

Harris City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 8, 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 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:** Pearson made a motion to approve the March 11 Regular Meeting minutes, March 20 Emergency meeting minutes, and Accounts Payable. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Comment:** Tim Stancek, 6760 439th St., was present to request help with draining standing water. The water table is so high that he and his neighbors have water running into their basements constantly. The stormwater drain is too high to effectively drain the standing water. Stancek suggested the area be trenched and the drain lowered so the area could drain properly. He asked that the city engineer look over the situation and be put on the May agenda to discuss a solution.
- VI. **Regular Agenda:**
 - A. **Fire Department** – Written report. Fire Chief Drew Chapeau asked that the fire dept parking lot and front pad be the first plowed out after a snowstorm, so firefighters do not get stuck in case of a fire.
 - B. **2024-05 Resolution Iris Ave Variance** – Casey & Alyssa Johnson. Siedow made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-05, a resolution approving a variance to allow for one Type I and one Type III individual septic system areas at 42088 Iris Ave per septic design by Josh Putt. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - C. **2024-06 Conditional Use Permit** – Greenhouse on Falcon. Chad Douglas, Shekhar Nepal, and Francisco Aguilar were present to answer questions regarding their proposed greenhouse on Falcon Ave. The only item of concern for the owners was condition #5 which calls for a max of eight employees on-site at any given time. As their business grows, they may need more people and request it be increased to twelve. Siedow made a motion to approve changing condition #5 to read “Twelve employees are permitted on-site at any given time”. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-06, a resolution for approval of a conditional use permit to operate a greenhouse to grow cannabis. Siedow seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1, Pearson opposed.
 - D. **St Croix Sand and Gravel LLC** – CUP 14.00303.00. Robert Vollhaber was present to discuss the conditional use permit (CUP) for mineral extraction at 42680 Harder Ave. His intent is to continue with mineral extraction under the existing CUP and bring all the conditions into compliance. There is no condition for reclamation, but his plan is to reclaim the property as it is mined. He will write up a business plan and get it to the City. Vollhaber

has not decided if the existing house will be torn down or repaired. He is also the owner and president of Forest Lake Contracting.

- E. **Public Works Supervisor position** – The City has two part-time public works employees and does not need a full-time employee. Nicholas Retherford, a part-time seasonal employee for snowplowing, was present and said he would consider continuing on a part-time basis. Siedow made a motion to hire Retherford at \$25 per hour as needed up to 20 hours per week. Pearson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1, Miller opposed.
- F. **Congressional Direct Spending grant** – Written report. Geier updated the Council on the status and process for obtaining the grant funds. She asked the Council to think about options for financing the City's 25%.
- G. **LRIP – Falcon Avenue** – Geier will contact the State for feedback on the Harris grant application to see how it could be improved for next year's funding request. Ideas to improve an LRIP application included getting a current traffic count, working with Fish Lake Township to expand paving to 455th, and trying for LRIP funding legislatively. Another option is to simply shape and pave Falcon from CR-10 to 450th.
- H. **Potential Feasibility Study for Ginger Ave, storm sewer, curb, and gutter** – Geier presented information on a grant that could be used for improvements to Ginger Ave. It detailed the requirement for plans and specs.
- I. **Prioritizing and budgeting for City needs** – City Treasurer Sue Riesing prepared a spreadsheet listing larger projects that need prioritizing for budgeting purposes. Geier asked that each Council member rank the projects and return the form by Monday, April 15.
- J. **Well #1 pump/motor and piping go to scrap (in back room)** – Pearson made a motion to approve clearing out the old well #1 pump, motor, and piping and scrapping the material. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- K. **2024-2 & 3 ROW – ECE fiber lines in Harris** – Siedow made a motion to charge an escrow fee of \$2,500 total for the three right-of-way permit applications and to approve ROW permits #2024-2, 2024-03, and 2024-04. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- L. **Communications System User agreement 2025-2026** – Pearson made a motion to approve the Communications System User Agreement between Chisago County and City of Harris for years 2025-2026. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- M. **Pro Powersports Invoice** – The Council was advised at the March 20 meeting by Mayor Carlson that this invoice would be less than \$500 so he had approved it, to circumvent the need to get Council approval. The invoice, when received at city hall, was for \$1,034.22. The Mayor indicated the Richard Zachardi has no problem donating his time to the FD but does not want the City to receive of any donation. Siedow made a motion to approve payment of the Pro Powersports invoice. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- N. **City location for disposal of Branches and tree trimmings** – Harris residents have asked where they can dispose of branches and tree trimmings. The only place available currently is the brush pile on the south side of Oak Grove Cemetery.

- O. **Clerks Academy May 6-10th Scholarship received** – Siedow made a motion to approve the cost for Geier to attend the Clerk’s Academy, hotel, food, and mileage. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. City Treasurer Riesing will be off on Thursday of the same week so the office will be closed on May 9.
- P. **New Planning Commissioner approval** – Miller made a motion to appoint Tina Kolodziej to the Planning Commission to fill the spot vacated by the resignation of Haley Peabody. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

VII. Staff/Department Reports:

- A. **Public Works** – Written report. The sale of the old flail mower at auction received \$2,300 and sale of the old disc mower at auction received \$1,100. RDO is starting to put our grader back together this week.
- B. **Planning Commission** - Written report.
- C. **Parks and Rec** - Written report.
- D. **PeopleService Report** - Written report.
- E. **Clerk’s Report** - Written report.
- F. **Mayor and Council Reports** - Written report.

VIII. 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 9:10 pm.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Randy Carlson - Mayor

Date Approved