

**Harris Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 24, 2023**

- I. **Call to Order** - Chairman Siedow called the Planning Commission to order at 7:00 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 Haley Peabody, and Commissioner Jeff Borash. Commissioner Neil Elmquist was absent. City Clerk Geier announced a quorum was present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda** – Borash made a motion to approve the June 26, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Peabody seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Regular Agenda**
  - A. **Code Enforcement Update** – Geier summarized the status of the current code enforcement issues.
    - Tonn: Citations have been issued and filed with the County Attorney’s office.
    - Johnson Trailer: Has been removed.
    - Antique house: Letters sent, process followed, next step is PW to finish clean up.
    - Bridell: Unity Bank is currently mowing lot.
  - B. **Mineral Extraction Moratorium set Public Hearing date** – The public hearing will be held at the next Planning Commission meeting which is August 28.
  - C. **Recreational Vehicles** – Geier provided the background information that had been discussed at a previous meeting in 2020. It was determined that each Planning Commissioner should read the information and think in terms of what if someone was living in a camper next to their place, and bring their ideas, questions, and concerns to the next meeting for discussion.
  - D. **Solar Ordinance** – Mayor Carlson received a letter from a developer that constructs utility-scale solar energy projects across the country. They are interested in leasing properties in Chisago County for solar farms. A project on Carlson’s property would utilize 167 acres. Carlson stated that a couple dozen other property owners in Chisago County received the same letter. The Commissioners determined that more information was needed before planning on what type of regulations should be put in place. They will study Chisago County’s Ordinance and talk to people who had protested other solar farms to see what their reasons were.
  - E. **Comprehensive Plan** – Geier presented an overview of the three sections of the Comprehensive Plan and the reason for the document. The Comprehensive Plan is a guide that the City Council, Planning Commission, and citizens use to manage and guide orderly growth and development of the community. The way to protect the small town and rural character starts with a vision based on the desires of people of the community. Geier went on to explain the Core Area and the Staging Area Plan for public sewer and

water utilities as part of the Comprehensive Plan. There are currently three properties in the Core Area that are inquiring about access to public sewer and water.

- VI. Commissioner Reports** – Siedow explained his plan for Parks & Rec to convert one of the wastewater treatment ponds to an entertainment amphitheater. His thought is to find an excavator to level the property for naming rights. It was pointed out that there may be other people who would like the opportunity for naming rights.
- VII. Council Report** – Written report.
- VIII. Adjourn** – Borash made a motion to adjourn. Peabody seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

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City Clerk – Shannon Geier

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Allen Siedow - Chair

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Date Approved

APPROVED