

HARRIS CITY COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 11, 2022

- 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 Dan Sculley, Councilmember David Maack, and Councilmember John Rossini. A quorum was present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** Maack made a motion to approve the June 13 Regular Meeting Minutes, June 27 Special Meeting Minutes, and Accounts Payable. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Public Comment:** None.
- VI. **Regular Agenda:**
 - A. **Senator Koran** – Minnesota Senator Mark Koran was present to advise the Council of what transpired during the latest MN Legislature and why a bonding bill did not pass before they adjourned. Items they did fund included supplemental budgets, hospital and nursing home funding, farmers reinsurance, refurbishing special education and unemployment funds, and annual state spending. The Senators and Representatives could not come to an agreement on what should be included for funding with the bonding bill. Koran noted that a special session may be called after the election.
 - B. **Right of Way Permit – 450th East of Falcon Ave** – Richard Bipes, President of Gopher Rifle and Revolver Club (GRRC), was present to apply for a R-O-W Obstruction Permit to block off 450th East of Falcon Ave. Michael Bean, owner of property abutting 450th, was also present. Bipes explained that GRRC has purchased land on the north side of 450th and requests closing 450th east of Falcon until they can install a security fence on their property. Bean was agreeable to the proposal with stipulations. He wants access to his property as needed and closing the road does not allow for adverse possession. A discussion ensued concerning terms of issuance for a permit. The gate will be 20-24 ft with multiple locks; keys will be provided to GRRC, Mr. Bean, and Harris Public Works; application and escrow fees will be paid before a permit is issued; escrow will be refunded when gate is installed and inspected; permit will be for a period not to exceed five years and reviewed annually. Sculley made a motion to approve the permit with terms of issuance as stated. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
 - C. **Outdoor storage as a conditional use in General Business District** – Dan and Diana Graff were present to discuss what the requirements were to set up an outdoor storage area on the Northwest corner of CR-10 and I-35. This project had been on

previous Planning Commission and City Council meetings, but a solution had not been determined. Outdoor storage was not a permitted use in the current zone which is General Business District. A Conditional Use Permit was only if the Outdoor storage was an accessory use. Graff wanted to start the outdoor storage business before putting up a building. The Council determined to give Graff an Interim Use Permit for three years during which time he could put up the building and rezone the property if necessary to bring it into compliance and directed City Clerk Geier to begin the IUP process.

- D. Gustafson Excavating** – Kevin Gustafson from Gustafson Excavating was present for the review of their mineral extraction Interim Use Permit #2021-01. Shari Denny, homeowner adjacent to the job site, was present to voice concerns about problems associated with the mineral extraction. Also present was Kevin Mann, Derek, an employee of Gustafson and City Attorney Ted Alliegro. Mayor asked Council if they had been to the site to see what it looks like. Mayor said he had visited the site. Sculley also said he was to the pit, and he does not think that the berm is what was indicated it should be in the IUP. Gustafson said it is a work in progress but that the berm is complete. The berm is 14ft high. He said he dug a pond on the west end for drainage in Oct 2021. Gustafson had not started earlier because beans were planted on the field in the spring. Gustafson started in May using the pit. Kevin stated that he paid to put down calcium chloride on the road in July of 2022. Sculley said it should be landscaped with more than just sand and weeds. Kevin said he has not received any complaints until he received the letter from the city saying he may get his permit pulled. Kevin Mann was present to support Gustafson along with Derek. Gustafson said he is creating commerce for the city, for every truck load Gustafson hauls out of the pit the City of Harris is receiving \$2.00, in June the City of Harris received \$1500 pit tax. The cost of the calcium chloride \$6600 out of his own pocket for 420th to Harder and around the pit. In ordinance 155.10 (P) weed control, Denny stated and read that the weeds need to be mowed or harvested to maintain reasonable appearance. Gustafson said they will water if it is blowing daily. Trees will be planted this fall by the time the Council comes to review the pit. The Council decided to give Gustafson three months to solve the problems caused for neighboring homeowners by the mineral extraction. Another review of the IUP is scheduled for October 17 at 6:30 pm at the mineral extraction site.
- E. Harris Days** – Gabi Streater and Allen Siedow were present with an update on the Harris Days event scheduled for 7/29 and 7/30/2022. A workday for clean-up will be held on Tuesday, 7/26 at 6:30 pm. A street sweeper is needed to clean Ginger Avenue. Handicap and regular porta-potties will be available for the event. Council action requested on a special event permit, use of City Hall, and placement of signs. Sculley made a motion to approve a special event permit for Harris Days 2022 and waive fee; allow the use of City Hall for Harris Historical Display and waive fee; and allow temporary signs on the ballfield fence, at no cost, to advertise the Harris Days event. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- F. Concession Stand improvements** – Gabi Streater was present with an update on the concession stand improvements. The bathrooms will have a changing area, plumbing has been fixed, and concession area cleaned. Still need to replace sinks, and fridge/freezer. More money is requested. Rossini made a motion to authorize up to \$1,000 for additional repairs. Sculley seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Also, GRRC donated \$500 to be used for toward one and half year ball park sign advertising fee, the mayor said the money will be used for park and rec.
- G. Bonding information – DDA David Drown Associates Inc.** – Carlson made a motion to table. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- H. Border to Border Broadband Grant** – Lumen Technologies is applying for Border-to-Border Broadband Grant funds to extend fiber internet service to unserved and underserved areas in Harris. The project requires a local commitment of \$373,472. If Chisago County were to provide part of the local funds, Harris' portion would be approximately \$187,000. This could be funded by a 15-year tax abatement bond city-wide which amounts to \$446 per household total. Another option would be to spread the cost to only the households in the area that will receive the fiber installation. The Lumen application for funding requires a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Harris. According to Lumen the application can be withdrawn if Harris cannot secure funding. Carlson made a motion to sign the MOU contingent on the ability to withdraw if funding becomes an issue, and to send the document to legal counsel for confirmation of ability to back out. Maack seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

VII. Staff/Department Reports

- A. Fire Department** – Council reviewed the Fire Chief Council Report and considered the request and bids provided to hook up washer extractors. Carlson made a motion to accept the proposal from Lake Area Plumbing for the project at a cost of \$2200. Miller seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- B. Public Works** – Council reviewed written report with Alan Teich.
- C. PeopleService Report** – Informational.
- **WWTP – Air Conditioning Unit Repair/Replacement** – Estimates were received from Neighborhood Plumbing for \$878.77 to repair the A/C at WWTP or \$7774.98 to replace it. Carlson made a motion to repair the unit. Sculley seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- D. Treasurer Report** – Council reviewed the Treasurer's written report. Items to note: The 2021 audit is currently underway, and the report will be available at the August 15 Council Meeting. Preliminary budget numbers for 2023 will also be available for the August 15 Council Meeting. A budget meeting is tentatively set for Monday, August 29. The preliminary budget levy must be passed at the September Council Meeting. The Treasurer requests up to an additional eight hours per week over the course of next one or two months to ensure that all critical deadlines are met. Miller

made a motion to approve the additional hours as requested by Treasurer Riesing. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

E. Clerk Report – Council reviewed the written report with City Clerk Geier. Items to note: Someone sprayed weeds on the volleyball court without notice or posting. Mayor Carlson stated he did, and the spray used only has a 20-minute warning period for down time. Notice was received from MSA that the contractor will be ready to start the water tower restoration the first week of August. City Clerk Geier is requesting 8-12 additional hours per pay period for July and August due to the trainings and extra office hours required by law for the primary election. Miller made a motion to approve the additional hours as requested by City Clerk Geier. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Another requirement for the election is a resolution to appoint Election Judges. Sculley made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-10, A Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the 2022 Primary and General Elections. Carlson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

F. Mayor and Council Reports – Informational.

VIII. 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 10:01 pm.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Randy Carlson - Mayor

Date Approved