

**Harris Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 23, 2023**

- I. **Call to Order** - Chairman Siedow called the Planning Commission to order at 7:01 pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** - All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Roll Call** – City Clerk Shannon Geier conducted roll call. Present were Chairman Al Siedow, Commissioner Sheri Denny, Commissioner Jeff Borash, and Commissioner Neil Elmquist. Commissioner Haley Peabody was absent. City Clerk Geier announced a quorum was present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda** – Borash made a motion to approve the September 25, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Denny seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Hearing** – 2023-07 Establishing a moratorium on the approval and siting of Commercial Solar Projects: Siedow opened the public hearing at 7:02. There were no comments or questions. The public hearing closed at 7:03.
- VI. **Regular Agenda** -
 - A. **2023-07 Establishing a moratorium on the approval and siting of Commercial Solar Projects** – Denny made a motion to forward Ordinance #2023-07 to the City Council for consideration and final approval. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - B. **Discuss Commercial Solar ordinance** – The Planning Commission discussed numerous points of information gleaned from the materials provided and the research done by themselves. Some of the Commissioners favor the Great Plains Institute model ordinance which is endorsed by the State of Minnesota. Other Commissioners favor the Chisago County ordinance. Specific subjects debated were ground-mounted versus rooftop installations, percent of property coverage, screening, corridor preservation of wildlife migration, owners’ right to use property, and enforcement. City Planner Claire Michelson was then directed to begin construction of a City of Harris Solar Ordinance.
 - C. **Recreational Vehicles – Code Enforcement information** – Received update on code enforcement issue and looked at Chisago County’s Recreational Vehicles Ordinance.
 - D. **Review Micro units on Sacred communities & religious properties ordinance** - Elmquist made a motion to schedule a public hearing next month. Denny seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - E. **Cannabis in public spaces** – Commissioners directed Michelson to write up an ordinance against smoking on public property and schedule the public hearing for next month.
 - F. **Mineral extraction ordinance** – Council approved the mineral extraction moratorium ordinance for six months. Borash made a motion to cancel the December Planning Commission meeting. Denny seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

G. **Comprehensive Plan** – Michelson discussed making the comprehensive plan a smaller document which would include a snapshot of the City of Harris. The snapshot would include polies for Parks and Rec, Housing, and community facilities. Also included in the comprehensive plan would be goals and policies for economic development, intergovernmental coloration, and land use. The Commissioners requested this be delayed until the January meeting.

VII. **Commissioner Reports** – None.

VIII. **Adjourn** - Borash made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Denny seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Allen Siedow - Chair

Date Approved

APPROVED