

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 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, and Kathy Gallups; Council Member Merlyce Johnson was absent. Also present were Ron Johnson, City Administrator; Lanell Endres, Assistant City Administrator; Dave Maroney, Community Development Director; Greg Anderson, City Engineer; Tom Bergeson, Public Works Director; and Jill Ekstrom, Police Officer.

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| 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 Gallups, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as submitted. |
| Public Input | <p>Rosie Schluter, Stanton Township, discussed an upcoming meeting of MN TRIAD on February 11, which would feature Minnesota Department of Commerce Commissioner Mike Rothman, who would be speaking about fraud prevention.</p> <p>Joyce Falink, Chair of the Save Cannon Falls Committee, read a statement regarding the Highway 52 access closures and presented copies of a petition containing more than 1,850 signatures supporting access off the highway. She requested an opportunity for the public to ask questions following the presentation of the safety study later in the meeting. She stated that Congressman John Kline had recommended seeking letters of support from City, County, and community groups. The committee was also in the process of collecting impact statements from local businesses. The committee planned to present letters of support, petitions, and impact statements to Governor Dayton. Melinda Aljabri, co-owner of the Cannon Falls Super America, provided further documentation and a copy of the letter received from Congressman Kline.</p> <p>Ray Schoenfelder, owner of Cannon Power Sports, expressed concerns resulting from the new road configuration in terms of safety, street maintenance, and police patrols. Public Works Director Bergeson provided clarification with regard to plowing responsibilities and will follow up on these concerns. Mayor Robinson added that he would forward concerns related to police patrols.</p> |
| Public Hearing:
Resolution 2118,
Certifying Unpaid
Utility Charges to | Assistant City Administrator Endres provided background information regarding the proposed certification of unpaid utility charges. She stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to provide an opportunity for citizens |

be Collected with
Taxes

to speak with regard to unpaid utility bills prior to those charges being certified to be collected with 2016 property taxes. Mayor Robinson opened the Public Hearing. No one was present that wished to speak regarding the proposed assessments. Mayor Robinson closed the Public Hearing. Assistant Administrator Endres added that adoption of Resolution 2118 included adoption of a revised listing of unpaid utility charges.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Mattson and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2118.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending December 31, 2014
- B. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending January 30, 2015
- C. Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2015, City Council Meeting
- D. Approve Pay Request #2 (Final) for 318th Street Project
- E. Purchase of 2015 Utility Truck

A motion was made by Council Member Gallups, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

TH52 Access Safety
Study

City Administrator Johnson provided background information regarding the Highway 52 safety study that was completed. Tom Sohrweide, Principal/Manager of Traffic Engineering at SEH, presented the study results. SEH conducted the Highway 52 access safety study in 2014, the purpose of which was to evaluate safety implications of potentially adding right-in and right-out lanes onto and off of Highway 52 at the former intersection old County Road 24. He reviewed study components, including traffic forecasts, safety analysis, development of concepts, and traffic operational analysis.

Traffic forecasts were projected for the years 2015 and 2030 during peak a.m. and p.m. traffic flow, based on data collected as part of the interchange study, including anticipated increased volumes as a result of the new medical center. Turning movement volumes were developed at each intersection for each approach, with and without right-in/right-out turn lanes.

Once the volumes were developed, a safety analysis was developed for this location. Crash data were gathered from comparable locations. It was found that crashes increase as traffic volumes increase and as the ratio of main road to minor road traffic volume becomes more unbalanced. Crash rates with right-in/right-out turn lanes would be expected to increase by

25%. Crashes that would occur would likely be more severe due to the speeds involved.

Concept drawings and options were reviewed. Traffic operational analysis methods were discussed. Right-in/right-out turn lanes were found to provide reasonable operating conditions.

Council Member Mattson inquired with regard to northbound exit-only turn lane distances. Mr. Sohrweide provided additional information. Council Member Mattson discussed the benefits of considering exit-only turn lanes. Council Member Duncan inquired with regard to a comparison with the Hampton interchange. Mr. Sohrweide stated he was unable to comment in this regard. Council Member Duncan expressed concern related to deceleration distances. Mr. Sohrweide stated that these concepts would need to be further refined during the design phase. Mayor Robinson expressed appreciation for the amount of work put into the study.

