

**Harris City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
and
Truth In Taxation Public Hearing Minutes
Monday, December 11, 2023**

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Roll Call:** City Treasurer Sue Riesing conducted roll call. Present were Mayor Randy Carlson, Councilmember Diane Miller, Councilmember David Maack, Councilmember Al Siedow, and Councilmember Garret Pearson. A quorum was present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** Pearson made a motion to approve the Nov 13 Regular Meeting Minutes, and Accounts Payable. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Comment:** None.
- VI. **Truth in Taxation Public Hearing:** Carlson opened the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing at 7:01 pm. There were no comments or questions. Carlson closed the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm.
- VII. **Regular Agenda:**
 - A. **Fire Department** – Written report. Chapeau discussed the need for leadership classes. Former Chief Hastings will teach a leadership class for the Captains, Chiefs, and four firefighters at a total cost of \$7,200 for the year-long course. It will be a management style class with three to four hours per class, one class per month for one year. If more classes are required, they will double up in some months at no additional cost. The funds will come from the training budget. Drew stated that Hastings is requesting one-half payment up front, and the balance is due remaining. Carlson stated the balance is due in June. Siedow suggested the Fire Dept. apply for grants to cover the cost. Siedow made a motion to approve the leadership training. Carlson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1, Pearson opposed. Chapeau asked Pearson if he needed more information to understand why the Fire Dept. needs this training, he would be happy to sit down with him to discuss, but he will not discuss in front of Council because he has talked to Mayor enough.
 - B. **Planning for Workshop for the FD (topics and date and time)** – Written report. Streater discussed several items that are mandated such as the eye wash station required by OSHA and Safety Committee establishment and goals. A workshop with Council is requested for January so everyone is aware of the needs and to formulate a plan for funding.

- C. **MacQueen PPE Invoice, \$15,592.26** – Siedow made a motion to approve the Macqueen \$15,592.26 invoice for purchase of PPE. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- D. **SCBA invoice \$177,446.68** – Siedow made a motion to approve the Macqueen \$177,446.68 invoice for SCBA gear contingent upon receipt of grant funds. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- E. **Compressor and related Items \$46,996.41** – Siedow made a motion to approve the Macqueen \$46,996.41 invoice for SCBA compressor. The funds will come partially from the grant and the balance from state safety funds. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- F. **Treasurer’s Report** – Written report. Riesing reminded Council that City Clerk Geier is out of office on vacation so office hours will be flexible for the rest of the month.
- G. **Annual COLA increase** – Pearson made a motion to approve a 3% COLA increase for all current city staff. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- H. **2023-27 Final Levy Resolution** – Carlson made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-27, a resolution adopting the 2024 property tax levy as follows: General Fund \$474,010; Water Fund \$37,500; Sewer Fund \$215,000; 2023 GO Bonds \$2,658; for a total of \$729,168. Siedow seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1, Miller opposed.
- I. **2023-08 Ordinance for Micro units on sacred communities and religious properties** – Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance #2023-08, an ordinance amending chapter 154, section 154.07, and section 154.14. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- J. **2023-09 Ordinance Smoking in public spaces** – Pearson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-09, an ordinance amending chapter 93. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- K. **Water Tower Improvement Final Pay Application #1** – Siedow made a motion to approve the final payment application for the water tower improvement, contingent upon receipt of Certification of Substantial Completion. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- L. **2023-32 Resolution, Signature, and non-litigation certificate for Water Tower Note** – Carlson made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-32, a resolution accepting the offer of the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority to purchase an \$88,520 general obligation water revenue note of 2023B, providing for its issuance and authorizing execution of a bond purchase and project loan agreement. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- M. **RFP approval for Water and Wastewater Treatment Operator** – Siedow made a motion to approve placing a request for proposals for a contractor to operate

the Harris water and wastewater treatment plants. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

N. Gambling Permit Application for North Branch Area Hockey Association – Siedow made a motion to approve the gambling permit for the NBAHA. The gambling will take place at The Fuse. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

O. Planning Commission terms – Carlson made a motion to reappoint Haley Peabody to the Planning Commission for a three-year term. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

VIII. Staff/Department Reports:

A. Public Works – Written report. County may be cutting Harris off from purchasing salt for the balance of this year. They are running short and will not get more until next year. In a pinch, we can buy sand from Knife River.

- Pearson made a motion to offer Nicholas Retherford the seasonal snow removal position at \$22 per hour, as needed, up to 32 hours per week. Retherford will continue to work at his main job when it is not snowing, and only work for Harris if he has any extra time. When it is snowing Retherford will report to Harris first. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

B. Planning Commission – Written report.

C. PeopleService Report - Written report.

D. Clerk’s report - Written report.

E. Mayor and Council Reports – Christmas lights need updating. Christmas lights on tree are solar. Mayor to follow up on repair of electric outlets on street light poles.

IX. Adjourn: Miller made a motion to adjourn. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. There being no further business, Mayor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Randy Carlson - Mayor

Date Approved