

HARRIS CITY COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 10, 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 Diane Miller, Councilmember David Maack, Councilmember Garret Pearson, and Councilmember Al Siedow. City Clerk Geier announced a quorum is present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** Siedow made a motion to approve the March 9 Improvement Hearing Minutes, March 13 Regular Meeting Minutes, and Accounts Payable. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Comment:** None.
- VI. **Public Hearing** – *Regarding proposed tax abatements, adoption of business subsidy criteria and proposed granting of business subsidy regarding Broadband:* Mayor Carlson opened the public hearing at 7:01 pm. Present to discuss and answer questions was Todd Hagen with Ehlers and Andrew Schriener with Century Link, Director of Government Office. Present via telephone was Todd Tobis with Lumen. Ehlers explained there are two bonds that will be bundled together because the larger amount makes for a better interest rate. Bonds are loans, and each bond is for a specific purpose. One is funding broadband and the other is funding the paving of Harder Ave. The bonds will go up for sale on May 8 and close on June 4. The money will be put in escrow before the projects start. The bonds are issued for 15-year terms and will be subject to prepayment after eight or nine years. General property taxes will repay the broadband bond and Harder Avenue paving will be repaid by assessing the benefiting property owners. Carlson closed the public hearing at 7:34 pm.
- VII. **Regular Agenda:**
 - A. **Fire Department reports:**
 - Chief 2 Streater update – Written report. Also, requesting approval of a permit for fireworks on Friday, July 28. City Clerk Geier stated an application should be completed before approval. Pearson made a motion to approve the permit and waive all fees. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - Chief 3 Morin Training Report – Written report.
 - Chief Chapeau Report – Written report. Also, requesting approval of Chief and Deputy Chief salary increases and Captain promotions as presented. Carlson made a motion to approve Fire Chief salary increase to \$1,250 per quarter and Deputy Chief salary increase to \$625 per quarter effective 1/1/2023. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Pearson made a motion to approve the following promotions as recommended by Chief Chapeau: Mason Carlson, EMR Captain effective (eff) 3/1/22; Charles Mages, Truck Captain eff. 3/1/22; Kyle Inks, Equipment Captain eff. 1/1/23; and John Rotter, Training Captain eff. 1/1/23.

Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Captain salary remains at \$40 per quarter. Chief Chapeau also asked to upgrade the kitchen to a commercial style cooking/serving area. This will help with a cleaner and safer process dealing with food. He also wanted to mention that a bigger fire hall is going to be needed in future. The council consensus that the Fire Department can contact contractors to get prices to have for next year's budget. Siedow mentioned consolidation of the fire department, city hall, sheriff's offices, and meeting rooms might be a good idea.

- Antique Fire Truck – Siedow made a motion to sell the antique fire truck to the Fire Relief for \$1. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The Fire Relief will be responsible for vehicle and liability insurance.
 - 1st Quarter budget review FD – Reviewed.
- B. **Consider Bonding from MRWA and/or Ehlers** - Mayor Carlson determined the City would use Ehlers instead of MRWA given they have quoted a lower interest rate.
- C. **Pre-bond sale information – Todd Hagen** – The pre-sale report includes such things as the proposed issue, purposes, terms, basis for recommendation, continuing disclosure, arbitrage monitoring, investment of bond proceeds, risk factors, and other service providers. Harris will need to provide any reports that are required for this process or contract with Ehlers to prepare and file the reports.
- D. **Resolution 2023-14 Ehlers providing advisement for General Obligation Bond** – Pearson made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-14, a resolution providing for the sale of \$530,000 general obligation bonds, series 2023A. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- E. **Resolution 2023-15 Approving Tax Abatement** – Siedow made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-15, a resolution approving tax abatements. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- F. **Resolution 2023-16 Council considers contract award for 2023 Street Improvement** – Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-16, a resolution authorizing award of the contract to Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation for the Harder Avenue paving assessment improvement project for the amount of \$244,832. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- G. **1st Quarter budget review PW, Water, Sewer, and City Hall** – Reviewed.
- H. **K'Nyaw Baptist Church sewer and water** – Carlson made a motion to table. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- I. **Sidewalk sweeping** – Siedow made a motion to rent equipment for eight hours of sweeping sidewalks along CR-10 and CR-30, and as many paved streets in Harris as time permits. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- J. **Schedule PW workshop** – Carlson made a motion to table line items J, K, and L. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- K. **Legion Lease** – Tabled.

L. **Harris Day's update** – Tabled.

M. **Zaccardi Special Permit** – Miller questioned whether the special event included any use of ATV's. The application only listed BBQ as an activity. Pearson made a motion to approve the special event permit as written with the hours of 11am-7pm on May 6, 2023. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

N. **438th City lot** – Council consensus was to contract with a realtor for sale of City lot.

VIII. Staff/Department Reports:

A. **Public Works** – Written report.

B. **Parks and Rec** – Written report. Siedow discussed items under consideration by the Park & Rec Committee and requested feedback or Council approval. There was no feedback. The only approval was Carlson made a motion to approve a Jimmy Johnny at Firemen's Park. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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

D. **PeopleService Report** – Written report. Also, request for approval of replacement of WWTP backflow prevention valve assembly. Pearson made a motion to approve the \$2,375.30 quotation from Minnesota Backflow Testing and Repair. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

E. **Clerks report** – Written report. Also, request for approval of City Clerk to attend MMCI in May and vacation in December. Miller made a motion to approve hotel, tuition, and expenses for City Clerk Geier to attend the Clerks Institute May 8-12. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Siedow made a motion to approve City Clerk Geier's vacation Dec. 8 – 22. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

F. **Mayor and Council Reports** – None.

IX. Adjourn – Siedow made a motion to adjourn. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. There being no further business, Mayor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 9:42 pm.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Randy Carlson - Mayor

Date Approved