

HARRIS CITY COUNCIL
Public Improvement Hearing
Thursday, March 9, 2023

- 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, and Councilmember Al Siedow. Councilmember Garret Pearson was absent. City Clerk Geier announced a quorum is present.
- IV. **Public Improvement Hearings:**
 - 6:00 - 6:30pm **Harder Avenue Improvement** – City Engineer Chuck Schwartz from MSA Professional Services provided a power point presentation explaining the status of the Harder Avenue Improvement Project. Then the meeting was opened for public comment. Shari Denny, 42095 Harder Ave., asked the Council to consider lowering the interest rate. Carlson asked if a 15-year or 20-year payback would be preferred. Denny’s response was to keep it at 15 years. There were no more public comments. Siedow made a motion to consider this project for the assessment roll. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - 6:30 - 7:00pm **Ginger Avenue Improvement** – Schwartz provided a power point presentation explaining the status of the Ginger Avenue Improvement Project. Then the meeting was opened for public comment.

Mary Windingstad, 42941 Ginger Ave., thinks using the grader is damaging the pavement, there is no schedule for plowing, does not want salt used on the road, ok to pave if road is taken care of properly, using too much salt on the road and it is ruining our cars, garages, and concrete slabs, and adding \$1,000 to the taxes each year is too much, not affordable.

Paul Lake, 42936 Ginger Ave., wants to know why paving now, just repair cracks, consider lower interest rate, why is it assessed – other places just pave and pay for it, if road is fixed it needs better maintenance, something must be done.

Zack Scheel, 42530 Ginger Ave., thinks the residents should not pay for something the City missed, just fill the cracks, his vote is “no” to paving.

Molly Schmidt, 42705 Ginger Ave., also thinks residents should not pay for something the City missed, why was the mistake made, plowing is not good - not consistent, road edges are bad, ice left on the road, will it be taken care of if fixed.

Linda Heidelberger, 42816 Ginger Ave., favors paving because she does not want it to go back to gravel.

Jennifer Lake, 42936 Ginger Ave., thinks the assessments should be @ 30% because it is just an overlay. There were no more public comments.

Maack made a motion to consider this project for the assessment roll. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Carlson called for a recess at 6:45 p.m. since nothing else was pending. At 7:00 p.m. Carlson declared the recess is ended, and the meeting will come to order.

- 7:00 - 8:00pm **Falcon Avenue Improvement** - Schwartz provided a power point presentation explaining the status of the Falcon Avenue Improvement Project. Then the meeting was opened for public comment.

Rob Harris, 5356 441 St., only twenty-two parcels on this road, the cost should be divided by everybody in Harris, everybody goes to the Gun Club, those on 441st do not pay, the road is bad, fix the road and divide the cost to everybody, will have to sell if not paved.

Dan Harrington, (son of Thomas and Veronica) 44371 Falcon Ave., has a road study been done, is there state or federal funding, will county increase the dollar amount, appraisals need to be done, questioned what properties are being assessed, and why not others.

Richard Bipes, President of Riffle and Revolver Gun Club, 5180 450th St., what is tonnage rating on the road – 7 ton, assessments are too high, letter submitted. Enter in minutes.

Judy Hammerstrom, 5149 450th St., & Katherine Fossey, Attorney: \$32,136 @ 6.25% = \$53,000 total or \$250 per month more for an 80-year-old lady on a dirt road, less than two years ago the cost was \$351,000 then \$465,000 then \$479,000 then \$507,794, not cost effective, according to MN law the benefit estimate is over-assessed, property has no access on Falcon, this will go to District Court, cancel the project, County should pay for one-half of full current cost, there is no documentation that the City has asked them for that increase and the Mayor should make a formal request, allocate more to Gun Club, 441st is not assessed, this is not a rich area, why was zonal assessment used on the Gun Club, the County should have maintained the road better, assessment basis is not consistent, market benefits are not accurate, re-allocate the costs or District Court will, Judy is against the assessment – it is not fair.

Andy Harrington, (son of Thomas and Veronica) 44371 Falcon Ave., was a traffic count done, are the wetland parcels assessed to other people or does the City pay for them because they are not buildable.

Donna Rekucki, 44358 Falcon Ave., notice was mailed to wrong address, assessment too high, wetland should not be part of calculating, objecting to lack of transparency for calculation of assessments, table the project, assessment policy should be on the web, why no traffic count re: Gun Club, discrepancy on some property assessments, her property was not credited for wetland, and it is not buildable, submitted written objection.

- V. **Adjourn:** Miller made a motion to adjourn. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. There being no further business, Mayor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Randy Carlson - Mayor

Date Approved