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

**Others Present:**  Utility Billing Clerk Kathleen Bennett, City Clerk Tiffany Parr, Water and Sewer Operator John Mikrot, Fire Chief Gerard Bennett, Planning Commission David Prachar, Steven & Victoria Prachar, Rosie Mielke, and Shaine Parr.

**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 April 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: 13 fire, 39 ems, 52 total. This is on high average for the year. All 3 of new trucks, #1, #3, & #6, are all in the works. HVAC work has started. Mentioned north drive wash out. PPE grant is still in the works. Radio grant also still in the works. Community Club fun day with Easter bunny went very well – good turnout. Recruitment is ongoing. Personnel physicals – good to do every year to get a baseline. Working with MedCompass. About half are done. Next date is 5/19. Marquee sign – will get permit submitted to Pine County. Once approved, can start bringing the grade up. Hydrant locks will be starting with warmer weather. Bollards need to be done before cold weather to protect hydrants. Would like to see a utility hydrant installed and leave the fire hydrants alone. Auxiliary is getting started with Kevin McGreanor and Shaine Parr. Auxiliary does non firefighting tasks such as filling trucks and helping on work nights with washing trucks and maintenance.

**Dave Prachar, Planning Commission Update:** Had meeting to approve survey to residents. Survey is to help put together a comprehensive plan for the city over the next five to ten years. Survey covers grading city water, city sewer, fire protection, ems services, city streets, city parks, question about what you would like to see in our city, are there any skills you can share with our community, adopt a street, adopt a park, volunteer for ems fire, plan willow days, join fire auxiliary, spot for questions/concerns. No meeting in May, will get together in June. Will mail out surveys with stamped return envelope. Including businesses in the survey mailing.

**John Mikrot, Water and Sewer Operator:** Pretty quiet month. Hydrants are all flushed. One hydrant is turning a little hart, so will take that apart and grease it up and get it good to go. No charge for that. Tower’s up to summer heights. On the list for lift station inspection and cleaning. Once it warms up a little bit more, will get out and patch roads. Walters Road patching will be done by Kettle River Township. Some discussion regarding re-doing a portion of Walters Road and other roadwork that needs to be done. Water was off one day due to phone line being down at the pump house. Got the phone line back up and running.

**Kathleen Bennett, Utility Billing Clerk:** 119 bills sent by mail, 33 by email, totaling $9,880.72. Two houses were shut off at request of owners for repairs last month, they are now back on again. No shut offs in March. Two shut offs tonight. We stopped dripping the households that needed to be dripped. Information on back of bill cards for the online payments.

**Tiffany Parr, City Clerk:** Letter from Community Club requesting monetary donation. City is not allowed to make a monetary donation. Legion Auxiliary would like to use city hall for their annual meeting.

**Sheldon Johnson, Zoning:** S. Johnson had nothing new to report.

**V. Whitehouse, Dam Update:**  Vickie met with Dane from MN Power about the light pole at the dam. He verified that it is a MN Power pole and sent an outdoor light agreement that we will need to fill out for them to put a light there. Some discussion on possibly getting our own pole and light. Will table until next month. Discussed the size of the flag pole at the dam park and if the solar light would fit the pole that is there. Will check into this before ordering the light.

**Old Business**

**Lawn Mowing bids:** Received 6 mowing bids. Reviewed all the bids and decided on the lowest bid submitted by Green Image Outdoor Solutions.

V. Whitehouse made a motion to accept the Green Image bid, seconded by A. Underhill. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Permits for ground mount solar arrays:** Most other cities are charging the same as an accessory structure permit such as a garage. Also some discussion about cell tower permits. Will check with Kettle River on that. For solar permit, will use same permit and charge the same as we would for a garage structure.

A. Underhill made a motion to charge $50 for a ground mount solar array permit, seconded by C. Ketchmark. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Roof repair needed in fire hall:** We need to advertise to collect bids. Should advertise two ways – to repair and to replace since we don’t know exactly what needs to be done. Can use ARPA funds towards roof repair/replacement. Advertise for two weeks and request bids for next meeting.

**New Business**

**New city water hook-up:** Request from Booth for information on what it would take to get on city water. He would need to pay hookup fee. He would be responsible to hookup from curb stop to wherever he wants it on his property. Some discussion regarding rules about living in RV.

**New Liquor License:** New owners of Peggy Sue’s sent liquor license application in to AGE. AGE sent it to the city with a note that they had filled out the wrong application and included the proper application to fill out. There is still one license available in the city. We will wait and see what the AGE says about the application.

**Complaints:** Received a complaint regarding Walters Road about the trimming that was done and the condition of the road. Kettle River Township takes care of the maintenance on Walters Road. Also received a complaint about a flag on 43. This has been discussed at previous meetings and it had been decided that this was a freedom of speech issue.

**Adjournment**

C. Ketchmark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by V. Whitehouse. Motion carried with all members voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

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Tiffany Parr, City Clerk

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Brent Switzer, Mayor