

**HARRIS CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 12, 2018**

**I. Call to order**

Mayor Miller called to order the regular meeting of the Harris City Council at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Roll Call**

Deputy City Clerk Sculley conducted roll call. The following members were present: Mayor Miller, Councilmember Payne, Councilmember Rossini, and Councilmember Williams. Councilmember Sculley was absent. Deputy City Clerk Sculley advised that a quorum of the council was present.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

Mayor Miller made the motion to approve the January 30, 2018 Special Meeting minutes, February 8, 2018 Special Meeting minutes, February 12, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes, and the Accounts Payable. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**V. Public Comment**

- Ken Reichkitzer is a property owner of a residence in Harris. He wants to know if the city has any ordinances in place regarding evicting people. He has people living at the residence that he owns and currently rents and would like to know the process in which to remove them. The council advised him since he is the property owner he has more control of the situation than the city would. They also suggested that he contact the Chisago County Sheriff's Office and let them help advise the proper procedures for evicting renters.

**VI. Regular Agenda**

- Mr. Doyle Bryngelson
  - Doyle Bryngelson is a Harris resident and has a question about driveway placement for the council. He is thinking about splitting his property and having two driveways. He would like to know what the requirements are that he needs to follow. The council said that the road that he lives on is a county road and that he would need to check with the county regarding their criteria for driveway placement. Mr. Bryngelson said that he has contacted the county and they directed him back to the

city. The council said that they would have the city clerks help look into this and see what answers they can help come up with.

- Mr. Scott Blahowski new owner of property in General Business District

Mr. Blahowski is at tonight's meeting to discuss his plans for the property that he is in the process of purchasing. Mr. Blahowski said that currently the property is in probate. Mr. Blahowski said that he removed all of the renters who were not supposed to be living at this property. Mr. Blahowski said that he has thought about using the property as a possible laundry mat, storage facility, or a studio to hold furniture sets for people to purchase. Mr. Blahowski would like to rent out the upstairs of this building as a way to generate income while working on fixing up the property. Mayor Miller explained that currently renting is not an option seeing as how it is not permitted in the General Business District. Mayor Miller said while he is waiting for probate he should show the city how well he can progress with the cleanup of this property. Councilmember Rossini recommended that Mr. Blahowski bring the council information on the previous business that Mr. Blahowski has started and has done well with. Currently nothing can be done with this property until Mr. Blahowski is the actual owner of the property. It is possible that the Planning Commission could decide to make it a conditional use that the property is allowed to rent. At this time no renting should be allowed at this property. The Planning Commission will start discussing their thoughts on renting at future Planning Commission meetings.

## VII. Staff Reports

- **Fire Dept**

- **No Fire Department meetings since the last Council meeting. No minutes to review.**
- **New Fire Department member Mekala Gnau**
  - Mekala has decided to postpone joining the Fire Department. The timing currently isn't a good fit.
- **Brent Peterson resignation**
  - Councilmember Payne made the motion to accept Brent Peterson's resignation from the Harris Fire Department. Councilmember Rossini seconded the motion, All in favor, motion carried.
- **Selections**
  - Chief Gregoire advised the Council that the Fire Department will start the selection process. The Fire Department members will complete the selection forms and return them to the City for the Council to review. A special meeting of the Council will be scheduled to decide on the positions.

- **Truck Repair List**

- Chief Gregoire provided the council with a list of repairs for each Fire Department truck. Each truck has been thoroughly gone through to address needed repairs and maintenance. This list will help the council see what repairs will be coming up in the future. Previously the truck checklists were not properly being completed or turned in. An updated list will be available next month.

- **Property Burn**

- Mayor Miller made the motion to approve the Fire Department to burn the field between the old sewer ponds and Country Road 30 as Wild Fire training. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- **Pancake Breakfast**

- March 24, 2018 is the First Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast. This will take place at the Harris Fire Department from 8am - noon. Easter Egg Hunt begins at noon.

- Chief Gregoire would like the Council to know that the Fire Department has been doing a lot of work preparing for the ISO rating that is coming up.
- Chief Gregoire asked for clarification on emergency snow plowing. If the Fire Department needs to get into a driveway during a snowstorm, Chief Gregoire will try to contact public works or if Assistant Chief Williams is available, he can take the plow truck and clear the driveway.
- Chief Gregoire wanted to confirm the price for a pool fill. A pool fill is \$100.00 per tanker load. Each tanker load is 1800 gallons.
- Up to date the Fire Department has had 18 fire and EMS calls. Structure fires were assisting North Branch. There has been a 90 % turnout of Fire Department members responding to calls.
- New Fire Department members are continuing to work on Completing Fire Fighter I and II. Chief Gregoire would like to stay on top of enforcing the 25% rule. Letters will soon go out to the Fire Department members who need to get their attendance up. There has been no word about the members who still need to complete the required level 2 live burn.

