

**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Willow River City Hall**  
**April 8, 2026 at 6 pm**

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Vickie Whitehouse, Sheldon Johnson, Dan Walker, and Art Underhill, Drew Abrahamson.

**Others Present:** City Clerk Sandy Gebhart, Utility Billing Clerk Kathleen Bennett, Water and Sewer Operator John Mikrot, Fire Chief Gerard Bennett, Kelly Schroeder, Garrett Ignaszweski and various members of the public.

**Call to order:** Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the public hearing was called to order at 6 pm by Mayor Whitehouse with the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda:** The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

[D. Walker made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by S. Johnson. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.](#)

**Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda which includes the minutes of the December 2024 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.

[D. Abrahamson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by S. Johnson. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.](#)

**Petitions, Requests, and / or Complaints from the public:** None.

**Special Guest Kelly Schroeder;** Kelly noted that a significant portion of this City of Willow River is in the Kettle River Corridor or protected shoreland. Minnesota Ordinances regulate both.

**Fire Chief, Gerard Bennett:** Runs to date: Fire 8, EMS 10, Events 2. Minor repairs in house. The boat donated by PCSO should be available this week. Grants: Pine county mutual aid grant for radios. The Fema tanker grant is still in the works. WRFD covered the snowmobile races for medical. The Squirrel cage gave a \$500.00 donation the FD. The FD will hold a picnic/retirement party at the city park May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12 pm to 3 pm.

**Commercial Club, Gerrard Bennett:** They will be finishing the fence in the spring. Possible 3 new park projects in 2026.

**John Mikrot, Water and Sewer Operator:** They are planning to flush hydrants soon, he will let the clerk know when they schedule. He is brining the water tower levels back up. He needs the contract for MN Pump signed. Vickie asked questions about the pump house and well head protection measures.

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**Kathi Bennett, Utility Billing Report:** 154 Bills went out, \$12619.51 came in for W/S billing. There was a known Banyon/Nuevei glitch that affected “Transfer Issue” that has been addressed. \$142.08 in late fees have been removed because of the glitch.

[S Johnson made a motion to approve the late charge removal, seconded by D Walker. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.](#)

**Sandy Gebhart, Clerk Report:** May need time off for family.

**Commissioners reports:**

**Sheldon Johnson; Zoning;** 4 building permits for Tatums addition were issued.

**Dan Walker; Water/Sewer/Cemetery/Fire Department:** Need to locate forced water pipe.

**Drew Abrahamson; Parks:** Ryan Prachar ground stumps at park. CIP will be in town May 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> to paint curbs.

**Art Underhill; Streets:** Already covered

Vickie asked Garrett if he would be interested in PT hours through the summer. He said he was.

**Old Business**

Follow up with Chelsey Troth.

**New Business**

April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm Willow River Council will host the Pine County Board of Equalization meeting. Sheldon and Vickie will need to attend.

Dan asked about sending blight letters out to residents not in compliance with ordinances.

The Laundromat was sold, discussion whether or not they should hook up to city water. It was decided that they should meter the sewer.

[D. Walker made a motion to require the laundromat be metered, seconded by D. Abrahamson. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor.](#)

**Adjournment**

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[D. Walker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by D Abrahamson. Motion carried with all members present voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.](#)

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Sandy Gebhart, Clerk

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Vickie Whitehouse, Mayor