

**Harris City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 20, 2025**

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 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 Craig Moline, Councilmember Chell Borash, and Councilmember Al Siedow. Councilmember Garret Pearson was absent. Geier announced that a quorum was present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** Siedow made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 8, the Special Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2025, and Accounts Payable. Moline seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Comment:** None.
- VI. **Regular Agenda:**
  - A. **Fire Department** – Fire Chief Drew Chapeau attended the meeting to present the written report. Chapeau pointed out that Mason Carlson stepped down from a captain’s position but will remain a fire fighter. Testing is underway for the hiring of new captains. Fire Hall Damage: The fire hall sustained damage when a door was accidentally backed into. Four panels were bent, and windows were broken. An invoice from Alex Air for foam was received. The foam was ordered in May, and the department was recently billed for a total of \$1,143. Siedow made a motion to approve payment of the \$1,143 Alex Air invoice. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
    - FD wages in like cities in MN – Geier provided a spreadsheet of fire department wages from multiple like-sized cities in Minnesota and surrounding cities. Chapeau provided additional information on Stacy: Chief @ \$5,000/year; Assistant Chief \$2,500/year; Training Captain \$1,500/year; \$18/hour for calls; and Retirement \$2,700/year. The City of Wyoming pays hourly rates for the Fire Chief \$24, Assistant Chief \$22, and Firefighters \$18. When asked if there was a minimum of hours paid on a call, Chapeau replied that most of Harris’ calls are medical, which typically last one hour or less.
  - B. **Lead Service Line final Report** - Nathan Feist from Bollig Engineering presented the Lead Service Line final report. Only one customer has a galvanized pipe water line that needs replacement from the curb-stop to the meter, and the State will fund the replacement. There are eight system unknowns, and those customers will be updated. The Department of Health will be notified, and system information will be added to GIS. All of Harris’ plans and reports have been digitized and flash drives submitted to the City Clerk. State funding applications are in progress.
  - C. **I35 Assessment/Temporary Financing ideas** - Contract review is delayed due to Rural Development staff furlough. The project is proceeding with surveys and design scheduled for fall and winter, and bidding anticipated in late winter or early spring. Utilities are planned for the north side of the road, with potential easements required, and coordination is ongoing with the county wetland specialist. Discussions are taking place with the county regarding easement purchases.

The project includes a lift station, which will use the same pump style as the existing lift stations. Discussions with PeopleService are needed to determine if the extension will increase service costs. The K'Nyaw Baptist Church may provide an easement if feasible and will be responsible for its line installation costs. Abandonment costs for old sewer/water lines will be covered by the city if funding is available; otherwise, property owners are responsible. The assessment process must be underway soon, including setting hearings, developing a preliminary budget, and following the 429 processes, which must be completed prior to loan applications. Feist will provide cost estimates per home.

Feist advised council that PFA has expressed interest in funding the Looping Project, but the PFA does not determine the grant amount until after the project is bid. Feist recommended the City to have enough money available to cover engineering and bidding costs for the Looping Project.

Feist is working on the preliminary engineering reports for Ginger (south), Ginger (main), and Falcon. If council has any other dream projects, let him know.

The City received an inquiry concerning an empty lot on 433<sup>rd</sup> Street. The individual has a purchase agreement on the property and needs to know if they will be required to hook up to the city water and sewer system. Feist told council they need to think about what to do for buildings so close to utilities. Split cost between benefitting properties? Feist will look into industrial park utility funding and will talk to MNDOT about the frontage road.

The Empowering Small Minnesota Communities (ESMC) Program has secured funding for a Developer's Perspective Assessment for Harris. The proposal is from the team of Streetfront Development, a boutique real estate development firm, and Cardo, an urban design firm. The scope of services include:

- Site Analysis – (2 months from project launch) - Built Form and Use Recommendations, Regulatory Assessment, Infrastructure Requirements, Market Validation, County Feedback, and Developer Attraction Suggestions.
- Example Build-Out Plan – (3 months from project launch) – Conceptual Site Plans, Pro Forma Analysis, Funding Strategy Review, Unit Mix Specifications, and Phasing Strategy.
- Replication Toolkit – (4 months from project launch) – Development Assessment Process and Case Study Document.

- D. **Veteran's Memorial (Tina K)** - Tina Kolodziej addressed the council regarding issues related to the veterans memorial. Initially, she presented her proposal in May 2024 and was instructed to conduct research and obtain cost estimates. In October 2024, she returned with detailed plans and cost information, including samples of the tiles and bricks intended for use. She is currently pursuing grants and coordinating site visits to determine appropriate placement. The matter was also brought before the legion for their input; the legion had previously contributed to the North Branch memorial. Funding for the project is expected to come from donations and grants. Kolodziej was informed that the legion did not support the memorial and that the mayor would withhold support if the legion were not in favor. As the property is owned by the city, its connection to the memorial is significant. Ultimately, the legion deferred the decision to Kolodziej and opted not to participate. The council requested Kolodziej to clarify the price estimates and consider alternative locations for the memorial. Kolodziej maintained that the most prominent and suitable location is at the legion. The

council concluded that the memorial may be placed at the legion, contingent upon the successful acquisition of grant funding. If a grant is not received, the council will consider other locations.

- E. **Public Works** - Public works is requesting approval to purchase fifty signposts from M R Signs at a cost of \$850 plus shipping. Siedow made a motion to approve the purchase. Moline seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The trees located on the Chaffe property currently overhang his shed. It should be noted that some of these trees are situated on city property. Of these, only the two trees in front are dead. The council has determined that public works may proceed with the removal of the two dead trees, while the remaining trees will be addressed at a later date. The City Clerk will advise Chaffe of the council's decision.

Regarding the 480th grading, public works has requested a change to a biennial grading schedule, alternating years, as the city now possesses a grader. The City Clerk will contact Rushseba.

- F. **City Hall IT Infrastructure Upgrade** - City Treasurer Sue Riesing requested the council expedite the upgrading of City Hall computers. The mayor has been working with SLV and has an estimate of \$7,000 for three computers with two-year warranties to be installed this year. Then we plan to put a server in next year for another \$7,000. Additional fees would be \$1,590 per year. Siedow made a motion to approve the purchase of new computers from SLV to be installed in November. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- G. **Robert Pearson Review** – Siedow made a motion to approve a 4.4% wage increase for Robert Pearson. Moline seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- H. **Parks and Rec – Fence at Ballfield and painting pickle ball courts** – Quotes were received for a new fence at Schoolhouse Park: Century Fence \$5,500, Top Notch Fence \$6,500, and Northland Fence \$7,317. Borash made a motion to accept Century Fence's bid of \$5,500 for installation of a four-foot-high by 271-foot long chain-link fence. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Siedow presented estimates for repainting the tennis court, basketball court, and pickleball court, replace the basketball backboards and mounting brackets, and bring in couple loads of dirt for a total of \$5,459 plus the cost of labor for painting. Borash made a motion to approve the request as presented. Moline seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- I. **Animal Permit – David Maack and Carol Raymond** – Moline made a motion to approve the animal permits for Maack and Raymond. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

## VII. **Staff/Department Reports:**

- A. **PeopleService Report** – Written report.

- B. **Clerk's Report** - Written report.

Geier requested approval to attend the Nov. 6 MCFOA Region IV Workshop discussing PERA, Elections, Mental Health in the Workplace, Robert's rules, and Gambling permits at a cost of \$50 plus time and mileage. Carlson made a motion to approve the request. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Moline made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10, a Resolution Authorizing Chisago County to Proceed with an Addressing / Readdressing within the Limits of the City of Harris and Permitting the Chisago County Environmental Services Department to Continue to Act as a Coordinating Agency for the Assignment of Addresses. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The City received an inquiry concerning building a house on property located on Stark Road Lane, which is a private road. They questioned if a driveway permit is required. The council recommended the driveway be brought up to standards.

**C. Treasurer Report** - Written report.

**D. Planning Commission Report** - Written report.

**E. Mayor and Council Reports** – Sunrise has an open house at their new building if anyone wants to attend.

**VIII. Adjourn:** Siedow made a motion to adjourn. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. There being no further business, Mayor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

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City Clerk – Shannon Geier

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Randy Carlson - Mayor

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Date Approved