

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 20, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson and Council Members Bill Duncan, Jay Sjoblom, Morris Mattson, Rodney Holst, LeRoy McCusker, and Merlyce Johnson. Also present were Aaron Reeves, City Administrator; Lanell Endres, Assistant City Administrator; Dave Maroney, Community Development Director; Greg Anderson, City Engineer; Brenda Voshalike, Ambulance Director; and Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief.

Call to Order Mayor Robinson called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Robinson led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan to approve the agenda as presented. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Public input Roseann Snelling stated that she and her husband were Farmers' Market vendors. She indicated that customers from Twin Rivers have reported safety concerns related to crossing the street to go to the Farmers' Market in the new location. She stated they looked forward to coming to the market when they could access it by walking down the sidewalk. She also stated that other vendors have reported decreased sales in the new area. Mayor Robinson and Council Member Duncan reported that a crosswalk with flashing lights was planned to be placed across Highway 19. Police Chief McCormick stated he could request additional patrols in the area during peak Farmers' Market hours.

Steve Josephson, owner of Josephson's Homegrown Sweet Corn and a Farmers' Market vendor, also wished to discuss Farmers' Market concerns. He stated that the old location in the city parking lot did not interfere with traffic patterns, parking patterns, and was not a safety issue, especially during weekday hours. He reported that the city parking lot was utilized at about 25% capacity during the week. He also inquired about the rationale for moving the Farmers' Market to benefit bike trail users, again reporting heavy use of the city parking lot for only a few hours out of the week. He suggested that trail users use the new Farmers' Market location for parking and relocate the Farmers' Market to its original location in the city parking lot. Mayor Robinson stated that this item was on the meeting agenda for further discussion.

Byrl Johnson wished to address several concerns: 1) Issues related to congested parking along Mill Street, citing concerns about emergency vehicles not being able to get through. 2) Signs hanging over sidewalks being hazardous, stating that this had been prohibited

in the past. 3) Concerns related to the four-way stop. When watering the hanging baskets early in the morning, he would see motorists not stopping or rolling through this intersection. 4) Guns issued to the Police Department and how often these were used to justify a \$11,000 expense to purchase rifles, and asking whether crime in Cannon Falls was that significant of a problem. 5) Farmers' Market, in his opinion now in a poor location. He cited safety concerns, decreased sales, attraction to other downtown businesses, parking issues. He stated that businesses do not object to the use of the city parking lot for the Farmers' Market, which had been in that location for 30 years. He presented a petition with 157 signatures requesting that the Farmers' Market be relocated back to the original site in the city parking lot. He suggested preserving the small-town nature of Cannon Falls.

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone for their input and stated that the Farmers' Market concerns would be discussed later in the meeting.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending August 16, 2013
- B. Meeting Minutes for August 6, 2013, City Council Meeting
- C. Meeting Minutes for August 6, 2013, City Council Work Session
- ~~D. Riverside Terrace Sewer Credit~~
This item was removed at the request of the applicant, who wished to discuss the request further with the Public Works Commission.
- ~~E. Resolution 2031, Notice of Intent for Annexation~~
- F. Application for Payment No. 1 for TH 20 Turn Lanes and Clinic Access
- G. Application for Payment No. 12 - Library Project
- H. Fire Department Pension Increase
- I. Sale of Fire Department Trailer
- J. Application for Payment No. 3 - Eastside Project
- K. Application for Payment No. 13 - Final - Library Project

Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted, minus Item D, Riverside Terrace Sewer Credit, and Item E, Resolution 2031, Notice of Intent for Annexation. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Agricultural Sales at
Downtown Lot

City Administrator Reeves stated that a request had been made by Farmers' Market vendors to move weekday sales back to the city parking lot. This issue was discussed by the Public Works Commission, with the general consensus being that there would be a

transition period and that this would be reviewed and evaluated following completion of the first season in the new location.

Council Member Duncan suggested following the recommendation of the Public Works Commission and re-evaluating the location at the conclusion of the season. He suggested that the Market become more organized, perhaps with appointment of a market manager. He added that problems could occur if the market was moved back to the city lot during the week. Council Members Duncan and Mattson commented on the advantages of proper signage to direct customers to the Farmers' Market.

Steve Josephson, a vendor at the Farmers' Market, stated that people establish routines over time. He reported he had missed some sales but could not quantify the amount. Council Member Duncan commented that change was difficult, there was an adjustment period and that was the reason for evaluating the relocation following an entire season. Mr. Josephson brought up safety issues with the Saturday market. Council Member Duncan asked about extending the trail. City Administrator Reeves stated that this was the eventual plan. Council Member Duncan again suggested organization of the Farmers' Market vendors with regulations to address safety issues, indicating that safety in either location was a concern.

Mayor Robinson commented that parking was tight in the new current lot. He agreed that change was difficult and signage could be better.

Mr. Josephson stated that objection to the current location was nearly universal. He suggested moving the Market back to the original location with ropes to limit vehicle access.

Council Member McCusker reported receiving many phone calls on the issue in the last two weeks. He asked about Highway 19 construction and use of the overflow parking area for construction vehicles. Council Administrator Reeves stated that, to his knowledge, the City was not made aware of any request by the State for long-term storage of equipment.

Council Member McCusker reported on original discussions by the Public Works Commission, citing congestion in the city parking lot as the reason for the relocation of the Farmers' Market, not just pertaining to trail users. The plan was to designate a community area with eventual improvements. He agreed that signage was an issue and traffic flow could be improved. The crosswalk would address

some of the safety concerns.

Council Member McCusker moved, seconded by Council Member Holst, to relocate the Farmers' Market back to the original location in the city parking lot temporarily within a designated area, until Highway 19 construction was completed. All members present voted aye, except Council Members Duncan and Johnson voting nay. The motion was declared passed.

Organization and licensing of Farmers' Market vendors in the future was discussed. The City would work with the vendors on designating the appropriate area. Additional discussion would be held with regard to next season. City Administrator Reeves would also gather information about Farmers' Market management.

A second motion was made by Council Member Holst, seconded by Council Member Sjoblom to allow weekday sales in the city parking lot as well for the remainder of the season. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

New Pool Study

Council Administrator Reeves discussed pool maintenance repairs that are needed and potential upgrades. He stated that a study would gather information with regard to upgrading the current pool area versus a potential new aquatic center construction project. A special election could then be held to gauge public opinion once more information was available. The Public Works Commission recommended this process.

Council Member Duncan moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve a new pool study. Citizen volunteers will be solicited to serve on the planning committee along with city staff and council members. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Resolution 2031,
Notice of Intent for
Annexation

Council Member McCusker discuss the proposed notice for intent for annexation and asked about working with Cannon Falls Township on future growth, citing the added expense of infrastructure improvements and additional services. Council Administrator Reeves explained that the Township was not equipped to handle such development. He stated that the addition of commercial/industrial development would also add to the tax base to help support the additional costs. It was clarified that developers would be responsible for their portion of infrastructure improvements. Zoning implications were discussed. Community Development Director Maroney stated that any proposed zoning changes would require Planning

Commission and City Council approval.

Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan to approve Resolution 2031, a resolution for notice of intent for annexation. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Staff Reports

City Engineer Anderson stated that the Eastside project was moving along well, with an anticipated completion date in mid-September.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 3rd day of September, 2013.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron S. Reeves, City Administrator