coming forward. Wolfington said he talked to USAquatics. They said a splash pad in Minnesota should be heated as the water temperature coming from the wells will be 52°. The Department of Health will require a bathroom, which will need to be cleaned often, and said a recirculating system will need to be installed. He then suggested the Council earmark money toward a feasibility study with the splash pad being located at Lathrop Park and also consider the possibility of consolidating the splash pad with the current swimming pool. Wolfington went on to say the committee will need to recognize current deferred maintenance to the pool. Currently it costs \$270,000 if you included debt service a year to operate the pool, and suggested the City Council appoint a diverse group to the committee.

Next Wolfington presented a contract for MRES to administer our Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) for the City of Benson, which are through WAPA. REC are bought and sold in the electric energy business dealing with renewable carbon free energy sources. With our generators, we need to keep track of these RECs. Wolfington explained the process of how RECs are credited and an agreement with MRES would allow them to account for our REC, instead of us having to. Wolfington recommended to the Council we approve the contract with MRES to account for the RECs for us. He went on to say WAPA is the last power management agency to account for RECs on behalf of their preferred customers (City of Benson). After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the contract for MRES to administer renewable energy certificates for the City of Benson.

Gens approached the Council to present 2 equipment bond purchases. First are skid steer quotes. Midwest Machine's quote on a John Deere 324G came in at a cost of \$48,000. Farm-Rite Equipment's quote on a Bobcat S64 T4 model came in at \$49,000. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the quote from Midwest Machine in the amount of \$48,000.

Gens then presented a quote for a sewer inspection camera He said we have a small camera, but are unable to use it if there is too much media in the sewer pipe. This will allow us to use the camera along with sewer cleaning for a more efficient process. The camera is included in the equipment bond. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of the Rausch Mobile sewer camera from Jetline Sales & Service in the amount of \$81,829.

Next was a purchase request from the Electric Department for interduct and primary wire for the Floodwall project and inventory. It was moved by Carruth, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve the purchase in the amount of \$54,684.01.

Gens said we need to purchase 5 pad mount transformers for the Cottage Square Addition. One is on back order, but they are needed to move forward with the project. After discussion, it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the purchase from Staurt Irby interduct in the amount of \$42,750.

Next was a purchase for inventory interduct. This purchase was approved in 2022. The interduct just arrived and the cost came in higher this year. The Electric Department would like to keep the wire for projects coming up this year. It was moved by Landmark, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the bill from JT Services for innerduct in the amount of \$6,369.75.

Benson Schools request for support on the school tennis courts refurbishment was tabled.

Wolfington presented a funding request from Pioneerland Library System for the 1st quarter of 2023. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve the 2023 1st quarter request in the amount of \$24,650.75.

Alsaker approached the Council with a new 3.2% Beer Liquor License request from the Family Dollar Store. She said she received the application from Decisions Consulting for Family Dollar-Dollar Tree Corporation recently, and noticed in their application, they included a display for 3.2% beer and a display for Wine sales. Their application is only for 3.2% Beer. Also, the certificate of insurance needs to be for the same period as the license period or the state will not certify the license. She went on she has contacted Decisions Consulting on these items with no response. She recommended tabling the license consideration until we receive further information. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to table the Family Dollar 3.2% Liquor License until there can be clarification on the application.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$461,059.51.

Wolfington presented the report from the Strategic Planning session held on March 10-11, 2023. He said from here it is up to the Council to decide which direction to take the results. There was interest by the Council in holding a work session after a Council meeting in a month or so.

The South Industrial Park Discussion was tabled until another meeting.

Wolfington presented an amendment to new City Manger Kyle Harris's contract. Originally his orientation is stated to be April 11-30, 2023. He and Harris both feel Harris could start by April 3, and have a 2-week orientation, and Harris could officially start at the end of the work day Friday, April 14, 2023. Wolfington went on to say he has a vigorous work schedule to get him up to speed. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve Wolfington's last day on April 14, 2023 at 4:30 p.m., and Harris will officially take over.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Landmark, seconded by Enderson and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk