**Willow River City Council Meeting**

April 2, 2018

Approved May 7, 2018

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Willow River City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, April 2, at the Willow River City Hall.

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, Todd Anderson and Kathi Bennett

**Others Present:** Rosie Mielke, Kim Prachar, Don Otwell, Dave and Carol Prachar, Mike Duval, Jon Hendrickson, Gerard Bennett and John Mikrot.

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

**Willow River Fire Department, Gerard Bennett**- Runs to date, 4 fire and 24 EMS for a total of 28. The SCBA grant materials are starting to come in. The Relief Association will pay the balance of the funds for this. We will be getting the trucks in for maintenance as soon as weather allows. We ordered new turn out gloves for everyone on the Department and the Relief Association will be paying for those. We will be applying for a DNR matching funds grant to hopefully help pay for new radios. The SCBA grant needs some paperwork to be finished and Diane will work with Travis Greene to finish that up. The Department went to the St. Urho’s parade in Finlayson. We will be reprogramming the overhead doors. The Relief Association would like to make a donation to the City for the purpose of purchasing the property behind City Hall when and if that becomes a possibility.

# Special Guest, Kim Prachar – LuLu’s Laundromat. Kim and Kevin received the laundromat back from their buyers. They are wondering why the bill was sent to them since they technically didn’t own it at the time. Sheldon stated that we would have to contact our City Attorney in regards to who is responsible for the bill since the Contract for Deed was not fulfilled. Kim asked why (if they were responsible) we didn’t contact them when the bill first became delinquent. Vickie stated that we didn’t know what the agreement was (as far as ownership). We knew that the Prachars got it back and we have always been told that the bill follows the current owner. Kim asked if something could be worked out. Vickie said that we will contact the City Attorney to see what we can legally do to work with them.

# Special Guest, Mike Duval (DNR Supervisor) and Jon Hendrickson (Senior Engineer)- They are following up with the City on one of the options, the Rock Arch Rapids. They have done a feasibility study to see if it would work in this situation. They had handouts for the Council to show how it would lay out. Rosie asked if they have looked into replacing the dam. Sheldon stated that we have consistently asked about replacing the dam and nobody is responding to that question. They stated that they were tasked with seeing if the Rock Arch Rapids would work. They already know that a dam works. They want to ensure Public Safety as well as being fiscally responsible with achieving what the majority of the people want. They have determined that the Rock Arch Rapids would work in this application. The depth of the reservoir would be restored. Darryl asked where the current dam is on their handout/drawing trying to determine if the rapids would go further back into the reservoir. Jon clarified that is will remain within the same spacing as the dam currently and achieve the previous depth. From the dam location to the culvert is 342 feet, the rock arch rapids would use about 302 feet of that. He also pointed out that this is a concept design and that there are some adjustments that can be made. Darryl asked about embankments. Jon said that they will use the south side embankment but since the north side has damage there is substantial work to do there but that it can be done. Vickie asked about the City Park on the north side and if there would need to be a land exchange because the DNR would be building the embankment on the north side. Vickie asked about maintenance on the rock arch rapids. She was told that there is virtually no maintenance needed. It will function as a natural rapids would. The DNR also talked about coordinating with the county on their work to replace the culvert. Sheldon stated that he has been asked why they don’t just replace the north side of the dam where the damage is since there isn’t any structural damage. Could they please answer that question? The hydraulic studies that have been done show that the size of the dam is not large enough to handle the amount of water that is currently going through it with the changing weather patterns. Sheldon also asked why not just add another bay to the north side of the dam. In order to put it back it would have to have significant modifications. Vickie asked about who would be maintaining it if it were restored to a dam. A definite answer is not known at this time. Dave Prachar wanted to clarify the height/depth of the water with the rock arch rapids. Someone asked about the debris downstream. That is the responsibility of a different division of the DNR. Dave Prachar asked if the existing dam would be totally removed with the rock arch rapids. They said that they may leave part that would remain under the water and work with that. Dave also asked if the other options are no longer being considered. They stated that there are still 3 options they are looking at: the rock arch rapids, replacing the dam or restoring the river back to a natural waterway. Mike and Jon were tasked with seeing if the rock arch rapids would be a feasible option with achieving the level of the reservoir that people want. Vickie asked when the final answer would be made. They said that they were still looking at doing work this fall. Brent asked why they are only presenting one option. They stated that they “know” a dam works there and they would have to outsource plans for that. The other plan (the natural waterway) is one that most people do not want. They also brought the costs of the options to the meeting in December. Brent and Sheldon both stated that they want to see more about replacing the dam. Mike and Jon will make their recommendation by the end of April and it would be up to the Commissioner to make a final decision.

**Special Guest, Dave Prachar, Willow River Area Days –** The committee asked for permission from the City to have Willow River Area Day as well as use the City Park and to have Todd’s help July 27-29 for the event. Sheldon made a motion to approve the use of the City. Darryl second. Motion carried with all in favor. Vickie stated that Willow River Days has the park reserved for that weekend.

**Water and Sewer, John Mikrot-** John had someone out to fix the lift station pump. He had to make two trips because he needed to order a part. John is getting more bids for painting the water tower.

**Public Works, Todd Anderson –** Todd has done a lot of snowplowing. He brought up the need for crack sealing the streets. It has been a few years since it has been done. Sheldon asked if Todd can do it? Todd said that he doesn’t have the proper equipment to it all. He may be able to do some. Todd asked if he should get a couple of estimates on crack sealing. Vickie told him to go ahead. He has also been looking at a wing for the loader and doing some research. The flags will have to go up soon. Some need repair and we will probably need to buy a few more. Vickie and Todd went to the school to see if any of the high school students can help with cleaning up the cemetery since they need community service hours. Todd hasn’t heard anything yet. Todd set up a date for street sweeping with CIP. He is going to try to recycle the sand since he has quite a bit of salt yet.

**Clerk, Diane Nelson –** Checkbook is in balance. We have a CD coming due for the general fund. It is for around $20,000. Do we want to let it renew? The Council decided yes. Election judge letters are ready to go out. I asked for another judge since we will not have Kathi and I will not be able to be “hands on” because my husband is on the ballot. We may not need one extra during the primary but for the election in November it would be necessary. The Council approved using 6 judges including myself. Dollar General started construction and we figured out where they will hook into water and sewer. The Moose Lake Historical Society sent a letter asking for a donation. We have not donated in the past. It was decided not to donate this year. Board of Equalization will be April 19th at 6 PM here at City Hall. We will need a quorum here. Pine County Hazardous waste will have a collection here in Willow River August 11th. Do we want to have National Night Out again this year? The Council decided “yes” as long as it doesn’t interfere with the primary.

**Water and Sewer Billing, Katie Bennett –** Kathi had 27 Friendly reminders, 14 shut-off notices 12 door hangers and 1 shut-off.

**Zoning, Sheldon Johnson –** Sheldon issued a land use permit for Dollar General. Cell phone towers- I stated that I have done some research and am finding that most small cities around our size stick with the same land use permit. Vickie made a motion to keep the fee the same at $100. Darryl second. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Old Business**  -

1. Park by dam insurance payout – tabled
2. Resolution for Tom Brabec’s legal description – no changes from what was approved last month. Just to sign the resolution approving it. Vickie makes a motion to approve the Resolution. Darryl second. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. Audit for review – Our audit is done. We will approve it at next month’s meeting.

Motion made by Darryl to adjourn the meeting. Sheldon second. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Nelson