**Willow River City Council Meeting**

February 3, 2020

Approved March 2,2020

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Willow River City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020 at Willow River City Hall.

**Council Present:** Brent Switzer, Sheldon Johnson, Chris Ketchmark, Kevin McGreanor and Vickie Whitehouse

**Staff Present:** Diane Nelson and Kathi Bennett

**Others Present:**  Gerard Bennett, John Mikrot, Gerard Bennett, Harold Blatz, Rosie Mielke, Arnold Niemela, Lisa Uszenski, and Steven Prachar.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Vickie made a motion to approve the agenda. Chris seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Special Guest, Lisa Uszenski – Willow River PTO, Color run-** Lisa asked the Council permission to use the City streets to host the Color Run again this year. They had 180 participants last year with 40- 50 volunteers. The run will be held Saturday, May 9th at 10 am. Vickie makes a motion to allow the streets to be used for the Color Run on May 9th. Sheldon seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Willow River Fire Department, Gerard Bennett**- the Fire Department has had 8 EMS call so far this year. Tanker #5 is back in service. The covers for the equipment are being made at the FCI and should be done soon. They managed to get everything inside during the work night so they did not need to use the sand shed. The model A is at the storage shed by the football field. Sheldon asked about the storage at the shed by the football field. He said that they should go ahead and use it since the City doesn’t have much there. Gerard said that he would keep Diane informed if they do. The department received the 50/50 matching grant from the DNR. That will go towards communications. It is for $5000. The department is interviewing two new recruit possibilities and will hopefully give recommendation at the next City Council meeting. Sheldon asked how many we have currently. Gerard said 13 at this time. Rick Borchardt is checking with the school about possible candidates for the cadet program. Gerard mentioned that the availability at the FCI will be done and maintenance expenses could be going up in 2020. Gerard said that what the City decides regarding hydrant locks they will support.

**John Mikrot, water and sewer –** The heater in the chlorine room died so John went to the lumber yard and got a space heater. He will try to get an electrician out to fix it. The chlorine gets in there and can damage the equipment. John just wanted to make sure that we were still planning on replacing the media this year. Painting the water tower was discussed again. Sheldon asked about grants. Chris said that he would look into it. John would check to see about availability this year.

**City Clerk, Diane Nelson** – Diane said that a bus driver from the school came in and said the stop sign at Lake Street and Main Street is set too far back. It makes it difficult to see what is coming from that stopping point. Vickie said that it has always been like that. Sheldon agreed. Kevin and Diane sent “Thank you” with a gift certificate to Bruce and Joe for putting up the Christmas lights. The auditors were here and that went well and year end stuff is going well. Wally Sarvela stopped in and asked about flags. He asked if we needed flags. He said that if we do a formal request on City letterhead then they can order them pretty reasonable. Jordan Zeller from East Central Regional Development will be here on February 11th at 1:30pm and asked if some of the Council members could be here as well. Diane asked if she could leave after Election judge training in Sandstone on February 6th since it is done at 4 pm. The Council said that that would make sense. Diane asked if we could buy a new little fridge for the office since this one is freezing items. Chris makes a motion to buy a new fridge up to $150. Kevin seconded. Motion carried with all in favor. Diane asked if we should be putting Hwy 61 on the agenda as far as flags and banners so they can be ready for the summer.

**Water and Sewer Billing, Katie Bennett –** Kathi sent our 119 bills and emailed 29 for a total of $10997.18. There were 16 shut off notices and 1 shut off.

**Dam Update, Vickie Whitehouse –** The permit went to Army Corps of Engineers and has been approved. The design is 90% approved. They are waiting to see what the spring will bring until they start. They are not sure when they will start. They will award the bid in May.

**Old Business**

1. Security system – Diane was wondering if there was an update. Kevin looked online and thinks that we should look at Cybert’s bid. Maybe take off a couple of cameras to bring the cost down. Diane will contact Sam and see what could be done to bring the cost down, if any. Diane said that she is concerned about who is going to install and maintain this and do support if something were to go wrong.
2. MN Power agreement – Diane has not heard back from the rep.
3. Hydrant locks – Kevin thinks it’s a good idea. Chris asked if we wanted to make a decision. Vickie stated that Gerard and John should be here when a decision is made. Sheldon agreed. Chris said to put that on the agenda. Sheldon stated that they should make the decision because they will be the ones dealing with it.
4. Maintenance worker – Sheldon makes a motion to put it on the agenda to discuss next month. Chris seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. Local newspaper – Kevin called Askov and heard back from them that they would like to have us as they local paper but could not guarantee that someone would be at every meeting. Bethany from the Star Gazette was here and said that the Askov American is currently without an Editor and they are short staffed. Bethany said that they would try to get someone here from one of the papers. Vickie makes a motion to keep the Askov American as our legal paper. Chris seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.
6. Stop sign – On the agenda so we don’t forget to fix it when the weather is better. Sheldon stated that someone packed snow around it so that it doesn’t get pushed over.

**New Business**  -

1. Safety Deposit signers- When we updated the signers on the account, we didn’t do the safety deposit box so Deanne asked if we could get that updated as well.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Nelson