

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
MAY 3, 2021**

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

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. Armory Grant Application was added. It was moved by Evenson seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- April 19, 2021 City Council Minutes
- March 1, 2021 Planning Commission Minutes
- EMSERB Notice of Application for Ambulance PT Advanced Life Support
- Letter from Senator Andrew Lang
- Xcel Grant Quarterly Report – March 2021
- Requirement for Engineering City Projects from City Attorney

Electronic Transfers:

- Payroll: \$97,248.72 – April 22, 2021

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

Tweed approached the Council. She said today the EDA approved a loan to Custom Roto Mold (CRM) for \$200,000. They are planning a \$2.5 million expansion, and the loan is to move their equipment from Sioux Falls, SD to their facility in Benson. CRM's ask is for a \$200,000 loan with two components. The first \$100,000 will be a 15-year loan, at 2 ½ % interest. The second \$100,000 is a 5-year forgivable loan, 20% forgiven every year they are in business starting with the first day of operation of the new plant. If they no longer operate the new plant, then the second \$100,000 will have the same terms as the first \$100,000. The EDA will have a shared 2nd position with the UMRDC, and Bremer Bank will be in first position. Tweed said the EDA committee recommended approval of the loan to the City Council. She also stated there will be up to 50 direct labor positions and 5 managerial positions created. After discussion it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the loan to CRM.

Tweed discussed a grant offered by Minnesota Community Development Block Covid19 (CDBGCV). The grant is meant for broadband development, public services or building restoration and rehabilitation for a building not currently being used. Tweed said the City could apply under the last option to put the grant dollars into the Armory up to \$600,000. The rehabilitation must tie the building improvements to making it usable primarily for emergency purposes such as emergency shelter, vaccination center, Bloodmobile, etc. Other events can be held in the building, but in case of emergency situations, the building must be used for that over other events. Tweed said the City of Benson is the only CEDA community applying for the building rehab, and all other communities are asking for broadband. She said she would be working with her CEDA partners to pull this grant together as it has a quick turn-around time and requires a public hearing. Wolfington added the grant can only be made by a non-profit, so CEDA could be our fiscal agent if we are awarded this grant. He also said there may be a fiscal match

but that isn't clear right now. Pederson recommended to the Council Tweed start the grant application, and at the next City Council meeting we can define terms of the grant, as well as hear from the Blue Ribbon Committee and Engen and Associates will also be attending their next meeting. It was moved by Buyck, and seconded by Evenson to direct Tweed to begin the grant application. It was then moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to set a public hearing for the CDBGCV Grant for Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Gens approached the Council to say they have been having trouble with moisture getting into the air compressor for the generators in the power plant. The starters fail because of this, making it hard to start the Ziegler generators. He said they looked at CVEC and Stony Ridge's generator systems along with discussing the situation with Ziegler on how to cut down on the moisture. He presented a capital authorization request for a new air compressor and dryer. He presented the quotes as follows:

Ingersoll Rand - \$30,085

Atlas Copco - \$15,233

After discussion, it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the quote from Atlas Copco in the amount of \$15,233.

Gens presented a bid to purchase the golf course building by the water plant from Wade Ascheman. Gens said the request for bids was published in the paper requiring sealed bids. He received 2 bids, and one party withdrew their bid before the deadline. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to accept Wade Ascheman's bid in the amount of \$500.

Pederson presented the EDA budget and the Xcel Grant budget asking to make revisions. He said we have the land rent from the Sylte land in the Xcel fund budget. He said the taxes are paid out of the EDA budget, and he would like to transfer that amount from the Xcel fund to the EDA fund. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the budget revision.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Evenson seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk