

**Harris City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 9, 2024**

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Roll Call:** City Clerk Shannon Geier conducted roll call. Present were Mayor Randy Carlson, Councilmember Diane Miller, Councilmember David Maack, Councilmember Al Siedow, and Councilmember Garret Pearson. City Clerk Geier announced that a quorum was present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** Siedow made a motion to approve the November 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, September 19<sup>th</sup>, October 25<sup>th</sup>, and November 23, 2024, Emergency Meeting Minutes, and Accounts Payable. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Comment:** Craig Moline admonished the council for waiting too long to take care of gravel road issues. Those roads should have been graded and readied for winter before they froze. Only 12 miles were done and done poorly. The city should not be put in this position again. He also thanked Diane Miller and David Maack for their years of service to the city as members of the council.
- VI. **Regular Agenda:**
  - A. **Fire Department** - Fire Chief Drew Chapeau was present to review the written report.
    - One firefighter is resigning but has not yet submitted a resignation letter. Another firefighter is joining the military and requesting a leave of absence. Miller made a motion to approve a six month leave of absence for Ed Albrecht effective January 1, 2025, as requested. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The newly acquired truck from St Croix Falls is now in our possession and quotes will be obtained for detailing and new steer tires.
    - Chief 2 Gabi Streater reported on Christmas in Harris event, State Farm grant, and upcoming Easter event. She discussed recruiting next year to hire members who would be available for daytime fires, and the potential to expand fire department membership to a max of 28. During discussion it was mentioned there is a report on department activity and the number of members attending fires. Chapeau stated there are two members that are below the required 25% attendance and will be receiving letters. There are three firefighters needing EMR training. Siedow made a motion to approve EMR training at a cost of \$1,350. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
    - Chief 3 Tim Morin reported that the training is going very well. The department is also working on a restructuring fleet service plan. There is a machine on auction they want to put a bid on. If purchased, they would sell the J5 and trailer to pay for the new machine. Pearson had reservations about purchasing another piece of equipment at this time. Siedow said it would be nice to have all new equipment but agreed with Pearson on the timing. Miller asked for a list of everything the department needs along with the dates of expiration including items such as helmets, turnout gear, and tires. That would give the city an opportunity to search for grant funding.

- B. **Resolution 2024-15 Final Property Tax Levy** – Siedow made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-15, a resolution adopting the 2025 property tax levy of \$781,825. This levy includes \$527,008.25 General Fund, \$37,500 Water Fund, \$215,000 Sewer Fund, and \$2,316.75 2023 GO Bonds amount. Maack seconded the motion. Siedow, Maack, and Carlson in favor. Pearson and Miller opposed. Motion carried 3-2.
- C. **Fee Schedule** – Geier presented the 2025 Fee Schedule for Council’s consideration. The only change currently is a 3% increase to the water and sewer usage rates. If any other changes are proposed, Geier needs to know by December 18. There will be a public hearing on January 13.
- D. **Grader transmission** – Information was received from RDO on the city motor grader. Without tearing through the machine to determine an exact amount, the closest estimate for repairs would be \$42,175. The trade-in value is \$19,000.
- E. **Microphones for Council Chambers -update** – There are three options Carlson is researching.
- F. **Culvert on 470<sup>th</sup> that Lumen hit-update** – A Lumen contractor will make repairs in the spring.
- G. **Meeting’s Calendar and Holiday Calendar** – Informational.
- H. **Official Designation considerations** – Siedow made a motion to designate the County Star as the City’s official newspaper. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- I. **Clerk’s Review** – Pearson made a motion to approve a 4.8% discretionary pay increase for City Clerk Geier effective on her hire anniversary date in 2024. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**VII. Staff/Department Reports:**

- A. **Public Works** – None.
- B. **PeopleService Report** – Written report.
- C. **Clerk’s Report** - Written report. Carlson made a motion to approve holiday season office hours by appointment only for Dec 23-Jan 1. Returning to normal hours on Jan 2, 2025. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- D. **Mayor and Council Reports** – Written report.

**VIII. Adjourn:** Miller made a motion to adjourn. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. There being no further business, Mayor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

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City Clerk – Shannon Geier

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Randy Carlson - Mayor

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Date Approved