

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
JUNE 26, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Evenson. Members present: Mark Schreck, Jack Evenson, Chris Carruth, Nancy Maanum. Members Absent: Dan Enderson. Also present: Director of Finance Lisa Kent, City Clerk Valerie Alsaker, Public Works Director Dan Gens, City Manager Kyle Harris, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Police Sergeant Scott Girard, City Attorney Don Wilcox, Renee Jacobson, Bob Simonson and Reed Anfinson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any additions to the agenda. Police fleet vehicles were added. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

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

- June 5, 2023 City Council Minutes
- May 1, 2023 EDA Minutes
- March 6, 2023 Airport Board Minutes
- WAPA – Pick-Sloan Drought Adder
- Minnesota State Demographic Center 2022 Population & Household Estimates
- Engan Associates Pay Request – Armory Design - \$1,330.73
- Magney Construction Pay Request – Clearwell Project - \$125,303.40
- Pioneerland Library System 2nd Qtr. Funding Request - \$24,650.75
- Electronic Transfers:
 - Payroll: June 15, 2023 - \$122,451.49
 - Journal Entries: May 2023 - \$2,549,294.08

Mayor Evenson asked for anyone with unscheduled business. Bob Simonson approached and said his foot stone was placed at the City Cemetery last fall. This year, he noticed some chips on the edge of the stone, and some rust stains on the stone. He feels it's from a vehicle going over the stone. He said it's a flat stone, not raised above ground. Zniwski tried to take the rust off, but now the wash on the stone is discolored, and doesn't look like the other matching family stones. Alsaker passed pictures around. Mayor Evenson asked what end result Simonson is looking for. Simonson responded what would you like to see done if it was yours. The Mayor stated he will work with staff to sort out what happened. Renee Jacobson spoke up to say their family doesn't think the damage was done by a lawn mower.

Next Harris presented a memo to the City Council addressing the State of Minnesota's new cannabis law. Although the State has not gotten the regulatory body in place yet, he said he would like to put together a working group of the City Clerk, Director of Finance, Police Chief and himself along with the Mayor and Councilmember Enderson. He discussed the need to later bring the City Attorney in on ordinance and processes when appropriate. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the cannabis working group as presented.

Gens approached with a wire purchase request. This wire will be used to build out the electrical on the next phase of the Cottage Square Addition. Nelson, the Cottage Square developer, is going to start the next phase this year. After discussion, it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the wire purchase from Stuart Irby in the amount of \$11,256.61.

Gens brought service agreements from Ziegler Power Systems for the power plant generators and the switch gear equipment. He said we have always had a service agreement with Ziegler for the power plant, but the service agreement for the switch gear is a new program. He went on to say having this agreement with Ziegler for the switch gear would be consistent with regular servicing of the switch gear and with the same company servicing the switch gear every time. In the past servicing has been done with different companies. After further discussion, it was moved by Carruth, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the switch gear service agreement with Ziegler as presented.

The generator service agreement was discussed. Gens said the current generators are 21 years old. The warrantee on them runs out in 4 years. A decision will have to be made what to do with these generators at that time. Servicing them is the best way to keep them running optimally. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the generator service agreement with Ziegler as presented.

Gens presented a pay request from Diversified Foundations for work done on the east Pacific Avenue (Gusty's) Road. There was a change order approved last year to further work on the ditch, and also to accommodate a land owner for access to their lot. This land owner was open to paying for some of the improvements by his lot. It was moved by Carruth, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the change order pay request from Diversified Foundations in the amount of \$14,513.00. Gens also presented the final payment on the project. It was moved by Carruth, seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to approve the final pay request from Diversified Foundations in the amount of \$15,255.10. Gens said they are pleased with the project.

Gens then presented a pay request from WWGoetsch for a broken valve for the clarifier at the wastewater plant. They had to get the clarifier up and running and already placed the order for it. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to WWGoetsch in the amount of \$12,087.11.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of \$1,234,528.80.

Hodge approached the Council to discuss the purchase of two police fleet vehicles. He stated they have had difficulty finding replacement vehicles due to supply. He said a vehicle was ordered in 2021, and we are still waiting for it. Hodge went on to say the 2014 K9 Ford Explorer SUV is on its last leg. He tracked down a 2023 Ford Pursuit F150 vehicle from Guardian Fleet Supply to replace the K9 vehicle, and a 2023 Dodge Durango AWD squad from Code 4, which would replace the 2015 Ford Explorer. The quotes were discussed for the two vehicles. He said this is an unusual purchase request but due to the circumstances, he feels we need to act on the currently available vehicles. The quote for the K-9 vehicle came in at \$70,121.77. The Durango quote came in at 62,629.03. Hodge said \$120,000 is included in the bond for two vehicles, and his capital outlay budget for the year is \$60,000, which is where the overage can come from. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Carruth and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of the 2023 Ford Pursuit F150, and 2023 Dodge Durango AWS V6 as presented for a combined amount not to exceed \$140,000.

There being no further business to come before the Council a motion was made by Schreck seconded by Maanum and carried unanimously to adjourn the Council meeting at 5:54 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk