

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 15, 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; 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 Curt Hermanson spoke with regard to the Peace Pole. He stated he received a call seeking his opinion. He stated he felt this should be brought before the entire membership of the VFW and/or Legion and the Veterans Memorial Committee. He stated that he considered it a conflict of interest to put a religious Peace Pole next to the Veterans Memorial.

Bob Freiermuth stated that he was a member of the Veterans Memorial Committee and Commander of the Randolph - Cannon Falls American Legion Post. He indicated that he, along with the majority of the Veterans Memorial Committee members and Legion members, was not in favor of the current Peace Pole proposal. He stated that there was already a "peace pole" in place, that being the American Flag, which stood for peace.

Mayor Robinson stated that phone calls have been received expressing similar opinions. Mayor Robinson and Council Member Duncan stated that this topic will be discussed later during the meeting.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending October 11, 2013
- B. Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2013, City Council Meeting
- C. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 332 and Summary of Publication, Permitting Annexation by Ordinance-Moline Property
- D. Resolution 2039, Approving Conditional Use Permit and Variance for Casey's
- E. Resolution 2040, Accepting a Donation from the CF Fire Department Relief Association to the Ambulance Department
- ~~F. Purchase of Playground Structures~~

G. Resolution 2041, Approving MnDOT Cooperative Snow Removal Agreement

~~H. Peace Pole Placement~~

~~I. Application for Payment No. 5 for the Eastside Improvement Project~~

Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted, minus Item F, Purchase of Playground Structures; Item H, Peace Pole Placement; and Item I, Application for Payment No. 5 for the Eastside Improvement Project. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Peace Pole Placement

City Administrator Reeves stated there was some apparent miscommunication between the church group and assumed VFW representatives with regard to the Peace Pole proposal. Taking into account subsequent feedback, such as that noted above, the church group was going to work with the Public Works Department to determine a new location for the Peace Pole in a different city park. A revised proposal would be brought back to the council for further discussion. Council Member Duncan moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to table this agenda item. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Purchase of Playground Structures

Council Member McCusker asked about funding for the playground structures from the Park Fund, how these funds are designated, and the current balance. City Administrator Reeves estimated a current balance of approximately \$175,000. He noted that funds have been earmarked for a potential Mill Town Trail extension connection and otherwise designated as project proposals are brought forward. Council Member McCusker inquired about Park Commission evaluation of this project. City Administrator Reeves indicated that plans for this matching grant project were still being reviewed and will be finalized early next year. Council Member Johnson stated her support of investing in the youth of Cannon Falls. Council Member Duncan added that park dedication funds were designated for the purpose of helping to enhance parks. Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan to approve the purchase of playground structures. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Application for Payment No. 5 for the Eastside Improvement Project

Council Member McCusker asked whether the application for payment for the Eastside Improvement project included the work done on the south side of Highway 19. City Administrator Reeves stated that this payment did not include infrastructure improvements

to properties across from the school. Mr. Reeves added that, weather permitting, the project would be wrapping up within the next few days. Once completed, financial penalties due to project delays would be determined. Council Member McCusker pointed out some issues related to drainage, street and alley surfacing, and other concerns. City Administrator Reeves clarified that the payment covered the work that had been done to that point, which constituted approximately 85% of the total contract, with approximately \$250,000 remaining to be paid after this payment, minus any financial penalties. He added that alley conditions and drainage concerns were in the process of being evaluated. Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan, to approve Payment No. 5 for the Eastside improvement project. All members present voted aye, except for Council Member McCusker who voted nay. The motion was declared passed.

## Staff Reports

Police Chief Jeff McCormick reported no significant incidents during Homecoming Week.

## Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Mattson asked about the condition of the athletic field. City Administrator Reeves reported that weather conditions and field use over the past year led to adverse field conditions earlier this year. He stated that turf specialists from the University of Minnesota had been consulted to provide guidance. He clarified that if the high school varsity football team was involved in a home playoff game, the field would be utilized. He also stated however, that some other events and activities would need to be held elsewhere so the field could be revitalized. A meeting would be held to discuss planning for next year. Council Member Mattson also asked about building usage near the softball field. City Administrator Reeves stated he would check into this concern. Council Member McCusker recounted positive comments he had heard about the ball fields in Cannon Falls and the importance of maintenance. Council Member Johnson recommended allowing use of the field for the powder puff game. City Administrator Reeves stated that there had not been issues with this event.

Mayor Robinson reported on a visit he made to one of the 3rd grade classes at the elementary school. He discussed city government and being good citizens with the students.

Council Member Mattson reported on the upcoming Cable Commission meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 22, beginning at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Adjournment            The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013.

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Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Aaron S. Reeves, City Administrator