**Willow River City Council Meeting**

October 2, 2017

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Willow River City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, October 2, 2017 at the Willow River City Hall.

The Council met at 6:30 for the performance review of Kathi Bennett. The Council approved a wage increase of .25/hr.

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, Chris Ketchmark, Sheldon Johnson, Darryl Poslusny and Vickie Whitehouse

**Staff Present:** Diane Nelson, Kathi Bennett and Todd Anderson

**Others Present:** Gerard Bennett, John Mikrot, Rosie Mielke, Natasha Watercott, William Booth, Jon Herdegen, Dave Prachar, and Art Underhill.

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

**Special Guest, Jon Herdegen - MSA –** Jon had plans for the Sewer Ponds for the Council’s review. Jon wanted the plans approved and then to allow MSA to go ahead and get bids. They have a couple of avenues that they will publish with as well as online and also in the Duluth News Tribune. Jon is hoping to have bids here at the December meeting. Vickie asked if she needs to submit plans to MPCA or if he will. Darryl asked how much it is being raised. Jon thought 12 feet. Vickie made a motion to accept the resolution which lays out the plans and specifications and ordering advertisements for bids with MSA. Darryl second. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Gerard Bennett, Willow River Fire Department** – Runs to date: 120. 97 medical and 23 fire runs. In house air is in progress. The yearly maintenance on truck #3 is being done. #1 and #2 pump maintenance inspection and test was completed. The UTV has been returned and we will get another one in 2018. Fire Prevention week is Oct 9-13 and the firefighters will be visiting all classes up through 4th grade. No action yet on new recruits. We still have not gotten equipment back from the former firefighter.

**John Mikrot, Water and Sewer-** John had a quote for painting the water tower $42,000. That is to paint it the same as it is now, not changing to the logo. Vessco got us a bid for replacing the chlorine lines and injector lines etc. That bid came in at around 10,000. It hasn’t been done for 15 years. They need to be done. John will try to get some other numbers. It can be done anytime. The work is indoors. The Council felt it should be done, however, they want to see some more numbers. Hydrant flushing will be done this month. John would like to able to take a closer look (TV) at the lines running between Park and Old Sawmill. He keeps pulling sand out of there. Sheldon brought up how bad Hwy 61 got with all of the extra traffic and Vicki said that she saw that they will be doing work in 2018.

**Public Works** – The blacktopping is done. Todd would like to get some class 5 to put on the shoulder. He has talked to Bonk’s on that. Todd also talked about adding some on the end of Willow Street. The posts at the pavilion are being replaced. They have rotted. The lawn mower is winterized and replaced some parts so it will be ready for spring. He put a new battery in the 1-ton. Todd talked to Ronnie Roberts to see if we run out of salt/sand mix if we could buy it from him. Bonks does not sell pre-mixed. We should be fine for this year, but just so we are covered. The flags have been taken down for the winter.

**Diane Nelson, Clerk –** We received a letter from Pine County Historical Society to see if we wanted to donate. Vickie made a motion to give them $300 like we did last year. Chris second. Motion passed with all in favor. I asked if we want to be a part of MAOSC. Council said no. We received a copy of the contract with the Sheriff but not the County Attorney yet. I am going through the Ordinances to make sure they match the electronic version that I have and I will get that down to the County to have on file for enforcement. We received info regarding Economic Development and what is available if we ever need them. I went over the preliminary budget numbers as of the end of August so the Council has an idea of how we are doing before the December meeting. I brought up the thought of budgeting over a few years for new banners in place of the lights. I didn’t want to talk about it now but at the budget meeting.

**Kathi Bennett, Water and Sewer** – There were 141 bills sent out. 17 of those were email bills. 19 friendly reminders and 16 shut-off notices with 4 door hangers and no shut-offs. We will have some assessments to do next month for the 4 who haven’t hooked up to water and do not pay the fee. Kathi has revised how she sends out the shut-off notices. Kettle River Grafix does not have the ability to make the postcard stock for us, so we will order through UB.

**Zoning, Sheldon Johnson –** Drew Abrahamson got a permit for an addition and a deck. Sheldon wanted to comment that he has heard nothing bad regarding the pilot project with the County.

**Flood, Vickie Whitehouse –** She got an email from Mike Peloquin and he said that there will not be a public meeting any time soon. Not much more than what we heard from Jon.

**Old Business**

1. Resident complaint – I talked to the resident and he is burning the brush as time and weather permit. So, he is taking care of it.

**New Business:**

1. The liquor licenses are up for renewal. I have letters ready to go. Vicki made a motion to approve Acorn Hospitality’s and The Corral’s liquor license. Sheldon second. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. Ordinance review 1-15 – Ordinance 1 (Spirituous Liquors, Billiard Tables, Pigeon Hole Tables and Bowling Alleys– Repeal. Vicki made a motion to repeal. Chris second. Motion carried with all in favor. Ordinance 10 Licensing of Dogs– Repeal. Vickie made a motion to repeal. Chris second. Motion carried with all in favor. Ordinance 13 – Vicki makes a motion to repeal. Chris second. Motion carried with all in favor. Ordinance 14 Construction and Maintenance of Sidewalks– Darryl would like to repeal this. Repeal in part – section 1. Darryl makes a motion to repeal section 1. Sheldon second. Motion carried with all in favor. Ordinance 15 Tri State Telephone– Sheldon makes a motion to repeal. Vicki second. Motion carried with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Nelson