

**Harris City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 12, 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, Councilmember Al Siedow, and Councilmember Garret Pearson. Geier announced that a quorum was present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:**
  - Pearson made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2025, the Emergency Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2025, and Accounts Payable; *and*
  - To amend the agenda adding J, Resolution 2025-05. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Hearing: – Fee Schedule** - Mayor Carlson opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. and explained that the hearing is for adding event pay to the fee schedule for the Fire Department. This is creating a mechanism for the FD to charge for attending an event such as Harris Days or a birthday party, if requested. It is \$35 per person per event. The public hearing was closed at 7:11 p.m.
- VI. **Public Comment:** None.
- VII. **Regular Agenda:**
  - A. **Fire Department -**
    - Chief – Written report. Chief Chapeau also stated that next year the Fire Department may begin billing residents for fire calls.
    - Deputy 2 – Deputy Streater was absent, so Chief Chapeau reviewed her written report. They received a \$2,500 matching grant from DNR and are requesting authority to purchase boots, pants, helmets, and chainsaws for a total of \$5,000. Once the purchases are made and the money spent, the DNR will reimburse the \$2,500 match. Siedow made a motion to approve the purchases as requested. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
      - Chapeau apologized to the Council for the length of time taken at the previous meeting. He stated that going forward only he and one other person will be allowed to speak during the meeting. Chapeau was concerned about the way Deputy Streater was cut off before completing her presentation and suggested the personnel committee consider meeting with her to clear the air.
      - A Truck Committee has been created to develop an equipment replacement plan and a fleet maintenance plan. This should help tighten the budget.
      - Chapeau requested the workshop be scheduled for later in the Fall.
      - The balance of the report was tabled until Deputy Chief Streater is available to present.

- Ordinance 2025-03 Fee Schedule Amendment and Summary Publication – Borash made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-03 Fee Schedule Amendment and Summary Publication. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Public Purpose – Chief Chapeau spoke with seven other Fire Chiefs, and everyone uses the Fire Relief Association to pay for events. The cities only pay for specific awards. Chapeau intends to adopt that same policy for the Harris Fire Department.

**B. Public Works** – Treasurer Sue Riesing presented four options for financing the grader:

(1) Cat-Ziegler Lease with \$1 buyout	\$259,487.79
(2) Cat-Ziegler Lease with Balloon buyout	\$267,714.77
(3) MRWA Bond	\$263,840.00
(4) First Resource Bank loan	\$265,649.15

G.Pearson made a motion to approve option #1 Cat-Ziegler Lease with \$1 buyout. Moline seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- Robert Pearson, Public Works, presented a written report and requested council action on the following items:

- \*Old John Deere grader – Put on auction with minimum bid of \$5,000.
- \*Mailboxes in sidewalk along CR-10 – installed by County, check with County.
- \*Carbide cutting edge teeth – G.Pearson made a motion to purchase from Kris Engineering, Inc. per quote of \$1,752 plus freight. Moline seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- \*Utilities in ROW – City Clerk's office needs address of each one.
- \*Culvert replacement – Moline made a motion to approve up to \$10,000 for culvert expenses. Carlson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1, Siedow opposed. Public works will sell the old culverts for 50% of new cost.
- \*Cold and Hot Mix for potholes – G.Pearson made a motion to approve up to \$1,500. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- \*Barrel of Oil – G.Pearson made a motion to approve the purchase of a barrel of oil for \$530. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**C. Rush City Equipment rental** – Informational.

**D. Ballfield improvements** – Moline made a motion to pay Mark Alberg \$151 for ballfield lime. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Moline reported a need for gates for fence openings by the bases. He will get quotes.

**E. Harris Days** – Pearson made a motion to close the roads as requested for the Harris Days events. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Pearson made a motion to approve the permits for gambling, special events, city hall, and ballfield as requested for the Harris Days events and waive all fees including the Old Timers fast pitch ballgame weekend. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**F. Liquor license renewals** – Moline made a motion to approve the liquor license renewals of Off-Sale, On-Sale, and Sunday Sale for The Fuse and Off-Sale for Harris Bottle Shop, contingent upon receipt of proper Certificates of Insurance. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- G. **Tobacco license renewals** – Moline made a motion to approve tobacco license renewals for The Fuse, Harris Stop/Magnum 2 LLC, Harris Bottle Shop, and Dollar General, contingent upon receipt of proper Certificates of Insurance. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- H. **Community Service Thursday May 29** – The North Branch Schools Community Service Day is scheduled for Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> with approximately 57 students slated to attend. Potential projects include painting picnic tables and benches and/or raking grass at the parks. Pearson made a motion to authorize up to \$500 for purchase of paint, brushes, and supplies. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- I. **Resolution 2025-04 Supporting State Bonding for Infrastructure Improvements** – Siedow made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-04, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Harris, MN supporting the Request for State Bonding for Infrastructure Improvements. Pearson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- J. **Resolution 2025-05 Compliance with reimbursement bond regulations under the IRS** – Borash made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-05, A Resolution establishing Procedures Relating to Compliance with Reimbursement Bond Regulations Under the Internal Revenue Code. Siedow seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**VIII. Staff/Department Reports:**

- A. **PeopleService Report** – Written report.
- B. **Clerk's Report** – Written report. Also, remaining old Christmas decorations were sold for \$23.50.
- C. **Treasurer Report** – Riesing recommended that the council direct the Clerk and Treasurer to develop a wellness program and policy. There are laws that specifically restrict what cities can pay for. A wellness policy would benefit all employees, including the fire department, and would also help with retention. The council asked that information and examples be brought to the next meeting. Riesing also brought up the amount of overtime in Public Works. Pearson has already accumulated 60 hours of comp time and will need to be paid out at time and a half. The council directed Pearson to cut back and stick to 40 hours per week by prioritizing projects and planning according to the weather.
- D. **Mayor and Council Reports** – Siedow suggested the horseshoe pits be removed and the jailhouse be moved to that location to make room for a small soccer field.

- IX. **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 9:15 p.m.

---

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

---

Randy Carlson - Mayor

---

Date Approved