**Willow River City Council Meeting**

February 5, 2018

Approved March 5, 2018

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Willow River City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 5, at the Willow River City Hall.

The Council met at 6:30 for the purpose of the annual review of Todd Anderson. No changes to salary or benefits were made.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Brent Switzer.

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Council Present:** Brent Switzer, Sheldon Johnson, Chris Ketchmark, Darryl Poslusny and Vickie Whitehouse

**Staff Present:** Diane Nelson and Todd Anderson

**Others Present:** Gerard Bennett, John Mikrot, Rosie Mielke, Natasha Watercott, Art Underhill, Arnold Niemela, Lisa Uszenski, Laura Carlson and Dave Prachar.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Vickie made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Chris second. Motion carried with all in favor.

# Special Guest, Lisa Uszenski and Laura Carlson – Willow River PTO – The PTO would like to host a Color Run on April 28th. There will be stations with colors that will be thrown onto a white t-shirt. The route will be very similar to what is done for the Gobble Wobble. The cost will be $20 with a cap for families and also a discount for students and veterans. The PTO is covered under the school’s insurance. Vickie makes a motion to allow the PTO to host this event and use the City Streets. Darryl second. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Gerard Bennett, Willow River Fire Department** – We have had 3 fire calls and 8 EMS to date. The in house air will be worked on over the winter. The trucks will go down to the FCI after it warms up some. The DNR fire program helps Fire Departments out and we get medical supplies and other surplus/stuff from them. When they were up there last, the DNR had just gotten in some snowmobiles from North Pole, Alaska. So, our department signed up and for $500 got a long track, wide track, forward/reverse, high/low Polaris 500. The Fire Department is hoping to attend the St. Urho’s parade in March. Gerard asked the City Council for approval to bring on a recruit. His name is Steve Ronning. They will be interviewing him soon and then will background him shortly after. The City approved the request. Sheldon asked about any brush piles that need to be burned.

**SCBA Bid Opening –** See attached for breakdown of bids. We received bids from Emergency Response Solutions, Alex Air Apparatus and MES. They plan on meeting on the 19th to go over each bid and bring their recommendation to the City in March.

**Water and Sewer-** The Corral called and was having issues and the fuse inside the control panel. They found an extra fuse and then also picked up some extra. Sheldon asked about painting the water tower. John said that he will continue to work on it. John ordered some more frost plates.

**Public Works, Todd Anderson –** Steven Prachar got a new frost plate. Todd plowed and sanded Walter’s Road 6 times. Todd hasn’t seen the township do any work on the road. Sheldon asked Todd to continue to keep track of it. We want to make sure it is always taken care of. Todd lost a shoe for the plow on the city truck. Christmas lights are down. Thanks to Bruce Bohaty, Steven Prachar, Corey Prachar, Vickie Whitehouse and Brent Switzer for helping. Todd went to Moose Lake to pick up the extra fuses. Drew Abrahamson lost his meter when they replaced the siding on his house. Todd got him a new one and told him there would be a fee for the new meter.

**Diane Nelson, Clerk –** I spent the majority of my time doing year-end paperwork. We had the auditors here December 29th. Tomorrow we have a meeting to go over the City insurance.

**Flood Update, Vickie-** It was decided not to apply for the PFA loan. We looked into it and we would be required to increase our water/sewer rates substantially. Vickie and Diane have been spending a lot of time to get the DEED grant ready for the February 22nd deadline. The engineers are also helping us with the grant. We have a preconstruction meeting on February 20th from 10-12 on the sewer ponds with MSA, TNT Aggregate, Beckie and the City. We haven’t filed a claim yet for the park by the dam. Our insurance through the League of MN Cities has said that they would pay out a fair market value for what was lost. We are going to go ahead and do this and set the money aside to use after the dam is repaired. Vickie got the project worksheets in and we will be receiving $188,203.94.

**Old Business**  -

**New Business:**

1. Willow River Days – Dave Prachar from the Willow River Commercial Club contacted Brent and said that they were looking at no longer facilitating Willow River Days. They were looking to give it back to the City. Vickie said that the City was never in charge of it. Brent has a copy of the Resolution stating that they would oversee it. They will be voting at their next meeting whether to give it to the City or not. The Commercial Club is willing to help but not to oversee it. We will ask about insurance tomorrow when we meet if there should be additional insurance other than what the City has.
2. Frost plates – Generally how it has worked in the past is that when one breaks the homeowner is responsible for paying to replace it. We have had a few in the past couple of weeks that broke due to the power outage and the severe cold that weren’t necessarily anything that the homeowner could have prevented. They are there to protect our meter. Should we be charging the residents in this situation? Chris made a motion to not charge for the ones that needed to be replaced last month when the power was out and residents were living at the home. Sheldon second. Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion made by Chris to adjourn the meeting. Darryl seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Nelson