

**Harris Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 22, 2024**

- I. **Call to Order** – Chairman Siedow called the Planning Commission to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** – All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Oath of Office** – Al Siedow recited the Oath of Office for his appointed position to the Planning Commission.
- IV. **Roll Call** – City Clerk Shannon Geier conducted roll call. Present were Chairman Al Siedow, Commissioner Shari Denny, Commissioner Jeff Borash, and Commissioner Neil Elmquist. Commissioner Haley Peabody was absent. City Clerk Geier announced a quorum was present.
- V. **Consent Agenda** – Denny made a motion to approve the November 27, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- VI. **Regular Agenda** -
 - A. **Jim S Aiken with Barr Engineering presentation** – Jim Aiken was present to answer questions the Commissioners might have about mineral extraction ordinances and licensing. Aiken works for Barr Engineering Co., a large engineering and environmental consulting firm, whose clients include watershed districts, MPCA, governments, and industries. He is a licensed geologist, a consultant for aggregate mining issues, and does not advocate for any client. He advocates for data and science, resource evaluation, and draws conclusions from that data. His philosophy is to find a win-win formula between mining and the public. The Commissioners asked questions and Aiken answered in detail while providing pertinent laws, explanations, and options for specific scenarios. Randy Carlson, Mayor was in attendance and stated that Harris is “mined out”. Aiken said he didn’t think that was necessarily true, but he would check and get back to the clerk with the answer. Aiken suggested Scott and Dakota County ordinances would be good examples for the Commissioners to read. When asked what services Aiken could provide for Harris’ situation, Aiken stated if they want help writing the ordinance, it could be spendy; to evaluate an application and provide feedback and comments, it would be about \$450; and if they want a third party inspection of a site, it would be on a time and expense basis. The cost all depends on how much the City wants done. The cost could be passed on to the applicant or permit holder if the ordinance is written accordingly. City Planner Claire Michelson was also present and stated that the cost could be passed on if there is an escrow fee listed on the fee schedule as a requirement.
 - B. **Lutgen Property** – The owners are requesting they be allowed to bring in a double-wide manufactured home. The permit had been denied previously because of too many existing buildings. The Commissioners determined that another inspection by the

County Zoning Department should be done to determine if those existing buildings have been removed.

- C. Solar ordinance** – Michelson presented a solar ordinance for the Planning Commission to consider. The Commissioners questioned several items and requested changes be made. Michelson will make the changes and bring the ordinance back to the February meeting for review and a public hearing.
- D. Comprehensive Plan** – Michelson presented the Timeline for Comprehensive Plan Update and new data to provide a more up to date snapshot of the City.

VII. Commissioner Reports – Denny asked the Commissioners what they thought of Jim’s presentation. Siedow stated somebody would have to tell him why they would not use Aiken considering the minimal cost. The other Commissioners agreed. Denny then asked if they wanted to review the Scott and Dakota County mineral extraction ordinances as Aiken had suggested. Geier offered to email the ordinances to each of them so they could read and prepare in advance for the next meeting.

VIII. Adjourn – Borash made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Elmquist seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Allen Siedow - Chair

Date Approved

APPROVED