

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 17, 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, Kathy Gallups, and Merlyce Johnson. Also present were Ron Johnson, City Administrator; Lanell Endres, Assistant City Administrator; Dave Maroney, Community Development Director; Tom Bergeson, Public Works Director; Tim Malchow, 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 No one came forward to speak for Public Input.

County Commissioner Brad Anderson Goodhue County Commissioner Brad Anderson introduced himself and discussed Goodhue County short- and long-range planning activities.

Proclamation:
Resolution 2119,
Recognizing the
Cannon Falls School
Board and
Superintendent Giese

Mayor Robinson reviewed Resolution 2119, which recognized the vital roles of Cannon Falls Cannon School Board Members and Superintendent Beth Giese in establishing policies to ensure an efficient, effective school system. Superintendent Giese was recently named a recipient of the Kay E. Jacobs Memorial Award by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators for her outstanding leadership. Resolution 2119 proclaimed February 16-20, 2015, as School Board Recognition Week in Cannon Falls. Superintendent Giese discussed the importance of demonstrating communication and collaboration between the Cannon Falls School District and the City of Cannon Falls.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2119, a resolution recognizing the Cannon Falls School Board and School Superintendent Giese.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending February 13, 2015
- B. Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2015, City Council Meeting
- C. Re-lamping of John Burch Field.
- D. Purchase of EMS Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators

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

Mayor Robinson introduced Ambulance Director Tim Malchow, who was welcomed by Council Members.

2015 Utility Rates

Administrator Johnson discussed revisions to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the proposed utility rate structure. Todd Hagen, Senior Financial Advisor from Ehlers and Associates, reviewed the Utility Rate Study and provided background information. Recommendations with regard to proposed rate increases for water, sanitary sewer, and storm water utilities were reviewed. He explained that utility payments fund operating revenue, debt service, and capital projects. A summary of each utility fund was provided. For the water fund, a 5% rate increase was recommended for 2015 and beyond. For the sewer fund, two rate increase options were reviewed, including a 10% increase for 2015 and 2016 and 2% thereafter, versus a 5% increase for 2015 and beyond. For the storm water fund, a 2% annual inflationary increase for 2015 was recommended. Utility fund projections and targeted cash balances were discussed.

Mayor Robinson inquired with regard to debt service obligations and clarification was provided. Council Member Mattson inquired with regard to new construction assumptions and additional information was provided. Council Member Gallups expressed concerns regarding utility rate increases. Council Member Duncan commented with regard to comparisons with other communities, stating that utility rates in Cannon Falls are comparable to surrounding cities. Public Works Director Bergeson advised residents to contact the Public Works Department in the event of abnormally high utility bills. Council Member Mattson added that Cannon Falls had already invested in infrastructure improvements that other cities were now considering. Rationale and strategies for maintaining adequate utility fund balances were discussed. Council Member Duncan spoke in favor of the 5% increase option for sewer rates. Administrator Johnson commented with regard to upcoming capital projects.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the recommended 5% water rate increase, the 5% sewer rate increase option, and a 2% storm sewer rate increase for 2015. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Resolution 2120,
Opposing the
Eastern/TH 52
Corridor Alternative of
the Rochester to
Minneapolis Zip Rail
Option

Mayor Robinson provided background information for Resolution No. 2120, a resolution opposing the Eastern/TH 52 Corridor Alternative of the Rochester to Minneapolis ZIP Rail option. Nora Felton discussed the activities of a local group called the Citizens Concerned About Rail Line (CCARL). She reviewed the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Final Scoping Decision Document comment process and provided recommendations. She further suggested submitting comments with regard to the MnDOT 2015 Statewide Rail Plan, for which the comment period would end March 10.

Mayor Robinson spoke against the proposed Zip Rail option and suggested continuing to push for a no-build recommendation. Administrator Johnson had volunteered to participate on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) established by MnDOT and the Olmsted County Regional Railway Authority (OCRRA). Council Member Johnson inquired whether an elevated train system had been proposed. Mayor Robinson had no knowledge of such a proposal. Council Member Duncan stated he felt there were no benefits to communities along the Highway 52 corridor.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2120, a resolution opposing the Eastern/TH 52 Corridor Alternative of the Rochester to Minneapolis ZIP Rail option.

TH52 Safety Access
Study Discussion

Mayor Robinson provided an update on the Highway 52 access issues, including requested cost estimates provided by SEH. Crash data projections were discussed. A work session or special meeting would be scheduled in March for further discussion.

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Maroney discussed meetings held with MnDOT with regard to signage concerns for the new interchange area, reporting that progress was being made.

Police Chief McCormick commented with regard to the recent pedestrian fatality along Highway 52. A critical incident debriefing session was held with emergency responders. Council Member Gallups inquired with regard to emergency response time and complications related to the current street configuration. Chief McCormick provided information and offered to forward additional details for Council review.

Administrator Johnson provided an update with regard to labor union contract negotiations. He discussed the need for ambulance

replacement, with a proposal to be submitted for Council review in the near future. Discussions are underway related to necessary technical upgrades.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 3rd day of March, 2015.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator