

**Harris City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 12, 2024**

- 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 Councilmember Al Siedow, Councilmember Diane Miller, Mayor Randy Carlson, Councilmember Garret Pearson, and Councilmember David Maack. City Treasurer Riesing announced a quorum was present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:**
 - Siedow made a motion to amend the regular agenda to put Northern Grow as (A) and the Fire Department as (B) and add “burn training” to the Fire Dept. list of items to address. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Miller made a motion to approve the January 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes and the Accounts Payable. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Hearing – Fee Schedule:** Carlson opened the public hearing at 7:02 pm. There were no questions or comments from the public. Carlson asked what changes were made. It was thought to be just the new water and sewer rates. City Clerk Shannon Geier was not in attendance and the council had not brought what she had previously emailed to them for review. Carlson thought the agenda item should be tabled until we had the list of changes. Siedow made a motion to table Regular Agenda item (H) Fee Schedule. Pearson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1, Miller opposed. Carlson closed the public hearing at 7:05 pm.
- VI. **Public Comment:** None.
- VII. **Regular Agenda:**
 - A. **Northern Grow** – Chad Douglas, consultant for Northern Grow, was present with Shekhar Nepal and Francisco Aguilar, principal owners, to discuss their plans for a cannabis mezzobusiness. They are currently constructing a 15,000 sq. ft. building for growing marijuana plants. There will be four “growing rooms” and each room will have three harvests per year. It will be gated and fenced for total security. There will be ten people working at this location, including themselves, with shifts scheduled for 24-hour coverage. In addition to the mezzobusiness they are allowed to have three retail establishments in the State of Minnesota. They are also working to get endorsements for medical, processing, and packaging. One issue they have yet to determine is odor mitigation. A public hearing will be held at 6:00 pm on Monday, March 11, 2024, with Northern Grow and the surrounding property owners to discuss if odor mitigation is necessary. Their goal is to be ready to open for business by August 2024.

- B. **Fire Department** – Chief 3 Tim Morin was present to review the Fire Chief’s written report as well as the following items.
- Hannah resignation motion – Pearson made a motion to accept the resignation of Hannah Wagner effective December 31, 2023. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Tee shirt order approval motion – Siedow made a motion to pay the \$900+ bill for polo shirts. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Drug testing for new hires, Health Wellness yearly, random drug testing – Morin met with Scott Sellman, Chisago County Director of Emergency Management, and Sheriff Thyen to discuss how the new Minnesota cannabis law will affect fire dept. drug testing for pre-employment, randoms, or if involved in an accident. Chisago County will be working on a policy and Morin thinks Harris should wait and use the Chisago County policy as a template.
 - Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs
 - Radio and PPE budget replacement plan – No information currently.
 - Command vehicle policy – Will be brought to the March Council meeting for approval. Also need revised policy for purchase of fuel for fire department and public works.
 - Fireproof Cabinet – Will shop around and get three estimates.
 - Burn Training – Flash-over trailer replicates a house fire. Available from Dayton Fire for \$800. Knife River will donate gravel for the base to set it on but charge \$700 for hauling. The cost for hauling trailer is \$300 but Gustafson’s will donate the unload. The flash-over trailer is a 40’ trailer with a 20’ trailer “t”ed on the end and another 20’ trailer on top of the 40’ trailer to simulate a two-story house for burn training purposes. It will be placed in the field on the south side of the fire department. Pearson made a motion to approve the purchase, hauling, and set-up of flash-over trailer at a cost not to exceed \$1,800. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- C. **Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) personnel policy** – Riesing recommended the previously earned sick time be held over indefinitely for employees to use, if needed, as a short-term disability. Pearson made a motion to carry the previous sick time balance to the end of 2024 and then terminate if not used. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- D. **438th city lot for sale price change** – Siedow made a motion to drop the sale price to \$55,000. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- E. **Award the RFP** – Three vendors submitted proposals for the operation, maintenance and management of the water and wastewater treatment facilities. Proposed monthly fees for the first year were as follows: PeopleService \$12,947; Veolia \$19,803.75; and Advanced Utility Solutions \$23,900. Siedow made a motion to accept the proposal from PeopleService. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- F. **2024-02 PNP Election Judge Resolution** – Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02, a resolution appointing election judges for the 2024 Presidential Nominating Primary. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- G. **OSHA Compliance training for the City** – Siedow knows someone who does this type of training. He will get information. Siedow made a motion to table. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- H. **Fee Schedule** – Siedow made a motion to rescind the previous motion to table. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Information was received from Geier that the only increases were to the water and sewer usage fees. Siedow made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-01, an ordinance adopting a fee schedule. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Miller made a motion to approve a summary publication of Ordinance 2024-01. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- I. **School House Park trail** – Siedow and Carlson walked the area of Schoolhouse Park where a potential walking trail could be located. Several options were presented. Renting a bobcat with a chipper for public works to use or hiring a contractor \$5,000 to \$8,000. Larger construction companies suggested this project would be over \$100,000 if done correctly. Another option would be to sell part of the land for development. Siedow made a motion to put the property up for sale. The motion died for lack of a second. Carlson will talk to a realtor for an opinion on marketability of the property.
- J. **Project plan for the getting all files on-line** – Carlson will choose three vendors and work with the clerk and treasurer to test each of the online document management systems.
- K. **2024-01 ROW 42310 Iris Ave** – Pearson made a motion to approve ROW permit #2024-01. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- L. **Eye wash station for PW** – Pearson made a motion to approve up to \$250 for purchase of an eye wash station for public works. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

VIII. Staff/Department Reports:

- A. **Public Works** – Written report. Also, will put out for bids on 3,000 yards of gravel and get estimates for ditch mowers for the March Council meeting.
- B. **Planning Commission** – Written report. Mrs. Lutgen was present to discuss their request for a permit to bring in a double-wide manufactured home. The permit had previously been denied because of too many existing buildings. They have been working with the County Zoning Department to get a demolition permit and bond. Lutgen was asked to attend the February 26 Planning Commission meeting with an update.
- C. **Parks and Rec** – Written report.
- D. **PeopleService Report** - Written report.
- E. **Sheriff's 4th Quarter Report** - Written report.

F. **Treasurer's Report** - Written report.

G. **Clerk's Report** (including 2024-3 Resolution) - Written report. Pearson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03, a resolution accepting a donation from ECE, the Round Up Grant to the City of Harris for City Hall LED Lighting Retrofit and to approve the project. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Geier had left information for the mayor and requested direction on the Opioid litigation settlements. Carlson stated he will look into it.

H. **Mayor and Council Reports** – Mayor written report.

IX. **Adjourn:** Miller 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 9:08 pm.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Randy Carlson - Mayor

Date Approved