- **City Engineer Chuck Schwartz**

City Engineer Chuck Schwartz prepared a draft Feasibility Study to present to the council. The cost of running sewer and water from the current systems out to freeway has an estimated cost of \$1.6 million dollars. Before finalizing this report, Chuck will check with additional contractors to confirm these prices. This cost is just the main line and services to each one of the residents. If the city were to decide to develop an Assessment Policy, Chuck agreed to help decide what it would take to assess property owners and get a system in place. Part of the discussion would include putting a time limit on how long property owners had until they would be required to hook up to the city's sewer and water system. It may be wise to check the timing for when the bridge is being replaced or repaired and possibly coordinate these projects. Chuck spoke with the head of Rural Development at a recent conference and told him about the difficulties our city is having getting a response from Harris residents regarding the surveys that go out to help identify residence median income. Response from these surveys could greatly help with funding for our water tower repairs and maintenance. He thinks that the city is allowed to go door knocking and provide an informational component about the survey to the residents but cannot physically hand out the surveys. We were only \$100.00 above grant eligibility last time. Mayor Miller wanted to clarify the flexibility of these policies. The challenge with the survey is knowing if residents even read them. The council will review this draft Feasibility Study and get back to Chuck by Tuesday March 20, 2018 with any corrections or input.

- **Todd Hagen - EHLERS**

Todd Hagen Senior Municipal Advisor / Vice President from EHLERS attend tonight's meeting to help explain the basics of assessment policies. The City of Harris currently does not have an assessment policy. Part of the discussion included special assessments, what type of improvements are allowed to be assessed, why specific improvements are happening, how special assessments are determined, and the appropriate process and general procedures to follow in setting them up. Public hearings are a part of this process so residents have the ability to come forward with questions, comments, or concerns. It is important for the council to start thinking about these possibilities.

- **Planning Commission -John Rossini**

- The Planning Commission is continuing to work on the Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Rossini would also like to mention that the City Ordinance Book is in desperate need of updates. Planning Commission Chair Rossini discussed that the Planning Commission wants to know what ordinances are in place for no parking on Harris city streets. If something is not currently in place, he suggested the council look at this issue so parking issues could be properly enforced.

- **People Service - written report**

- **Public Works - Alan Teich and George Valvoda - written reports**

Public works is holding off on ordering and dumping the lime for the ball field because the ground is already too soft. Alan will have road restriction signs posted by the end of next week; he has also begun opening up the storm sewers. The roof is leaking at the Waste Water Plant. The council would like the city to contact the League of Minnesota Cities and begin the claim process.

- **City Clerk/Treasurer - Marlys Balfany - written report**

- Councilmember Rossini made the motion to approve an additional 4-6 hours for City Clerk / Treasurer Balfany to prepare for the audit. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- **Deputy Clerks report - Abbey Sculley - written report**

- Deputy City Clerk Sculley brought to the council's attention that the city received a \$15, 500 bill from East Central Energy. East Central Energy said that the meters stopped functioning properly at the Waste Water Plant beginning in 2015, resulting in the city not getting properly charged for the actual electricity used. The council would like East Central Energy to be present at the next council meeting to explain how this can happen.
- Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for the City of Harris will be at the City Hall at 6pm on Monday April 23, 2018.

### VIII. **Mayor and Council Reports**

- Mayor Miller clarified with Chief Gregoire that the Fire Relief will pay back the city for the grant bill that the city has already paid. The bill for the Fire Relief grant was paid out of city funds while the Fire Relief is being restructured. Chief Gregoire confirmed that when the relief is back up and running that the city will get reimbursed. Mayor Miller asked City Clerk / Treasurer Balfany to provide Chief Gregoire a copy of the invoice for the grant writing expense.
- Mayor Miller brought up the fact that the city needs an additional office assistant. Currently, the hours provided to the staff are only enough to stay on top of daily tasks. Future projects are adding a lot of additional time to the current office clerks and in order for progress to be made, additional resources will need to be dedicated to them. Updating the ordinance book is going to be a large task that needs to be completed. Councilmember Rossini made the motion to approve additional office help. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- A resident showed the City Council and staff a picture of the City Hall roof from Google Maps showing that the roof on the City Hall may have some damage and or possible issues to look at.

IX. **Adjourn**

Councilmember Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Rossini seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. There being no further business, Mayor Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:41 pm.

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Deputy City Clerk Abbey Sculley

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Mayor Diane Miller

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Date Approved

APPROVED