

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
CITY HALL
JUNE 28, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Mayor Collins. Members present: Terri Collins, Lucas Olson, Jon Buyck, Mark Schreck and Jack Evenson. Members Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Finance Glen Pederson, Reed Anfinson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

There was no one with unscheduled business.

Wolfington said bids for the 300,000-gallon below ground clearwater tank were opened last week. Stantec engineers predicted bids to come in around the \$900,000 range. There were only two bids as follows:

- CC Steel, LLC - \$2,570,900 with an alt. 1 of \$28,800
- Meyer Contracting Inc. - \$2,811,631 with an alt. 1 of \$30,600

Wolfington reported he met with staff and it was the consensus to rebid the project in 6 months. Ryan Capelle with Stantec Engineers joined the meeting via telephone to answer any questions. Mayor Collins asked if other projects are coming in with elevated costs. Capelle said the last municipal water tank he did was in 2020 and the costs have grown exponentially. Other factors he mentioned are the fact there are only 2 bidders, market volatility for goods and labor costs. Capelle said the current clearwell plan is what Benson should have. After talking with the two bidders and reviewing their original engineers estimate, Capelle stated that this project cost should come in closer to \$2 million. Wolfington interjected extending the length of time for project completion as well as bidding in January or February may help. After further discussion, it was moved by Buyck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to reject the bids submitted for the clearwell project.

Next Pederson approached the Council to discuss the next steps in changing the municipal elections from odd years to even years. He said he met with Wilcox last week to lay out a time table in order to get the Charter change on the November ballot. Changing the Charter begins like changing an ordinance. There needs to be a first and second reading. 30 Days after publication it is then placed on the ballot at the next General Election. Another proposed amendment to the Charter will outline when a Council vacancy occurs and the Ordinance will determine how it is filled. If the election year change occurs, it will mean the Mayor will have a one-year term and the Councilmembers will have a three-year terms. The only action needed from the Council today is to set a public hearing on July 19, 2021. He went on to say the ordinance declaring how vacancies are filled does not need to go on the ballot. After discussion, it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to set a public hearing on July 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. to take testimony for or against moving municipal elections from odd years to even years.

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 12:21 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk