**Council Members Present:** Mayor Brent Switzer, Sheldon Johnson, Shaine Parr, Dan Walker, and Art Underhill (via FaceTime).

**Others Present:**  City Clerk Tiffany Parr, 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 6:00 pm by Mayor Switzer.

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

D. Walker made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by S. Parr. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Petitions, Requests, and/or Complaints:** Dave Auchter of Friends of Munger South requested a letter of support from the Willow River City Council to Senator Rarick regarding repairs needed on the section of the Munger Trail from Finlayson to Hinckley. The group advocates for the trail all the way up to Carlton County but, at this time, the dire need for repair is in the section mentioned.

D. Walker made a motion to submit a letter of support, seconded by S. Johnson. Motion carried with majority of members voting in favor. S. Parr voted No.

 Kevin Prachar approached Dan Walker about selling the laundromat and whether at the time of sale it will be required to be connected to city water. After some discussion, it was decided that hooking up to city water would not be required since the water will not be used for human consumption, but the usage amount will be increased to 35,000 gallons per month or have the water usage metered.

**Gerard Bennett, Fire Chief:**  Runs to date: 26 ems, 5 fire, total of 31. Minor repairs being done on trucks in house. Will be getting some wildland equipment with the DNR 50/50 grant. Still working on grants for Federated Oil, MN Power, ECE, & Essentia grants. Lions Club donated $5000 – will be used to get some BP monitors for the trucks. Working on Pine County mutual

aid grant for radios. Also working on FEMA PPE grant; will be responsible for 5% which will be around $4000 if we get it. Public relations: Fun with the Easter Bunny will be held at the hall

here on the 23rd of March. Recruitment: Have 13 on board now. Currently have 2 guys showing interest. One gal possibly interested in applying as EMT. Always looking for good recruits. Possibly have a volunteer that owes community service that could help with insulating the city shop building. Commercial Club would like to approach Pine County about upgrading the intersection of Hwy 61 and 43. Also cleaning up the 43 ditch.

**John Mikrot, Water and Sewer Operator:** Water usage has gone up. Normally around 20,000 per day, now at about 30,000. Found one leak that is going through 2200 gallons per day. Bradd Mlaskoch wanted a 2-inch meter installed. John informed that that would be at their expense. Installed new tube at sewer pond. The road going out to the pond never got fixed up. Would like that fixed up before big trucks are trying to get out there. Will get some numbers for getting televising done for next meeting.

**Kathi Bennett, Utility Billing Clerk:** Sent out 158 bills, 35 by email. Totaling $10,484.83, $111.50 late fees, no shut offs. Contacted the county to clarify which houses on Gander Drive have their own septic systems. Everybody that should be hooked up, is hooked up. John Erlitz overpaid his water bill. He was wanting a refund for the overpayment. Overpayment is about $200. Since he still owns the house and still has water and the credit is not a large amount, council decided to leave the credit on his account to apply toward future bills. Amber Galas has a $10.10 credit on her account. She no longer owns the house. It has been over a year and have been unable to contact her. Kathi requested to write off the amount to get it off the books. Council agreed. Michele Bucklin moved and title company overpaid final bill by $59.72.

S. Parr made a motion to refund Michele Bucklin $59.72, seconded by S. Johnson. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Tiffany Parr, City Clerk:** Working on getting restitution payments going again. With probation being over, case needs to be transferred to a civil case. Paperwork has been filed with the court, just waiting to hear back. Reminder that Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is scheduled for April 25 at 6pm. Corral bar is being sold in April. Working on the liquor license. Council said to reimburse pro-rated amount for partial year liquor licenses. Got paperwork for new CDs with higher rates on the CDs that were maturing.

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

**Old Business**

**Repairing Roads:**  Four wheelers on Walters Road cutting the corner are leaving a bunch of gravel on the road. Talk about getting signs that say “Stay on Pavement” for the ATVs. This has been a continual issue.

**Blight:** Send out letters again to the problem areas. It was mentioned that the Rock property is starting to get bad as well. Someone will talk to them and if it doesn’t improve, we can look at getting a letter out to them as well.

**Pine Street:**  Tabled.

**New Business**

**Unleashed Dogs:**  There was a complaint about an unleashed dog at the laundromat. Shaine also commented that his neighbor’s dog is pooping in his yard as well. Brent’s neighbor also has an unleashed dog. Will send out some letters.

**Quarterly Workshop Meeting:** Shaine though the last workshop meeting went really well and was beneficial. Would like to have a quarterly meeting. Council tentatively scheduled a meeting for May 15 at 2pm.

Kevin Prachar approached Dan about the school is interested in getting city water at the football field for sprinklers. The school received a donation from the Commercial Club that they can use towards putting a sprinkler system in. Kathi made a point that the school would not qualify for any sort of discount on city the water.

Mike Fanum said that The Squirrel Cage has been approached by a race circuit that wants to bring a vintage snowmobile race to the dam next year. They are ISR certified and fully insured. Looking for an ok from the city to start planning that. Council had no objections. He also said that he and Darin of the Corral Bar are thinking about starting a battle of the bars in the summer, possibly on the same weekend that Willow River Days used to be.

**Adjournment**

S. Parr made a motion to adjourn, seconded by D. Walker. Motion carried with all members voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

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Tiffany Parr, City Clerk Brent Switzer, Mayor