

**Harris City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 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:** Siedow made a motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution 2024-10 Appointing Election Judges to the regular agenda as item “M”, add Change Date of August Regular Council meeting to the regular agenda as item “N”, and approve the June 10, 2024, Regular Meeting and Accounts Payable. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Comment:** None.
- VI. **Regular Agenda:**
 - A. **Fire Department** – Fire Chief Drew Chapeau was present to review the written report.
 - Total calls for the year are seventy-two.
 - The St Croix Falls city council accepted Harris’ offer to purchase their fire truck.
 - Fire Chief Chapeau stated he has resigned Charles Mages from the post of Truck Captain, but Mages will remain a firefighter. Miller made a motion to approve Mages’ resignation from the position of Truck Captain but will remain a firefighter per Chapeau. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Siedow made a motion to appoint Josh Rouse as the interim truck captain with pay per recommendation from Chapeau. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Tentative date for Big Daddys burn is Saturday, July 20. Surrounding streets will need to be closed. Pearson made a motion to close Ginger and Georgia from 440th to 438th, and 438th and 439th from Ginger to Georgia. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - City Clerk Geier will contact the Chisago County Sheriff’s Department to request traffic control and crowd control.
 - Chapeau introduced Josh Rouse for an update on the St Croix Falls truck. Rouse stated that the truck is in excellent shape, fully operational, and they were given the emergency apparatus maintenance (EAM) service history. Rouse will prepare a 30-day plan and a six-month plan. According to Rouse the St Croix Falls Administrator, Joel, discussed terms for the \$50,000 payment. They will accept \$10,000 down to hold the truck for Harris and will require an additional \$15,000 for Harris to get the truck. The remaining \$25,000 would need to be paid by the

end of 2024. City Treasurer Riesing questioned whether Harris will receive the title upon payment of the additional \$15,000 or after the \$50,000 is paid in full. We need to know for insurance purposes. When asked where the funds will come from Rouse stated they plan to sell other equipment such as the J-5, Kubota, trailer, and engine six. Engine six is already listed on a broker's site for \$25,000 or best offer. The listing fee is \$500. Rouse will provide an itemized list of items for the Council to consider for potential sale. Pearson made a motion to approve payment of \$10,000 to St Croix Falls to hold their truck for purchase. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- B. 5125 440th St Tonn** – Marvin Tonn, Angela Knutson, and Karly Kauf, Attorney, were present to ask for a variance to allow living in a camper on their property. When the property was purchased, Tonn asked at City Hall if they could live in a camper and were told “No.” They chose to do so anyway and have been living there in a camper for approximately two years. When the City first received complaints concerning the camper, Tonn was contacted. They continued living in the camper. Then a citation was issued. They continued living in the camper. Dan Cahill, Code Enforcement Officer for Chisago County, issued notice that the structure (camper) is prohibited for human habitation, and they were given until August 12th to vacate. Now Tonn is requesting a building permit for a house and wants to continue living in the camper until a certificate of occupation is received for the house. Tonn stated that they have eight horses on the property that need daily care, they were unable to locate a trailer park where they could keep and live in the camper, and they have seen other campers in the City where people live while building a house. The Council replied that there are other places to live such as motels available to rent, they can drive to the property daily to care for the animals, and the City has not received complaints about anyone else living in a camper for an extended period. Carlson made a motion to approve a building permit for Tonn and allow 30 days from today's date, July 8, to make alternate living arrangements. The camper may be stored on the property but cannot be lived in. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- C. Special Event Permit – Nicole Anderson** – Pearson made a motion to approve the Special Event Permit for an outdoor wedding. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- D. City Treasurer Review** – Geier presented information from the League of Minnesota Cities Government Salary and Benefits Survey as requested by the Council. She also presented additional information from other cities as to the process they use for performance reviews, step (merit) raises, and Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). Miller made a motion to approve a 3% step increase for the City Treasurer retroactive to the two-year anniversary of hire. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- E. Well 3 bids** – Only one bid has been received for drilling of Well #3 to-date. The City Engineer is requesting an extension of time before opening bids. A special meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 15 at 8:00 a.m.

- F. **440th Grinder station lift replacement** – Miller made a motion to accept the estimate from Jones Construction Services of \$9,200 to replace the 440th lift station. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- G. **Chisago County Sheriff's Contract 2025** – Siedow made a motion to approve the Chisago County Sheriff's Contract with the City of Harris for the period January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. The County agrees to provide law enforcement protection with an average of 48 hours per month at the rate of \$74.46 per hour. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- H. **Ginger Ave Diagram** – Informational.
- I. **Golden Ave gravel** – Pearson made a motion to approve the purchase of class 5 gravel for Golden Ave up to \$1,000. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- J. **Stark Ball Field** – Verbal Report: Lime has been added to the infield and ruts filled.
- K. **Shared maintenance Road 480th St Nessel** – Harris received a letter from Nessel Township as a reminder that from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025, it will be the responsibility of Nessel Township to maintain 480th Street. It also noted that 480th Street was not in good shape when Nessel Township took it over this spring. The Council directed City Clerk Geier to request specifics from Nessel Township as to what was not in good shape such as was it not graded or did it need gravel.
- L. **Harris Days** – A fire department waterball competition is planned for Harris Days and the street will need to be shut down. Pearson made a motion to close 438th from Ginger to Gates for the waterball competition. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- M. **Resolution 2024-10 Appointing Election Judges** – Pearson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-10, A Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the 2024 Primary and General Elections. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- N. **Change Date of August Regular Council Meeting** – Siedow made a motion to change the August Regular Council Meeting to Monday, August 19, to avoid conflict of City Hall use for the Primary Election. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

VII. **Staff/Department Reports:**

- A. **Public Works** – Teich reported that the dump truck needs batteries. Pearson made a motion to purchase new batteries for the truck. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Teich also reported that the paved roads patching has been completed as ordered. Siedow offered to work as a temporary public works supervisor for \$18 per hour. Miller stated we do not need a supervisor; we need to put out an ad for a public works employee.
- B. **Planning Commission** – Written report.
- C. **Parks and Rec** – No report, meeting was cancelled.

D. PeopleService Report - Written report.

E. Treasurer's Report - Written report.

F. Clerk's Report - Written report.

G. Mayor and Council Reports – None.

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 9:00 pm.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Randy Carlson - Mayor

Date Approved

Approved