The Council met at 6:30 pm for the review of Kathi Bennett. Kathi was given a $1/hr COLA increase and was asked to cross train Tiffany.

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Brent Switzer, Vickie Whitehouse, Sheldon Johnson, Chris Ketchmark, and Art Underhill

**Others Present:**  City Clerk Tiffany Parr (via Zoom), Utility Billing Clerk Kathleen Bennett, Water and Sewer Operator John Mikrot, Fire Chief Gerard Bennett, and various members of public.

**Call to Order:** Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance at 7:00 pm by Mayor Switzer.

**Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda which includes the minutes of the September regular city council meeting, the disbursements and financial reports, and accounts payable was submitted for approval. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

V. Whitehouse made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by C. Ketchmark. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Petitions, Requests, and/or Complaints:** None.

**Gerard Bennett, Fire Chief:**  Runs to date: 22 fire, 97 ems, 1 other, 120 total. Three truck replacements all in the works. Different stages of completion. Hydrant locks are done. Access hatch scuttle hole trim in the works. Art will check on getting insulation over city hall. New sign has been ordered, will be delivered soon. Pump tests will be done on trucks this month. FEMA PPE grant and radio grant still in the works. Public relations: Gun raffle coming up. Just got tickets. Fire prevention week will be at the school. Possible tree lighting ceremony in the works. Recruitment: two people in the works. Misc.: would like to change out all the fluorescent lights to LEDs. Got the oxygen bags and AED’s from Pine County Sheriff. There is an AED in city hall if needed. Vickie spoke with DNR and did get permission to plow the lot this winter. Will talk to John about getting bollards in. EMT refreshers coming up in April.

**Dave Prachar, Planning Commission Update:** Dave was not present to give update. Brent didn’t think there was really anything notable to report on at this time.

**John Mikrot, Water and Sewer Operator:** Will be flushing hydrants this week. Went around and patched roads. Did some patching around manhole covers. Toilet in the park had some issues. Called a plumber to check it out and order more parts for it. Some discussion about fixing the water shut off near Bob Paulson’s old place. John has a replacement part for the top section.

S. Johnson made a motion to fix the water shut off, seconded by V. Whitehouse. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Kathleen Bennett, Utility Billing Clerk:** Did the billing on 9/30/22. Sent out 154 bills, 33 email, 121 mail for a total of $16,653.15. $444.92 in late fees. Assessments for delinquent water bills will happen next month. Kathi has a wedding on Friday, will work Wednesday instead. The city hall toilet needs a new part. Tiffany said that John Mikrot said he would get a the part and repair it.

**Tiffany Parr, City Clerk:** Tiffany is sick, potentially COVID. Will go get tested and keep the door locked with a sign.

**Sheldon Johnson, Zoning:** Nothing new.

**V. Whitehouse, Dam Update:**  The light has been installed and the dam project is complete.

**Old Business**

**Repairing Walters Road:**  Kettle River Township had sent a letter of approval for the repairs on Walters Rd, but now they are saying they did not approve it. Brian Roth suggests waiting until next year to replace the culvert since it is so late in the year now. Some discussion about whether or not to do the corner this year and the culver project next year. Will go to Kettle River Township’s next meeting.

**Repairing Roads in Town:** Brian Roth is on track to repair roads this month. Some discussion about the water problem on Doe St.

**Door Codes:** Gerard is looking into this.

**New Business**

**Public Nuisance Ordinance:** Tiffany sent a draft of a public nuisance ordinance to the city attorney for review. The city attorney recommended a blight/public nuisance ordinance as this is the trend most cities are moving towards simply due to the more broad range of circumstances covered. Council will need time to read over this, and we will look at it again next month.

**Petition for Annexation:** Danny Walker is proposing annexing his property from Kettle River Township into the city limits. One adjacent lot of his is in city limits. He would like all of the lots to be in city limits. It is 27 acres that he is looking to annex. Will send to city attorney for advisement.

**Christmas lights for tree/pavilion:** Vickie spoke with League of MN Cities regarding the purchasing of Christmas lights. The League said it would be ok for the city to purchase. The lights would then belong to the city, but the Community Club could put them up. Since this is not a budgeted item for this year, the League suggested keeping it under $800.

C. Ketchmark made a motion to spend up to $800 on Christmas lights, seconded by A. Underhill. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Adjournment**

C. Ketchmark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by A. Underhill. Motion carried with all members voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

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Tiffany Parr, City Clerk

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Brent Switzer, Mayor