**Willow River City Council Meeting**

June 4, 2018

Approved July 2, 2018

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Willow River City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, June 4, 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, Darryl Poslusny and Vickie Whitehouse

**Staff Present:** Todd Anderson and Kathi Bennett

**Others Present:** Mike Peloquin (DNR), Jason Boyle (DNR), Rosie Mielke, Dave Prachar, Steve Andrews, Arnold Niemela, Art Underhill, Natasha Watercott, Gerard Bennett and John Mikrot.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Brent brought up for the agenda the issue of payment for TNT Aggregate. There is a wait time for us to get reimbursed and therefore, for the contractor to get paid. Vickie brought up that we may need to cash in a CD in order to have funds available until we get reimbursed. We need approval to pay this as well as the consent agenda. Darryl made a motion to pay the invoice to TNT Aggregate and to approve the consent agenda. Vickie second. Motion carried with all in favor.

**DNR, Mike Peloquin and Jason Boyle -**  Mike Peloquin went over the history of events since the flood in 2016. Mike explained that they decided on the rock arch rapids. The reason is cost including eliminating maintenance and repair costs in the future. The other deciding factors were safety and increasing fish passage and habitat. Jason Boyle explained that funding for the project is in place and fully funded. He talked about some pre-construction things that are underway or coming up including permitting which would start in early August. The preliminary design is to be completed in September and the final design in October. The bid opening would be in November. Darryl asked how far back into the lake this would go as well as if the pre-flood reservoir depth would be regained. They said that the rapids would go into the reservoir some and that they were putting the rocks at the same elevation to regain that depth. Vickie asked if the DNR was coordinating with the County on this. They answered “yes”. Sheldon asked if the rapids were going to be wider than what was there and they said “yes” on the north and south but mainly on the north. Dave asked about the start date. They said that they would be starting in November and work over the winter. Sheldon asked about spacing of the tiers and how many there would be. There will be roughly 14 or 15 tiers and there would be about 15 feet of spacing. The existing dam will be demolished except for maybe some of the foundation. Dave asked about further communication with the City. Mike stated that they would like to keep communication open.

**Willow River Fire Department, Gerard Bennett**- Runs to date, 15 fire, 46 EMS and 1 other for a total of 62. The med rig has been in to the FCI for maintenance. The 2018 DNR matching grant has been submitted and they are hoping to replace radios with that. The SCBA grant is finished up and the Relief Association will be submitting a check for $4728.57 for the portion that they put in for extras. Parades are starting up and they will be participating in those. Gerard is still looking at getting the cadet program started. The Relief Association is still interested in purchasing the land to the west of City Hall. Sheldon brought up the reclaimed gravel that was brought in for the back driveway area. Sheldon thought that more was going to be done when it was originally brought up. Todd asked how much more that we should do? Sheldon suggested that we proceed to get enough to do the whole back parking area. Sheldon made a motion for finish the parking lot in back with the reclaimed gravel. Darryl second. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Water and Sewer, John Mikrot-** Hydrants are all flushed. The tower is at summer heights. The liner at the sewer ponds will be going in soon. Vickie mentioned that we have two valves that need to be replaced that could cost up to $32,000. They were functional before the flood but when we took them apart now they should have been filled with grease and they weren’t. They were installed around 2010. There is no warranty. Vickie is trying to see what we can do with HSEM and our grant to get them covered. Vickie made a motion to approve up to $32,000 to replace the valves. Sheldon second. Motion carried with all in favor. John added that he has retired from Sandstone.

**Public Works, Todd Anderson –** CIP was here and swept Highway 61. Todd got another estimate for the scrub seal on Park Drive. Vickie asked Todd if he could crack seal on the blacktop at the City Park. He said that he will. Sheldon made a motion to table this for now due to all of the expenses with the sewer ponds right now. Darryl second. Motion carried with all in favor. Todd painted the curbs and ordered new paint. The garden club would like some help to hang flowers. The one-ton was back up to Sturgeon Lake for work. Todd had information on the banners/flags. The bid was for 15 of each. It was requested that Diane send an email with this information for the Council to look at. The garden club would also like Todd’s help with removing rocks from the park at the dam. Sheldon asked Todd if he had paint to do the crosswalks. Sheldon asked Todd to patch a couple of spots across from the bank.

**Water and Sewer Billing, Katie Bennett –** Kathi had 113 postcard mailers sent out with 25 email bills. We had $15,845.48 sent out in billing and $674.66 charged for late fees. The usages for last month were 375,405 gallons of metered water and 380,610 gallons of metered sewage.

**Flood Update – Vickie –** There is a pile of black dirt that was left from the last sewer pond project. The current project needs to use that dirt and Vickie told them to go ahead and use it. We are also not charging TNT for the water that they have come and gotten for the sewer project.

**New Business**  -

1. Temporary employee if Todd cannot work. Vickie suggested that we advertise for an “on call” worker. Darryl makes a motion to advertise for an “on call” public works person. Vickie second. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. Vandalism- There was vandalism at the City Park. They smashed the lights and stacked the picnic tables. The Sheriff’s Office has been contacted. Cameras were discussed for the park.

Motion made by Darryl to adjourn the meeting. Sheldon second. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Nelson