**Willow River City Council Meeting**

September 3, 2019

Approved October 7, 2019

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Willow River City Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at Willow River City Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Brent Switzer.

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Council Present:** Brent Switzer, Sheldon Johnson, Darryl Poslusny and Vickie Whitehouse

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

**Others Present:**  Gerard Bennett, Rosie Mielke, Dave Kliniski, Kevin and Allie McGreanor, Lois Johnson, Arnold Niemela, and Harold Blatz

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

**Willow River Fire Department, Gerard Bennett**- the Fire Department has had 20 fire calls, 78 EMS calls and 2 other for a total of 100 calls. Tanker #5 is still at the FCI and they are hoping that it will be done this month. The Relief Association is still looking into getting patches. Truck #2 is serviced. Truck #1 and #2 had their pump test and they both passed. Truck #1 will need some work on the tank to the pump valve. They applied for the 50/50 DNR grant. They haven’t heard on that one yet. They were in Askov for the parade at Rutabaga Days. They had one of the trucks up at the school for “take a fire truck to school” where one student won a ride to school in a fire truck. We have 16 on the department right now. There was a donation from the Edwards of $25. The burn piles have been burned. Diane added that Rick Borchardt had given her the annual Relief Association funding report. It all looked really good and there is currently a surplus. Diane signed it so that Rick could get it into the auditors.

**City Clerk, Diane Nelson –** The letter regarding the streetlight was sent to the interested resident. I contacted the County and have not heard back regarding the Ordinance sign or the Willow River sign. I talked to Debbie Eaton regarding the trim. She said that she would get it done. Someone from the DNR came to talk to me regarding an address for the parking lot at the City Park. I talked to Bruce and got him an address for it. We received our annual letter asking for a donation from the Pine County Historical Society. Diane mentioned that we have had extra household garbage in the dumpster. The Council told Diane to let them know if it continues. Diane spoke with Bill Olson regarding the sand shed. He said that at their last meeting no motions were made. They were still waiting to see what the estimate comes in for materials on a new one. At this time he didn’t know if they were willing to pay for it. They would take it down and landscape by it if it was donated to them. Kathi’s review is up in October and mine in November. Does the Council want to do them at the same time? Brent thought it would be a good idea. Diane brought up the meter reading handheld device. We had approved it and just wanted to make sure it was ok to order it since it had been a few months since we approved it. The Council said yes.

**Water and Sewer Billing, Katie Bennett –** Kathi sent out 148 bills. 30 were e-bills. The total billing was $13,910.54. Kathi also sent out 15shut off notices and had 0 shut offs.

**Flood Update, Vickie –** Just waiting for the O & M Manual

**Old Business**

1. Part time worker – There has been 2 applicants. Darryl suggested that we hire both. Brent said that we should interview. Vickie and Sheldon said that they would be available to interview. Diane will see if they are available to interview Tuesday, September 10th.
2. Flags- Sheldon talked to Bob and they have some on order. Diane said that the ones we ordered before were about $19.97 each
3. Budget meeting – Tuesday, September 10th at 6 pm. We will do the interviews, approve the hiring, the budget, and set the levy.
4. Levy- see above.
5. Christmas lights- look at ordering lights so we have them soon. The Council discussed what colors to order. They talked about making the snowflakes solid colors. A resident asked about changing them to LED. Gerard said that LED is a good idea but it is labor intensive. So, we should do just a few each year. Vickie wants to get them ready in October.

**New Business**  -

1. Fire Department fundraiser - Brent and Vickie are looking at October 12th. Vickie talked with Ben Partlow and he is willing to organize an ATV ride. They are thinking the ride, and get back to town around 4 and have food and music from 4-6 or 7. Moose Lake Brewery may be willing to bring beer for the event. Brent mentioned sending out letters to area businesses asking for support. The City approves the temporary liquor license and gets it into the state 30 days before the event. Vickie makes a motion to approve the 1 day liquor license for the WRFD. Sheldon seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. DNR grant agreement for Northern Pine Riders. The DNR sent an amendment to our agreement which increases the funding for Northern Pine Riders by $17,500. They are looking for an approval of that. Darryl makes a motion to approve the amended agreement. Sheldon seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. Leaky toilet at the park bathroom – Darryl talked to Steve Andrews to go over and look at it. He was thinking that it wouldn’t be more than $100 to fix.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Nelson