**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, Shaine Parr, and Dave Kliniski.

**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 June 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 S. Johnson. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Petitions, Requests, and/or Complaints:** Steven Prachar brought up that he had heard that Bill Novitski has been hanging out in the post office at night. Questioning whether we have any ordinances in place against that sort of thing. Council suggested if that is seen again to contact the post office directly. CCA was on the agenda to request permission to use the city hall for their meetings, but they did not show up.

**Gerard Bennett, Fire Chief:**  Runs to date: 18 fire, 64 ems, 82 total. Three truck replacements all in the works. HVAC should be finished up soon. Truck #2 needed a repair. FEMA PPE grant and radio grant still in the works. Public relations: Escorted Rebel softball team with the fire trucks when they went to state. Covered Moose Lake and Finlayson 4th of July parades. Coming up will be National Night Out and Rutabaga Days parade and Music and Memories. Recruitments in the works. Sturgeon Lake Lions club generously donated another $5000 to the fire department. Need a letter of acceptance from city for the marquee sign. John found some materials to use for bollards. Consider a utility hydrant to sell water instead of using the fire hydrants. Auxiliary is moving forward. It’s been a busy month. There was a loss of a young life in a house fire, past WRFD had a tragic loss of a family member, and a local young adult died in a car wreck. Had a crisis team management meeting on the house fire loss of life.

**Dave Prachar, Planning Commission Update:** No planning commission update. Sheldon asked if it would be beneficial for the planning commission to have their own zoning officer. After some discussion, it was decided to keep it how it is currently.

**John Mikrot, Water and Sewer Operator:** Checked on what speed limit signs we have. There are two 20mph signs, two 30mph signs, and six posts. The quote for the spare pump came in at a little over $10,000. The order has been placed. Received bill from Great Lakes Pipe for when they came out to clean the lift stations. They are charging the city for a vacuum hose they needed to purchase to complete the job. Suggests paying the cleaning portion of the bill, but include a note that we will not pay for the equipment. John’s contract with the city expired. He has a new contract made up with no raises other than the cost of jetting. He was at $125 per hour, others with the same equipment charge up to $325 per hour. John is looking for $200 per hour.

S.Johnson made a motion to approve the contract renewal with the raise for jetting, seconded by A. Underhill. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

There is a verbal agreement with John to do meter readings for $100 per month. There are a few months in the winter when it is really hard to get to some of the meters. John suggested either paying extra those months or maybe skipping meter reads for those months and instead estimating.

A. Underhill made a motion to skip meter readings for January through March, seconded by V. Whitehouse. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

During the discussion of meter readings, it was mentioned that we should start looking for snow plow bids. One of the biggest complaints on the planning commission survey was regarding snow removal.

A. Underhill made a motion to advertise for snow plow bids, seconded by V. Whitehouse. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

John swept 61, and the county doesn’t want to pay for it. He said he will donate this year, but mentioned the city budgeting for it next year. Discussion about having the camp sweep next year. Art will talk to them.

**Kathleen Bennett, Utility Billing Clerk:** Couldn’t find record of a motion made to charge off Bill Novitski’s outstanding balance. Kathy is requesting a motion be made.

V. Whitehouse made a motion to write off Bill Novitski’s unpaid balance, seconded by C. Ketchmark. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

120 bills sent by mail, 34 by email, totaling $13,327.66. Currently no shut offs this month. One payment arrangement was paid off.

**Tiffany Parr, City Clerk:** Mentioned that we do not currently have a vagrancy ordinance in effect. Also could not find a noise ordinance either. Framing for zoning map – Blacklock was $89.10, Kettle River Graffix was $93, and Creative Colors in Cloquet was $150. Found a cheap poster frame from Amazon for $30. Steven brough up contacting a local contractor (Corey) to see if he could do it. Vickie will talk to him. Talked to Valley Printing about laminating one; it will be about $8. Double W Tree Service sent payment for sign permit but forgot to sign the permit itself. Talked to MN Power about the tree on Doe Street leaning towards the power line. They will come look at it, but there is a 6-8 week turnaround time. Received remaining ARPA funds - $21,856.45. Talked to Northern Pipeline about patch job on Lake and Doe. Council is fine with the job that was done. No further work necessary.

**Sheldon Johnson, Zoning:** 1 deck permit

**V. Whitehouse, Dam Update:**  Very close to getting the park back. Some discussion on if we want DNR Forestry to thin out trees up there. We need to get signs up at the park. Vickie is talking with DNR about a sign provided by the DNR about staying off the rocks. Vickie is also in discussion with DNR regarding mowing at the park. DNR is hesitant because they are trying to keep the natural vegetation. Will need a garbage can up at the park. Landwehr still has some trees to transplant.

V. Whitehouse made a motion to thin out the trees at the park by the dam, seconded by A. Underhill. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Old Business**

**Roof repair needed in fire hall:** Received one bid from Commercial Roofing. Included a bid for a full repair and a full replacement. Some discussion on which bid to accept. Repair bid includes a 10 year warranty, the replacement bid includes a 15 year warranty.

C. Ketchmark made a motion to approve repairing the roof, seconded by S. Johnson. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Utility Hydrant:** Some discussion on different options for handling the sale of bulk water.

**Letter for sign donation from Commercial Club:** Would like to check on insurance to see what it will cost the city to insure the sign.

**Cut outs/repairing Walters Road:** The county will be replacing the culvert on Pine Street and 43. Possibly piggy back on their repair to fix the corner there. The repair on Walters Road will be split with Kettle River Township. Art will go to their meeting to bring the repair quote. The repair quote came to $40,120 total, half of that would be the city’s responsibility.

**Emptying park garbages and cleaning park bathroom:** Shelley Underhill is taking care of the park garbages and cleaning the park bathrooms.

**National Night Out:** NNO is August 2nd. We will have community potluck. We need to find somebody to donate the bikes. City will provide meat and beverages.

V. Whitehouse made a motion have National Night Out on August 2nd, seconded by C. Ketchmark. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.

**Adjournment**

C. Ketchmark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by S. Johnson. Motion carried with all members voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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Tiffany Parr, City Clerk

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Brent Switzer, Mayor