

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 19, 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 Ron Johnson, 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 A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Public Input Glenn Schulz, 1025 West State Street, Cannon Falls, expressed concerns related to potholes in his driveway, stating that some holes were silver dollar sized and some more than 1/4 inch deep. He stated that he had been calling regarding his concerns for more than two years. He said he had recently spoken with Greg Anderson, who indicated that he would be working with him regarding this. Mayor Robinson asked Mr. Schulz to report back if the situation was not resolved. Greg Anderson added background information, stating that these concerns related to the West Side I street reconstruction project from 2011. The contractor had been contacted regarding similar driveway concerns.

Roger Titel, 1218 Minnesota Street West, Cannon Falls, also expressed concerns related to his driveway. He stated that he had spoken to Greg Anderson and Tom Bergeson and requested an update. Mr. Anderson acknowledged that Mr. Titel's property was on a list of properties under review with the contractor and materials supplier and that the warranty period was still in effect.

Mr. Titel also expressed concerns related to mosquito problems stemming from an area with a holding pond along with tall grass and weeds near the fairgrounds. These concerns would be forwarded to Public Works Director Tom Bergeson.

Pinning Ceremony for Trevor Sullivan The pinning ceremony took place following the discussion of Council Business. Police Chief McCormick provided an introduction of the City's new police officer, Trevor Sullivan. Mayor Robinson administered the oath, and a member of Officer Sullivan's family participated in the badge-pinning ceremony. Officer Sullivan was welcomed by the Mayor and Council Members.

Public Hearing and
Resolution 2091,
Vacating Part of
Stoughton Street

Community Director Maroney provided background information regarding the public hearing stating that notices were mailed to property owners immediately adjacent to the proposed area to be vacated, which was Stoughton Street between First and Second Streets. It had been recommended that the Public Hearing be recessed until the September 16 meeting, in order to verify that no portion of this street had been previously vacated. Council Member McCusker provided additional information, adding that as one of the petitioners he would be abstaining from any votes on this issue. A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to recess the Public Hearing until the September 16th meeting to allow more time for research.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending August 15, 2014
- B. Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2014, City Council Meeting
- C. Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2014, City Council Work Session
- D. Hire EMS Applicants for Ambulance Service
- ~~E. Zip Rail – Authorizing Response to MnDOT~~ Pulled by Mayor Robinson
- F. Resolution 2092, Identifying Past Franchise Compliance and Performance Problems and Future Community Cable Related Deeds and Interests
- G. Application for Payment No. 1 from Hardrives, Inc., for 318th Street Project

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Item E.

Resolution 2093,
Ordering Feasibility
Report for the West
Side II Street
Improvement Project

City Administrator Johnson provided background information regarding the next scheduled improvement project, West Side II, stating that if the Council would like to consider the possibility of completing this project during 2015, it would be advantageous to start the process now. According to the Minnesota Statutes Chapter 429 Special Assessments process guidelines, a bid opening could occur in early April of 2015.

Greg Anderson provided additional project-specific details. Street reconstruction projects had been prioritized and were tentatively scheduled for completion every other year. The West Side II project area included portions of Hoffman, Mill, and Park Streets. A full reconstruction was anticipated, including streets and utility service lines. If the Council chose to proceed, the process would be to order

a feasibility study, review the report, and order an improvement hearing. At that point the Council would decide whether or not to order the improvement and initiate the design work.

Council Member Duncan inquired with regard to potential impacts related to the planned demolition of the former hospital building. Mr. Anderson replied that it was his understanding that the parcel would return to residential usage. Depending upon the demolition schedule, new water and sewer service lines could be installed for future lots during this street reconstruction project. He added that the purpose of the feasibility study would be to delineate the proposed construction schedule, estimate project costs, and calculate preliminary assessments.

Mayor Robinson discussed the possibility of proceeding with the feasibility study and then evaluating the City's financial position before deciding whether the project should move forward in 2015. Council Member Duncan asked about the impacts of doing the feasibility study now. Mr. Anderson replied that if the Council was hesitant to move forward following the feasibility study, the improvement hearing could be delayed. However, once an improvement hearing was held and the project was ordered, the project would need to start within six months.

Council Member McCusker reviewed a list of problems encountered during recent construction projects relating to storm sewers, holding ponds, drainage issues, street surfaces, service lines, and alley heights. He discussed issues pertaining to fire hall specifications and ongoing water leaks at the new library. He described problems with communication and followthrough, stating that no one wants to take responsibility when problems occur. He stated that he had lost confidence and would like assurances that steps would be taken to resolve issues and prevent future problems. He also agreed with the recommendation to discuss a potential deferment of the West Side II project.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan, to adopt Resolution 2093, ordering the feasibility study for the West Side II project. All members present voted aye, except Council Member Mattson voted nay. The motion was declared passed. Mr. Anderson stated that the feasibility report should be available in October. Council Member Duncan requested that financial information be gathered as well as further information with regard to the demolition schedule for the former hospital building.

Zip Rail – Authorizing
Response to MnDOT

Mayor Robinson detailed recent discussions surrounding a proposed zip rail line between Rochester and the Twin Cities. He voiced his opinion that a zip rail line would not benefit the City of Cannon Falls and recommended against supporting this proposed project. He stated that funding would be better spent on existing roads and infrastructure.

Council Member Duncan described EDA discussions with regard to this proposal, relaying the general consensus that there would be no benefit to Cannon Falls. He recommended that the Council issue a statement in opposition to the project. Council Member Mattson agreed with this opinion, citing road closures and school district realignment concerns.

Community Development Director Maroney stated that the EDA had suggested that a letter be drafted requesting more information with regard to potential benefits and negative implications prior to assuming a position. MnDOT was requesting a response by August 22nd. Mayor Robinson reiterated his opposition to the project and voiced disappointment with the process. Council Member Johnson voiced concerns related to safety considerations. Council Member McCusker commented regarding a potential alternative location, agreed that there were safety issues, and questioned the potential return on investment for this project.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to include Council comments and concerns with the letter that is being drafted at the request of the EDA.

Adjournment

The meeting was duly adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 2nd day of September, 2014.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator