

HARRIS CITY COUNCIL
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 29, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 a quorum is present.
- IV. **Special Agenda:**
 - A. **Public works department / People Service** – Paul Christensen from PeopleService was present to offer Harris an opportunity to contract for public works coverage if they choose not to hire an employee. It is a service that PeopleService has in place with several other cities, but it does not include grading gravel roads. Jade Terhell, a potential applicant for a public works position, was present to hear what Harris had to offer. Carlson stated we need a public works manager who is computer literate to get the budget back on track for maintenance. City staff was directed to place an advertisement. The position will be a full-time working supervisor @ 40 hours per week, flexible hours, \$30-\$35 per hour dependent upon experience plus a negotiable healthcare allowance. The personnel policy can be changed to address benefits.
 - B. **SCBA FD Purchase** – The Fire Department is requesting the purchase of MSA brand Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with grant money, gambling revenue funds, and state safety aid money. The cost for MSA is almost \$35,000 over the grant so they will split the order by date and portions of the SCBA will be received and billed after the date when State Safety Aid is expected to become available. Pearson made a motion to approve the purchase. Siedow seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1, Miller opposed.
 - C. **Chisago County Sheriff's Department Contract** – Pearson made a motion to approve the Chisago County Sheriff's Department Contract with an increase of contract hours to forty-eight per month for 2024. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - D. **Playground equipment at Schoolhouse Park** – Carlson and Siedow presented two options for placement of playground equipment at Schoolhouse Park. Option one was northeast of the wellhouse. Option two was in place of the volleyball court. Miller and Maack voiced concerns for removing the volleyball court and placing the playground equipment so close to the tennis court. Option one appeared a better placement overall for safety and optics. Carlson made a

motion to approve Option 2 for the playground equipment. Pearson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-2, Miller and Maack opposed.

- E. **MCFOA Region III training for Earned Sick & Safe leave – Sue and Shannon –** Pearson made a motion to approve the MCFOA training plus mileage. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The office will be closed on Thursday, September 21 for training.
 - F. **Closing Georgia from 439th – 440th for Water Tower Project –** Siedow made a motion to close Georgia from 439th to 440th for duration of the water tower project. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - G. **Budget –** Reviewed budget. Reduced some items but still at 10% levy increase. Councilmembers determined more reductions need to be done. Costs are too high, and people cannot afford to pay higher taxes.
- V. **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 8:45 pm.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Randy Carlson - Mayor

Date Approved