

**HARRIS CITY COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, September 11, 2023**

- 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 David Maack, Councilmember Al Siedow, and Councilmember Garret Pearson. Councilmember Diane Miller was absent. City Clerk Geier announced a quorum is present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:**
  - Carlson made a motion to amend the agenda by adding a change order for the water tower, rerouting traffic from Ginger Ave, and K&H. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
  - Siedow made a motion to approve the August 14 Regular Meeting Minutes, August 29 Special Meeting Minutes, August 30 Emergency Meeting Minutes, and Accounts Payable. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Comment:** None.
- VI. **Regular Agenda:**
  - A. **Fire Department** – Written report. Chapeau introduced an applicant for the fire dept., Ed Albrecht. Siedow made a motion to approve the hiring of Albrecht for the fire dept. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
  - B. **Harris Days 2024** – Siedow requested approval from City Council to hold a lawn mower demolition derby during Harris Days 2024. Sand will need to be brought in and Harris Club will be responsible for all costs and clean up. He is checking with the insurance carrier for Harris Club to be sure the event will be covered, and there will be waivers for the participants to sign. The location of the event has not yet been determined. Council consensus was that the plans as presented would be approved if there is no cost to the City. Siedow is also preparing an invitation to local businesses to meet and discuss ideas for Harris Days 2024.
  - C. **PW -**
    - **K & H Auto** – Carlson made a motion to allow KNH to pave the right of way on the north side of KNH building, however the paving has to take into consideration of drainage. KNH is responsible for maintaining the right of way. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
    - **Working Supervisor position update** – No applications have been received to-date. If applications are received, interviews will be scheduled for Monday, October 16.
  - D. **Kirchoff water and sewer system** – Property owners have opted to install a mound system instead of hooking up to city sewer. They have been advised that they must hook up to the city sewer and water when it becomes available.

- E. **K’Nyaw Baptist Church Sewer/Water** – Steve Winter from MSA was present to discuss an easement that was located crossing the Eckl property to the Church property. MSA was not able to download a copy of the easement, and someone must physically go to the County to search through records. They have an estimate of \$650 for a title company to go to the County Recorder’s Office and get the information. Pearson made a motion to approve \$650 for the title company to get a copy of the easement. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- F. **Water tower mock-up** – Carlson made a motion to approve the letter height for painting “Harris” on the water tower be 5’ tall. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
  - (F1.) **Electrical conduit** – Maack made a motion to approve the change order to remove and replace all electrical conduits, lighting, and outlets on dry interior of the water tower at a cost of \$12,487. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Siedow made a motion to add the cost to the DEED funding if possible. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- G. **Falcon Ave Appraisal for additional properties** – Siedow made a motion to table indefinitely. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- H. **Public Works Plow** – There is a 2004 Sterling LT9500 dump truck from Chisago County on Public Surplus Auction. Siedow made a motion to approve a maximum bid of \$31,000 including the 10% premium buyer’s cost to purchase the truck. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Also on the auction is a pallet of 64 new grader blades. Pearson made a motion to approve a maximum bid of \$2500 including the 10% premium buyer’s cost to purchase the blades. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Three estimates were presented to purchase back tires for the grader. Pearson made a motion to approve the low bid from A-1 Tire Service to purchase two tires at a cost of \$2,869. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- I. **Budget information** – City Treasurer Sue Riesing presented an updated budget and answered Councilmembers’ questions. Pearson made a motion to approve the 2024 preliminary budget with an 8.75% increase to \$729,168, contingent on purchase of the dump truck. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. If the dump truck is not purchased, a special meeting will be held on or before September 27.
- J. **Resolution 2023-23 Tina and Miranda Kolodziej** – Pearson made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-23, a resolution accepting a donation from Tina and Miranda Kolodziej to the City of Harris. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- K. **Blighted Properties** – Carlson made a motion to table. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- L. **Ginger Ave** – County Road 9 is scheduled for milling and overlay. The question was should Ginger Ave (Main) be closed to truck traffic during construction. No action was taken.

**VII. Staff/Department Reports:**

- A. **Public Works** – Written report.
- B. **Parks and Rec** – Written report. Siedow pointed out two plans being considered: A dog park in Firemen’s Park and a trail on the east side of Schoolhouse Park and down to the

river. Geier stated that those were the two most requested items from the Park & Rec Survey. Council consensus was to continue planning but there was not enough information for a vote.

C. **Planning Commission** – Written report.

D. **PeopleService Report** - Written report.

E. **Clerk’s report** - Written report. Geier requested the Council consider several items with decisions to be made at a future meeting.

- Join MN Small Cities, a group like The League of MN Cities, that advocates exclusively for small cities with populations under 5,000.
- Plan a very abbreviated Council meeting on December 11 because Geier will be on vacation and Riesing will be working on year-end financials.
- Close the office from December 22 through January 2. Staff will continue to check emails and voice messages.
- Cancel the December Park & Rec and Planning Commission meetings.

F. **Treasurer’s report** - no report

G. **Mayor and Council Reports** – Mayor attending meetings: FD/State Fire Marshall, mayors conference, DEED, ECCC contract. There were no Council reports.

VIII. **Adjourn:** Siedow 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 9:30 pm.

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City Clerk – Shannon Geier

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Randy Carlson - Mayor

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Date Approved