

**MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL
JUNE 7, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Public Works Director Dan Gens, Pioneerland Librarian Andrew Kelton, CEDA Representative Hillary Tweed, Stan Olson and Reed Anfinson.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for any changes to the agenda. Consider adding a special City Council meeting on June 15, 2021 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 Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the consent agenda:

- May 17, 2021 City Council Minutes
- February 18, 2021 Park Board Minutes
- MnDOT Email – Railroad Crossing Closed June 21-June 25, 2021
- Notice of Pay Equity Compliance

Electronic Transfers:

Payroll: \$92,238.51 – May 20, 2021
\$113,809.22 – June 3, 2021

Contracted Payment:

- Airport AD Building Pay Request #7-\$20,047.14-Balance to Finish \$86,289.65

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

Next was a variance application for 602 – 11th St. S. for a detached garage that will be larger than allowed. The resident there would like to take the current undersized garage down, repour the cement and build a 1,400 sq. ft. garage in its place. His current garage is in bad shape, and too small to fit his 2 cars, snow blower and motorcycle in. He is also facing an issue with the slope of his current driveway which drains melted snow and heavy rains in front of his garage. He will in the future change the slope of his driveway to drain water away from his garage and to the gutter. Buyck and Evenson stated it was the Planning Commission's recommendation to the Council to approve the variance. The garage will allow the homeowner to place everything into the garage. The garage will be used in a reasonable manor, the unique circumstances are the small, deteriorating garage that was there when they moved in, and the narrow driveway causes water issues on the lot, and the plan for the new garage is in character with the neighborhood, only going about 6" higher than the current garage. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve variance #2021-02 at 602 – 11th St. S. for a 1,400 sq. ft. garage.

The Mayor called for discussion on Stan Olson's request to waive the fee associated with his development agreement if someone buys a lot in his subdivision and doesn't build a house. Councilmember Olson asked for clarification on the agreement. Wolfington said if a lot is purchased, and a residence isn't built there, the City has a stranded investment in the development. According to the development agreement if a residence isn't built on a purchased lot, they must reimburse the City the full amount of sewer, water and engineering fees for that lot per the subdivision agreement. Olson said he donated 7 acres to the City in that subdivision and hoped the fee could be waived, but will pay the fee if

his request is denied and is fine with whatever the Council decides. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to deny the request to waive the fee.

Wolfington discussed the Reserved Capacity Agreement with Missouri River Energy Services (MRES). This agreement is for the output of our generation in the power plant. If the Council agrees to extend the agreement, it will bring the agreement out to 2052, which will be the same time period as our S-1 Agreement. Wolfington said he is not looking for a decision on the agreement tonight, but wants to refer it to the Utility Board first. Wolfington asked Terry Wolf with MRES to visit about the agreement via telephone and answer any questions the Council may have. Wolf introduced himself and said he oversees the transmission/generation marketing group. He explained how one city wanting back-up generation for their town developed into many more towns doing the same, creating a valuable resource for MRES when planning energy availability. He explained energy adders and reimbursement to cities for MRES using their generators, as well as any deductions when generators don't start. Wolfington asked out of the 19 towns MRES has this type of agreement with, how many have signed the new agreement. Wolf said so far 12, with a couple towns holding out because their generators are at the end of their life. Wolfington mentioned either party can get out with a 30 day notice to the other. Since there were no more questions, the Mayor thanked Mr. Wolf for his time.

Next was to consider approving the plans, specs and bids for the Water Clearwell project. Gens discussed the 300,000 gallon clear well plans. He said the tank will be about 3' above the ground. He pointed out there will be nose-in parking to keep people from parking next to the tank. After discussion, it was moved by Olson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the plans, specs and bidding process for the clear well project.

Gens presented a capital authorization request for a new influent pump for the Wastewater plant. He said they tried to have it repaired and it cannot be fixed. He said they can get along with the other 2 pumps there as long as it doesn't rain. He presented 2 quotes for a pump. The first is from W.W. Goetsch Associates for \$12,903 plus installation with a 6-8 week lead time. The second is from Minnesota Pump Works for \$14,427.00 plus freight and installation. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Buyck and carried unanimously to approve the quote from W.W. Goetsch Associates for \$12,903 plus installation.

Gens presented the following mosquito spray quotes for Council Consideration:

- Mosquito Spray: 200 Gal. Univar - Kontrol 4-4 - \$40/Gallon = \$8,000
- 200 Gal. Clarke - Biomist 4-4 - \$65.31/Gallon=\$13,062

It was moved by Olson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the quote from Univar.

Next Gens presented a quote for crack filler from Brock White – 10,000 lbs. Crafc0 535 - \$.57/Pound for a total of \$5,700. It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the quote from Brock White.

Next was a pay request from Rubin Construction LLC for repairs to the trickling filter. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to Rubin Construction LLC in the amount of \$31,647.00.

Wolfington presented an invoice from Discovery Kids for \$10,000. Olson gave a recap of activities at the daycare center. He said currently they have 9 infants, 18 toddlers, 22 pre-school aged kids and 50 school aged kids. He went on to report stats and staffing challenges. It was moved by Olson, seconded by Schreck and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to Discovery Kids in the amount of \$10,000 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Next it was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to set a special Council Meeting for Monday, June 28, 2021 at noon to consider bids for the Clearwell project.

It was moved by Schreck, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve setting a

special Council Meeting for Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at Noon to consider an EDA loan approval.

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 6:10 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk