

HARWOOD CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Harwood, North Dakota

Regular Meeting

Feb 3rd, 2025

Call to Order/Roll Call: At 6:30pm, Mayor Blake Hankey called the meeting to order. Roll call included Dick Sundberg, Jamie Nettum via Zoom, Chris Higgins, Chris Fix. Others in attendance included City Auditor Chayla Hansen, Public Works Supervisor Jeremy Snyder and City Attorney Sarah Wear. Corporal Tyler Beckius was also in attendance. Public attendance by sign-in sheet: Josh Diede (Community Center Manager), Arne Ruud, Dennis & Marge Laski, Preston Steele, Tom Linnertz, Marc Mosser- Harwood Fire, Brock Hansen, Darlene Meyer, Eric Flesberg, Chris Kraemer, Ron Lemke, Dale F. **Approved Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda by Sundberg seconded by Higgins. All in favor voted aye, motion carried. **Approve January Meeting Minutes, January Bills, and Financial Report Consent Agenda:** Motion to approve the meeting minutes, bills paid and financial report by Higgins seconded by Fix. All in favor voted aye, motion carried:

Law Enforcement Report: Corporal Beckius attended the meeting and reported: 166 calls for January in Harwood and surrounding area.

New Business:

- a. Dakota Ag Request-Erik Hyden & Jason from Dakota Ag were in attendance and requested a lower bulk water rate for the elevator. After lots of discussion Sundberg is going to do more research and place it on the March agenda.
- b. Lake Shure Next Steps: The city engineer showed & reviewed the preliminary annexation plat map. No action taken by council. The discussion relates to the boundary to include in the notice for the annexation. The city engineer is going to provide the legal description and information regarding which properties petitioned, and which ones did not, and prepare the notice for the paper and mailed notices sent out. Put again on March agenda.
- c. Ordinance 2024-04 2nd reading: public hearing and 2nd reading completed: Motion to approve 2nd reading by Sundberg, seconded by Fix. All in favor voted aye, motion carried.
- d. Building Permit 130 Ash Lane- Motion to approve building permit by Higgins, seconded by Nettum. All in favor voted aye, motion carried.
- e. Building Permit Community Center-The auditor, councilman Higgins and Community Center manager explained the findings of mold during repairs and the cost associated with the remediation. Insurance will cover up to \$10,000. Diede will continue to work with the remediation company on the price. Motion to approve building permit and up to \$3,000 city responsibility on the remediation of mold by Higgins, seconded by Fix. All in favor voted aye, motion carried.
- f. JD Kraemer: Councilman Fix invited Chris Kraemer to give his side of the burning issues. He explained they will not be burning any further and Marc Mouser from the Fire Department updated from their standpoint on this situation with burning of hazardous materials. The ND Dept of Environmental Quality is involved and won't allow any burning. Kraemer says there will be no more burning.
- g. Harwood App Renewal Form- Motion to approve another year with Living Local by Fix, seconded by Higgins. All in favor voted aye, motion carried.
- h. Cass County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Form-Form signed by Mayor and Auditor.

Old Business:

- i. Sellars Home-311 Lind Blvd- Councilman Fix read the report from the Dept of Health stating the foundation is undermined and that notices will be sent for "Accumulation of Junk, Rodent Harborage due to Junk". This home also had a major water pipe burst and the public works shut off the water to stop it. The auditor has attempted to contact the homeowner regarding the water pipe burst. Next step would be to get the homeowner to let PW into the home to check the meter or look at Administrative Warrant to get into the home to see if it would be deemed a dangerous home. The mayor will also attempt to contact the homeowner. Councilman Fix removed himself from the conversation due to a bested interest in the property.
- j. Ruud Update-City Attorney Sarah Wear explained the requested signature and council approval on a Notice and Stipulation document from Ruud's lawyer. This would stop the city from doing anything legal till May 1, 2025. Motion to approve signing the document by Sundberg, seconded by Higgins. All in favor voted aye, motion carried. The document was signed by mayor and auditor and notarized by Sarah Wear.

Engineer's Report: North Water Main Loop-Cost share request not yet approved by NDDWR. The FEMA basement exception meeting was last week, and we learned we need to revalidate basement exception status. There will be a new letter of final determination that goes into effect March 6th and we have 6 months to do the zoning ordinance update and revalidation application. Further work and investigation with other cities on how they have done their revalidation. **Public Works Report:** Snyder explained that a valve & actuator needs to be replaced. He got a bid from Flow Control Automation. Discussion had on best way to handle needing new valve or repair. Motion to approve a new valve for \$5,090 and up to \$1,000 for the wiring by Sundberg, seconded by Higgins. All in favor voted aye, motion carried. At the conference last week I learned that all lead service lines will need to be replaced by legislature. More to come on this. PFAS testing to start soon. **Auditor Report:** Outstand bill from past utility bill for a resident who was renting for \$352 asking if council wants written off or homeowner. The council stated to put on homeowners' utility bills. 212 Main St. Explained that we shut off all services in August and put old bill on the homeowners' taxes. The homeowners still live there. Auditor requesting Attorney to write a letter regarding ordinance violations. It was further discussed that all homes should be required to pay the base city utility charges. This home will be sent a letter explaining they will be charged the base city utilities, and they can pay the hookup fee and have the water turned back on. The city auditor will be out of the office Feb 21 & 24.

Correspondence/Open Forum: None. **Portfolio Reports:** Sundberg: Attended a water convention that there will be more hurdles to assessing property taxes for city projects. There will be additional information to come. Higgins: Marc Mouser from FD explains that a new rescue truck will be here on Wednesday as the old truck was in an accident twice. Nettum: None Fix: Previously discussed. Hankey: Will not be present at

the March meeting and Sundberg will run the meeting. Fargo's Mayor Mahoney asked if the mayor was willing to sign a letter with Fargo, West Fargo and Harwood supporting the Veterans Memorial Cemetery for funding to build a structure. Mayor Hankey will be signing the letter.
Next Meeting: March 3rd 6:30 pm: Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Sundberg, seconded by Fix. All in favor voted aye, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Blake Hankey, Mayor

Attest: _____

Chayla Hansen, Auditor

Date of Approval _____

DRAFT