Jeff Vlaminc, MnDOT District 6 Engineer, provided additional information, answered questions, and outlined potential next steps in the process. He reiterated MnDOT's position of not supporting expansion of access at this location. Council Member Duncan asked whether MnDOT would oppose moving forward. Mr. Vlaminc replied that, although MnDOT would not support this, they would assist in navigating the process. Mayor Robinson commented with regard to the expense involved in moving forward. Council Member Duncan inquired with regard to the Environmental Assessment process. Mr. Vlaminc stated that he was unsure what would be required in terms of an updated Environmental Assessment. Mayor Robinson commented that a connecting bridge over County Road 24 was part of the original design and reviewed the goal of converting Highway 52 into a controlled-access freeway. He inquired with regard to potential consideration of an overpass bridge. Mr. Vlaminc reiterated the goals of the Highway 52 Freeway Partnership, adding that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would need to be engaged in the discussion. He agreed that the overpass bridge was part of the original Environmental Assessment process but that the design phase had not been completed. He reviewed the funding process for the original project, commenting that the total funding package was not sufficient to cover the overpass component. He added that there was currently no additional funding available. Mayor Robinson commented on economic and safety impacts of the current traffic configuration. He recommended continuing to work together on a solution. Mr. Vlaminc stated that, as a District Engineer, he would be much more willing to support moving forward with completing the overpass as

originally defined, as opposed to right-in/right-out access lanes. Council Member Duncan asked whether the right-in/right-out access lanes would jeopardize construction of a future overpass. Mr. Vlaminc stated that this discussion would need to be part of the project development process. Council Member Mattson inquired with regard to right-of-way acquisition. Mr. Vlaminc provided clarification with regard to right-of-way versus and hardship land acquisitions. Council Member Duncan asked whether MnDOT would have the ability to close right-in/right-out access lanes. Mr. Vlaminc replied that MnDOT would have an obligation to do so if it became a safety problem, adding that specific safety criteria have not been defined. Mayor Robinson inquired with regard to the Hampton interchange. Mr. Vlaminc provided clarification regarding the current interim access. Council Member Duncan commented with regard to MnDOT's willingness to consider overpass construction in the future, depending on traffic volumes, and asked whether this could be expedited if funding was available. Mr. Vlaminc stated that MnDOT would not be opposed to overpass construction if funding becomes available. Mayor Robinson commented with regard to potential project costs. Council Member Duncan commented on a potential 2 to 4 year time frame for any potential solution. Mayor Robinson added that in the meantime efforts would be undertaken to support and promote local businesses.

Comments were made from the public with regard to the need for an immediate solution to mitigate the severely negative economic impacts of the current situation. Mayor Robinson stated that citizens will be kept informed of and involved in those discussions along with the appropriate stakeholders, including Mayo Health System. Council Member Mattson commented with regard to the complexity of the process. Comments were made with regard to the City's future ability to meet its financial obligations. Council Member Duncan suggested potential enhanced communication methods. A comment was made with regard to effects on growth and the ability of existing businesses to survive. Council Member Mattson reiterated the time frames involved.

Paul Schluter inquired with regard to next steps and cost estimates for right-in/right-out access lanes. Mayor Robinson stated that the exact cost of such a project was unknown at this point but estimated \$3 to \$4 million due to the cost of impact studies, land acquisition, construction, and other costs.

Ray Schoenfelder, owner of Cannon Power Sports, suggested the development of a task force to determine options, next steps, and a

timetable in order to keep moving forward. City Administrator Johnson provided further comment with regard to the Council's role at this point. Mayor Robinson suggested potentially scheduling a special meeting to allow further discussion and development of an action plan.

Mr. Schoenfelder stated that businesses would be reassured by the development of a plan and timetable. Council Member Mattson inquired with regard to the acceptability of a potential exit-only (right-in) access solution. Mr. Schoenfelder replied that evaluating all potential options would be better than doing nothing.

Patricia Oates stated that she no longer stopped as often at the businesses due to the extra time it took to navigate the area. She commented on the lack of adequate signage and lighting. Administrator Johnson provided an update with regard to the lighting issue, stating that Xcel Energy and Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association were working to solve this problem. Rosie Schluter spoke in support of increased signage. The owner of Subway added that local businesses pay for the additional signage.

Larry Dammer, owner of a local accounting business, shared a letter he wrote summarizing the situation and recommending a full interchange as the best solution. He stated his opinion that a safe, fast Highway 52 corridor with correct interchanges could eliminate the need for a zip rail line between Rochester and the Twin Cities.

Mayor Robinson expressed appreciation for the input provided relative to this topic.

Staff Reports

Public Works Director Bergeson provided updates with regard to pool discussions, a future Amesbury Pond project, a planned crosswalk across Highway 19 near John Burch Field, and lighting upgrades. He commented with regard to water temperature measurements.

Officer Ekstrom stated that she would forward information related to concerns about police patrols.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Sjoblom requested an update with regard to concerns about a hole near a storm sewer in the City parking lot. Public Works Director Bergeson provided an update.

Mayor Robinson expressed condolences to the family of long-time City employee Gary Sheets, who recently passed away.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 17th day of February, 2015.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator