

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 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 Lanell Endres, Assistant City Administrator; Brenda Voshalike, Ambulance Director; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; Tom Bergeson, Public Works Director; and John Miller, Fire 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        A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Public Input                Joyce Dettmann, 319 North Third Street, Cannon Falls, expressed concerns with regard to parking near her home and driveway. She reported that she lived next to Freeborn Manor Apartments, and vehicles were parking close to or in her driveway. She requested signage be placed to help control the parking issues. She commented on safety concerns and informed the Council that they were potentially going to be completing some construction projects. Mayor Robinson reported seeing many vehicles in the area. Police Chief McCormick reported that the original intent was to allow one parking space per tenant, but at times there were additional vehicles. Chief McCormick stated he spoke with Public Works Director Bergeson, and it had been decided to paint yellow stripes along the curbs to indicate no-parking zones. Parking citations have been issued for violations. Public Works Director Bergeson agreed that there were congestion issues in that area. Chief McCormick added that temporary no-parking zones could be established to accommodate construction vehicles and/or equipment. He asked that the homeowners call the Police Department to arrange for this.

Consent Agenda            A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending July 9, 2014  
B. Meeting Minutes for July 1, 2014, City Council Meeting  
C. Purchase Front-End Loader  
D. Resolution 2086, Approving Plans and Specifications for 2nd Street Southwest Street Improvements.  
E. Resolution 2088, Accepting a Monetary Grant from the MN Mission: Lifeline program for the Purchase of Ambulance Equipment  
~~F. Ambulance Department Resignations~~ Pulled by Mayor Robinson

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the

Consent Agenda, minus Item F.

Financing Options  
Discussion – General  
Fund Reserves Level

Assistant Administrator Endres provided background information regarding General Fund reserves and discussions with regard to financing options for various projects. Previous discussions were held regarding decreasing the general reserve fund balance from about 76% down to 50%. She reported the 76% figure included some assigned fund balances, such as the City's portion of the cost of the new Library, which would change the percentage to approximately 66%. It had been recommended that this level not fall below 50%. Financial advisors had previously recommended maintaining the current general fund level if possible but were comfortable with the 50% level if the City chose to utilize these funds for projects. Direction was requested from the Council with regard to this. Mayor Robinson added to the discussion, stating that if some projects could be paid for from reserves, this would save money in the long run if the City does not have to bond for these projects.

Council Member Duncan inquired with regard to the amount of bond funding needed for the proposed projects. Assistant Administrator Endres replied that the current project list would exceed the available fund reserves and would necessitate bond funding. The project list was reviewed and updates provided. The project overrun expenses for the Library were discussed, and Assistant Administrator Endres stated she would do further analysis. She clarified the funding structure and the City's financial obligations with regard to the Library project. Pool repair expenses were clarified. Council Member McCusker commented on heating and cooling system issues at City Hall. Sewer and water fund balances were also discussed. It was clarified that these were operating funds. Council Member McCusker stated that he would be in favor of utilizing budget reserves for projects. Council Member Johnson recommended not going below the 50% reserve percentage. Council Member Duncan agreed, suggesting that the project list be reviewed and a potential bonding amount established.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to further discuss options for funding projects, including the use of general fund reserves, but to a level not falling below 50%.

Resolution 2087,  
Accepting FEMA  
Assistance to  
Firefighters Grant  
Award and

Fire Chief Miller provided background information, reporting that the Fire Department received a grant award of \$57,200 for the purchase of turnout gear. The City's 5% share of \$2860 would be funded out of the Fire Department equipment fund. He stated that over the last

Authorizing City  
Expenditure

three years the Fire Department had been awarded approximately \$300,000 in grant funding from various sources. Charitable gambling proceeds of \$11,000 have also been put toward purchases of a rescue dummy for training purposes and new equipment. Mayor Robinson expressed appreciation to the Fire Department for their fundraising efforts.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2087, accepting FEMA assistance for firefighters grant.

Ambulance  
Department  
Resignations

The City Council received resignations from two Ambulance Department employees, Mike Althoff and Ivan Mazurkiewicz. Mayor Robinson discussed the staffing impacts of these resignations. He stated that with the new hospital opening soon, adequate Ambulance Department staffing would be critical. The Personnel Committee met to discuss these issues and recommended authorizing the hiring of one EMT and up to two paramedics

Council Member McCusker expressed appreciation to the departing members of Ambulance Department for their service. He recommended discussing potential compensation changes for City employees in order to promote retention.

A motion was made, with regret, by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to accept the resignations of Mike Althoff and Ivan Mazurkiewicz.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the hiring of one EMT and advertising for the hiring of up to two paramedics and noting that if a qualified EMT internal candidate were selected, this hire could take place immediately.

Staff Reports

Ambulance Director Voshalike expressed appreciation to the departing Ambulance Department members for their service to the department and the community.

Public Works Director Bergeson reported that a 1-ton pickup was sold at auction for \$6500. He also provided an update with regard to public works activities and staffing.

Police Chief McCormick reviewed a street closure request for the Veterans Memorial Dedication to be held on August 9, 2014. A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve this request.

Chief McCormick also provided an update with regard to upcoming activities, including the Wine and Art Festival, the Fireman's Dance, and a Cannon Cruisers event.

Mayor and Council  
Report

Council Member Duncan inquired with regard to the 2nd Street project. Public Works Director Bergeson provided an update.

Mayor Robinson discussed the budget process and stated that a budget workshop would be held following the Council meeting on August 5, 2014. He expressed appreciation to City staff during recent events.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014.

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Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator