

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson and Council Members Bill Duncan, Morris Mattson, Rodney Holst, LeRoy McCusker, Merlyce Johnson, and Jay Sjoblom (arrived at 6:53 p.m.). Also present were Lanell Endres, Interim City Administrator; Dave Maroney, Community Development Director; Greg Anderson, City Engineer; Tom Bergeson, Public Works 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 submitted. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Public Input There was no public input.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending December 31, 2013
- ~~B. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending January 17, 2014~~
- C. Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2014, City Council Meeting
- D. Purchase Dump Truck and Plow for Public Works
- E. Authorize Changes to Bank Signature Cards
- F. Election of 2014 Fire Department Officers
- ~~G. Assistant Streets/Parks Supervisor Position~~
- ~~H. City Administrator Position/Offer~~

Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Items B, G, and H. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Mural Cost Assistance Steve Dabelow, representing the Cannon Falls Historical Society, reported on the mural project. Two murals were completed during the summer of 2013, and a community celebration was held, which included vintage band performances. Mr. Dabelow stated the total cost of the project was \$13,470.26, not including approximately \$2,000 to \$2,500 of in-kind donations. He also stated that grant funding was received in the amount of \$9,510, and \$3,440 had been pledged from individuals. He noted the project ended up approximately \$620 over budget. The Historical Society requested assistance from the City for the cost over-run. Mr. Dabelow reviewed the Historical Society's budget and its goal that each project be self-sufficient.

Council Member McCusker stated his opinion that the mural project was a great asset to the community, with future murals planned. He commented on the enthusiasm and efficiency of the Historical Society organization. He spoke in support of financial assistance from the City.

Council Member Duncan agreed with the recommendation for covering the project shortfall of \$620. Council Member Johnson inquired about funding the \$620, and Interim Administrator Endres replied that funds were available.

Council Member McCusker moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve \$620 toward the Historical Society mural project. Mayor Robinson commented on the value of the murals. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Change Meeting Date  
Due to Caucuses

Interim Administrator Endres reported that the next City Council meeting is scheduled for February 4, which was the same date as the Minnesota Precinct Caucuses. She informed the Council that State law does not permit public meetings to be held after 6 p.m. on Caucus dates and recommended that the City Council meeting be rescheduled for Thursday, February 6. Council Member Duncan moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to change the meeting date to Thursday, February 6, beginning at 6:30 p.m. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Just and Correct  
Claims – Accounting  
Period Ending  
January 17, 2014

Council Member McCusker inquired about Black Mountain computer services. Interim Administrator Endres clarified that this expense was related to maintenance, upgrades, and support for administrative software programs. Council Member McCusker also requested clarification with regard to ethanol purchases and service changes from Ag Partners.

Council Member McCusker moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson to approve just and correct claims for the accounting period ending January 17, 2014. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Assistant  
Streets/Parks  
Supervisor Position

Council Member McCusker requested additional information with regard to the position proposed Assistant Streets/Parks Supervisor. Public Works Director Bergeson provided rationale for the requested organizational change. Council Member Duncan stated that this position would assist in bridging the gap in the event of the retirement or unavailability of the Streets/Parks Supervisor. Council Member Johnson inquired about union support, and Mayor Robinson reported

that the union was in agreement. Council Member Duncan added that the position would be posted exclusively internally, which Director Bergeson and Mayor Robinson further clarified. (Council Member Sjoblom arrived at 6:53 p.m.)

Council Member Duncan moved, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve this promotional position, with approval per the 49ers union agreement. All members present voted aye, except Council Member McCusker voted nay. The motion was declared passed.

City Administrator  
Position/Offer

The City Council discussed the hiring of a new City Administrator. Mayor Robinson outlined the selection process that was used. Council Member Johnson reported that she had no knowledge of the candidate, stating she could not endorse this hire without further information. Ron Johnson, the current City Administrator for the City of Lake City, had been recommended as the top candidate. Mr. Johnson had more than 25 years of administrative experience. Council Member Duncan clarified that the same process was followed when Aaron Reeves was hired as City Administrator. Council Member Duncan added that the Council should have been provided with Mr. Johnson's resume. Council Member McCusker reported that it was his understanding that the entire Council would be involved in the selection process and voiced dissatisfaction with how the process proceeded. Council Member Johnson agreed with the understanding of a plan for Council involvement in the selection process and reiterated that additional information should have been provided with regard to the applicant prior to a request for Council approval. Council Member Johnson moved to table the approval vote and suggested that a meeting with the top candidates be arranged. Council Member Duncan clarified that an employment offer had been extended to Mr. Johnson, pending background investigation and Council approval. Mayor Robinson reviewed the hiring procedure, the selection criteria, and the rationale for the recommendation to hire Mr. Johnson. Council Member McCusker expressed confidence in the ability of City staff to conduct necessary activities during the transition period. Council Member Johnson amended her motion to table the approval vote until the next City Council meeting, which Mr. Johnson would be invited to attend. Council Member Mattson inquired with regard to some of the contract language. Interim Administrator Endres clarified that basic contract language had been supplied by the League of Minnesota Cities. Council Member Mattson echoed the opinion that the entire Council should have been involved in the final selection process for the important position of City Administrator.

The motion to table the decision until the next Council meeting was seconded by Council Member Holst. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Staff Reports

City Engineer Anderson reported on the well-attended pool open house earlier in the evening, with another open house scheduled for February 18 at City Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Community Development Director Maroney inquired about scheduling of the next Public Works Commission meeting. It was decided that this meeting would occur as planned on Tuesday, February 4, at 1 p.m. Further discussion with regard to the interchange and proposed right turn lanes would be held.

Police Chief McCormick provided a reminder with regard to winter parking restrictions.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Mattson commented on the pool open house and asked that additional communication be disseminated prior to the March vote. Council Member Duncan provided clarification with regard to the City breaking even related to operational expenses as opposed to debt service payments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.

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Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lanell Endres, Interim City Administrator