

**Harris City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 13, 2025**

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Oath of Office:** City Clerk Shannon Geier administered the Oaths of Office to Mayor Randall Carlson, Councilmember Craig Moline, and Councilmember Michelle Borash.
- IV. **Roll Call:** Geier conducted roll call. Present were Mayor Randy Carlson, Councilmember Craig Moline, Councilmember Chell Borash, Councilmember Al Siedow, and Councilmember Garret Pearson. Geier announced that a quorum was present.
- V. **Consent Agenda:** Siedow made a motion to approve the December 9, 2024, Regular Meeting and Truth in Taxation Public Meeting Minutes, and Accounts Payable. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Public Hearing for 2025 Fee Schedule:** Carlson opened the public hearing at 7:02 pm. Geier said the only changes to the fee schedule are a 3% increase to water and sewer usage rates and a listing of Cannabis License Fees for lower potency hemp edible retailer initial application and yearly license. There were no other comments. Siedow made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:03 pm. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- VII. **Public Comment:** Siedow complained that the snow shoveling should be done earlier. City Hall was shoveled today, and the Legion has not yet been shoveled.
- VIII. **Regular Agenda:**
 - A. **Fire Department –**

-Fire Chief 2 Gabi Streater was present to review the Chief’s written report. Information included filing for a FEMA grant of \$156,000 for 20 new radios. Due to a planned upgrade of the Chisago County Broadcast System, our current radios will not work after 2028. The grant requires a 5% match of \$7,800. Requesting a maximum of twenty-five active firefighters, Pearson suggests twenty, and Siedow says twenty-three. Requests a workshop to discuss expectations, policies, run percentage stats, and human resources (HR). Pearson stated we need to hold people more accountable. A workshop will be scheduled for February 27.

 - Invoice for Grant writer – Widseth – Siedow made a motion to switch to Widseth as a grant writer for the Fire Dept and approve payment of the \$1,500 invoice for writing a grant for radios. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Year-end statistics – To be discussed at the February 27 workshop.
 - General Bill of sales from FD – Informational.
 - Med Compass- Annual medical screening and fit tests – Siedow made a motion to approve the 2025 Med Compass testing, not to exceed \$4,360, which includes Basic Physical, Quantitative Fit Test, CBC, PSA, and processing fee. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- Josh Rouse, Interim Truck Captain, was present to discuss equipment. The newly purchased truck from St Croix Falls will need decals, steer tires, and maintenance/inspection. Pearson made a motion to approve A1 Tire at a cost not to exceed \$1700 for tires, disposal fee, and balancing. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Siedow made a motion to approve ABC Decals in Blaine at a cost not to exceed \$2500 for decals. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Pearson made a motion to approve Emergency Apparatus Maintenance (EAM) in Lino Lakes for bumper-to-bumper service, safety inspection, and current pump test at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Rouse stated the St Croix vehicle is in 100% working condition. Rouse reported that a title has been received for the heavy rescue, and they have a buyer lined up, Miles City FD. The sale price is \$30,000. There is also a broker fee of \$3,000. The balance of \$27,000 will be deposited in the City General Fund to cover budget overrun cost of the St Croix Falls truck purchase. Moline reminded the Fire Department they need to be accountable and watch their budget so as not to overspend.

-Charles Mages was present to request a refund for the items he paid for with his own money. He intends to resign and wants to be reimbursed before handing in his resignation letter and pager. He had taken the fire department chain saw to a vendor and paid for the repair cost of \$144.96 and purchased four shirts at a cost of \$80 because he did not like the ones the fire department was buying. Mages claims he had given the receipts to Chief Chapeau. Pearson made a motion to reimburse Mages \$224.96 contingent upon receipt of his resignation letter and return of the shirts and all city property in his possession. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- B. **Annual Designations** – Moline made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-01, a resolution of annual appointments and designations for 2025. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- C. **Public Works Employee position** – Geier provided a sample ad for publication. A discussion ensued regarding specifics such as job title, pay, and benefits. Carlson stated that the job title dictates what we can pay. For example, a public works employee must make less than the office according to pay equity. Therefore, titles can be based on what people you want to see get more money. Moline intends to take a close look at what is being done in public works. The City needs to take better care of the roads. The employee we hire must have maintenance experience to be able to take care of the equipment. Otherwise, we might as well look at contracting. Pearson wants to see a pay range of \$70,000 to \$80,000 with negotiated benefits, and whatever title we need to pay that amount. The ad will be updated and published in the County Star, the League of Minnesota Cities, the Harris website, and Facebook.
- D. **Cannabis license for Bottle Shop and Harris Stop** – Carlson made a motion to approve a Lower Potency Hemp Edible Retailer 2025 license for Magnum 2 LLC and the Harris Bottle Shop. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- E. **RDO Invoice** – Pearson made a motion to approve payment of an invoice from RDO Equipment totaling \$2,034.10 for travel, diagnostics, and repairs of Motor Grader. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- F. **Ordinance 2025-01 Fee Schedule and Summary publication** – Siedow made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-01, an ordinance adopting a fee schedule, and a summary publication. Moline seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- G. **Schedule for Engineers and Attorney meeting dates** – The Engineer presentations will be scheduled for February 11, 12, or 13 beginning at 3:00 p.m. Each presentation will be 45 minutes with a fifteen-minute break in-between for the Council to recap. The Attorneys’ summaries will be presented at the February City Council meeting for consideration.
- H. **SBR Gear box for wastewater** – Pearson made a motion to approve up to \$1,000 for SBR Gear box repair. Moline seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- I. **Gambling Permit – North Branch Area Hockey Assoc/Legion** – Siedow made a motion to approve the 2025 annual gambling permit for the North Branch Area Hockey Association and single day permits for the American Legion on April 12th and October 11th with raffle. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- J. **COLA** – Siedow made a motion to approve implementation of the 2025 budgeted 3% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for City employees. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- K. **ESRI – Renewal Subscription ArcGIS online** – Siedow made a motion to approve payment to ESRI for the ArcGIS Online Annual Subscriptions at a total cost of \$925. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- L. **7040 Sunrise Rd Water and Sewer** – Customer is asking if there is potential to hook-up to City sewer and water. Since the Municipal System is not available to the property, the council consensus is that the customer could pay the full cost for directional boring of a single line plus a grinder pump and hook-up to the nearest location of a City sewer and water main. The single line and grinder pump would be the customer’s responsibility for maintenance. Any connection to the Municipal System would be subject to City inspection. It would be the customer’s choice whether to hook up to the Municipal System or install a private well and mound system.

IX. Staff/Department Reports:

- A. **Public Works** – Keeping the roads maintained, snowplowing and salting.
- B. **PeopleService Report** – Written report.
- C. **Planning Commission** – Written report.
- D. **Clerk’s Report** - Written report. Also, GovText is asking if Harris would be interested in a system to allow us to text notifications to all residents. And Chisago County wants to know if Harris is interested in training for the Appeals and Equalization Board. The Council consensus was to decline both offers.
- E. **Mayor and Council Reports** – Carlson, Moline, and Teich attended the DW open house. Carlson will be attending a pipeline safety meeting and a Chisago County Initiative tour of the prison.

- X. **Adjourn:** Siedow made a motion to adjourn. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. There being no further business, Mayor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Randy Carlson - Mayor

Date Approved

Approved