

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson and Council Members Bill Duncan, Jay Sjoblom, Rodney Holst, LeRoy McCusker, and Merlyce Johnson. Also present were Lanell Endres, Assistant City Administrator; Dave Maroney, Community Development Director; Tom Bergeson, Public Works Director; Greg Anderson, City Engineer; and Nick Sather, Police Officer. Council Member Morris Mattson was absent.

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 Martin Balfe expressed concerns regarding the alley located behind the Fire Hall. He stated that snow had been plowed on top of the storm sewer, creating flooding of surrounding properties. Public Works Director Bergeson indicated that this concern would be addressed immediately. Mayor Robinson encouraged other residents with similar concerns to contact the Public Works Department.

Byrl Johnson expressed concerns regarding the number of residents with frozen water pipes. He stated that many residents on fixed incomes could not afford the cost of unthawing pipes and higher water bills resulting from having to run the water to prevent pipes from freezing. He asked for clarification of pipe ownership. Mayor Robinson replied that this issue would be reviewed by the Public Works Commission and brought before the Council for further discussion in the near future. Public Works Director Bergeson clarified that water and sewer pipes running from homes to main lines were the responsibility of the homeowner.

Proclamations:
Resolution 2059,
Recognizing the
Cannon Falls School
Board Mayor Robinson read Resolution 2059, recognizing the efforts of the Cannon Falls School Board and proclaiming February 17-21, 2014, as School Board Recognition Week. Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan to approve Resolution 2059. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Public Hearings:
Introduction and First
Reading of Ordinance
334, Adopting the City
of Cannon Falls Fee
Schedule Assistant Administrator Endres reported that the City Attorney had advised that some of the fees adopted by Resolution in January were required to be adopted by Ordinance. Therefore, it had been recommended to approve the entire fee schedule by Ordinance at

this time. She stated that no fees had been changed from the previously adopted resolution but noted that one fee of \$500 had been added for a dangerous dog permit. Council Member Johnson requested more information about the dangerous dog permit. Assistant Administrator Endres provided the example that if a dog bit someone, the animal may be required to be registered as a dangerous dog. Mayor Robinson opened the Public Hearing. No one present wished to speak regarding the proposed ordinance. Mayor Robinson closed the Public Hearing. Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan to introduce Ordinance No. 334. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed. Council Member McCusker recommended review of the fee schedule prior to adoption next year. Mayor Robinson replied that the Council would be provided with an opportunity to review the fee schedule.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending February 14, 2014
- B. Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2014, Special City Council Meeting
- C. Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2014, City Council Meeting
- ~~D. Application for Payment No. 8 – Eastside Project~~
- E. Assistant Street Supervisor

Assistant Administrator Endres provided additional information with regard to Item E. Compensation for the Assistant Street Supervisor position would be at pay grade 10, step 3. Council Member Johnson inquired whether the union was in agreement with the addition of this position. Council Member Duncan replied that the union was in agreement.

Council Member McCusker requested that Item D be brought down for discussion. Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Item D. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Set Date to Canvass
Special Election
Results

Assistant Administrator Endres provided background information regarding the upcoming public referendum on Monday, March 3. State statute required the City to meet to canvass and declare the results of the election within 3 to 10 days from the date of the election. Meeting date options were discussed. Council Member Duncan moved, seconded by Council member Johnson to change the date of the next regular Council Meeting to Thursday, March 6, during which the results of Special Election will be canvassed and declared. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Application for
Payment No. 8 –
Eastside Project

Council Member McCusker inquired with regard to the condition of the water mains in the area of development where existing homes were scheduled to be added to the City water system. He asked if the system had been tested and inquired about liability in the event of frozen pipes. City Engineer Anderson indicated that the requested payment was not the final payment for the project. Any unresolved concerns could be discussed in the spring before final payment was approved. Public Works Director Bergeson reported that no testing had been done this winter. Council Member McCusker commented on the small outstanding balance left to be paid to the contractor for this project. Mr. Anderson replied that the City had worked with this contractor on several projects, and it was assumed that the contractor and the City would work together to resolve any issues that arose. Mayor Robinson asked Assistant Administrator Endres to forward the liability question to the City Attorney for review.

Council Member Johnson moved, seconded by Council Member Duncan to approve Payment No. 8 for the Eastside project. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Maroney reported on the EDA meeting schedule.

Public Works Director Bergeson discussed the multiple challenges presented by this winter's harsh conditions. He reported that prior to this year he encountered four frozen water services in 25 years of employment, all occurring in 2009. He stated the current season there had been 24 instances of frozen water services to date. He indicated that prior to next winter a protocol should be developed to handle these problems, including resolution of potential liability issues when outside welders were utilized. He also stated snow removal was being hampered by the amount of snow already on the ground. Mayor Robinson expressed appreciation to the Public Works Department for their efforts. Council Member McCusker commented regarding the impact of the water temperature on the frozen pipe situation. He stated a suggestion for residents to run water to prevent pipes from freezing may be helpful but would also lead to higher water bills. Director Bergeson stated that advice was being sought from other cities on ways to help prevent further problems.

Assistant Administrator Endres reported that there are no current policies that allow the City to give credits for running water to prevent freezing of water service lines. The City was not officially recommending that residents run water, and no data was currently

available with regard to potential impacts. She recommended that residents continue to keep up with their average utility payments. She recommended that the City waive any penalties for late payments until the current situation was resolved. She suggested reviewing the data once available. Administrator Endres further reported, after checking with the City Attorney, that assistance could not be provided to residents toward the cost of unthawing pipes.

Assistant Administrator Endres reported that the City had been awarded a federal grant to provide election assistance to individuals with disabilities. She stated the grant money would be used to purchase ADA-complaint voting booths that would accommodate wheelchair access and AutoMARK devices.

Mayor and Council
Reports

Council Member Duncan indicated that the frozen pipe issue would be a primary topic of discussion during the next Public Works Commission meeting.

Council Member McCusker provided some examples of the amount of additional water needed to run through the system to prevent pipes from freezing. He discussed potential impacts on water mains if residents allow pipes to remain frozen. He described this as a very unique situation, partially due to the extremely low temperature of the water. He suggested scheduling a special meeting for further discussion. He further commented on the potential need for changes in water system installation, the fact that the situation may become worse before it gets better, and regarding public health concerns.

Mayor Robinson recommended awaiting the Public Works Commission review and recommendations.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 6th day of March, 2014.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lanell Endres, Interim City Administrator