

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, June 16, 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 Merlyce Johnson. Council Member Cathy Gallups was absent. Also present were Ron Johnson, City Administrator; Lanell Endres, Assistant City Administrator; Dave Maroney, Community Development Director; Tom Bergeson, Public Works 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 There was no public comment.

Legislative Update Following discussion of Council Business, a legislative update was provided by Senator Matt Schmit. He provided highlights of the 2015 legislative session which included the following:

- A special session was held on June 12, during which several bills were refined and passed.
- Economic indicators have been primarily positive for Minnesota.
- The State experienced a \$1.8 billion budget surplus, with budget stability projected to continue into the future.
- Senator Schmit reported that next year's legislative session will focus on discussions regarding comprehensive tax reform, property tax relief, local government aid increases, and a transportation funding plan. He reviewed budget projections and transportation funding options, commenting on the need to remain committed to fiscal responsibility.
- Education funding was increased by approximately 2% over the next two years. Legislation was passed addressing teaching licensure and the shortage of teachers in rural Minnesota. The tuition freeze would remain in place for state colleges and universities in order to make higher education more accessible to students.
- Senator Schmit reported on efforts to promote private investment to increase broadband and high-speed internet access in rural areas.

Mayor Robinson thanked Senator Schmit for his efforts related to the Highway 52 interchange.

Mayor Robinson expressed concerns related to higher than average health insurance costs for businesses and residents in southeastern Minnesota. Senator Schmit commented with regard to research he has conducted with regard to southeastern Minnesota being at a competitive disadvantage related to healthcare premiums. He indicated that a Federal waiver and State support would be required in order to change the healthcare marketplace boundaries. He recommended putting pressure on providers to lower healthcare costs. Mayor Robinson stated his opinion that healthcare premiums should be structured equally throughout the State. Senator Schmit offered to help facilitate further discussion regarding the premium disparity issue with State agency representatives and others.

Council Member Duncan expressed concerns related to the education funding formula in smaller districts. He also spoke against a proposal to increase the gas tax in order to fund transportation projects.

Senator Schmit commented on challenges related to transportation funding. He stated his opinion that transportation needs could not be financed solely through the general fund and recommended a balanced approach.

Council Member Duncan commented with regard to the need for tax reform, both at the State and Federal levels. Senator Schmit discussed efforts toward tax code conformity and reviewed information detailing the cost of government in Minnesota.

Administrator Johnson commented that the EDA had expressed concerns related to healthcare insurance costs and would be interested in further discussion of this issue. Senator Schmit stated that he would follow up on this request and encouraged ongoing communication with regard to this issue or any other concerns.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending June 12, 2015
- B. Meeting Minutes for June 2, 2015, City Council Meeting
- C. Resolution 2134, Supporting Regional Trail Designation Application in Greater Minnesota
- D. Resolution 2135, Approving Conditional Use Permit for Soulfisher Collision
- E. Resolution 2136, Approving Conditional Use Permit for Public Art Mural
- F. Public Works Part-Time Hire

G. Re-Lamp Archie Swenson Fields

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

Resignation of Mike Gesme as IT Director and Appointment as PEG Access Coordinator

Mike Gesme has submitted a letter of resignation as IT Director but would like to continue employment as PEG Access Coordinator. Administrator Johnson provided background information. The Personnel Committee had recommended continuation of Mr. Gesme's part-time employment as PEG Access Coordinator and outsourcing of IT duties to an outside consultant. IT service proposals submitted by On-Site Computers, Inc., were reviewed. The Personnel Committee recommended moving forward with a full-service agreement with On-Site Computers to provide IT services to the City.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan, to accept the resignation of Mike Gesme as full-time IT Director, with his final day being June 29, 2015, and subsequently appointing him as the part-time PEG Access Coordinator, effective June 30, 2015, at his current wage, along with awarding a contract to On-Site Computers, Inc., to provide IT services at a cost of \$1900 per month with a set-up fee of \$1600. All members present voted aye. The motion was declared passed.

Staff Reports

Public Works Director Bergeson spoke with regard to system impacts related to so-called flushable products, stating that residents should never flush anything other than toilet paper and human waste. He also encouraged residents to contact him with any questions regarding their water bills. He commented with regard to the effect of grass clippings ending up in rivers, streams, and lakes. He referenced a video available on the City website.

Police Chief McCormick commented with regard to the grass clipping ordinance, stating that reminders were being issued at this point. Chief McCormick reviewed street closures and staffing during upcoming events. A Police Commission meeting is scheduled on July 7.

Administrator Johnson indicated that he would work with staff on a public service announcement related the issues as discussed.

Mayor and Council Mayor Robinson reported with regard to his trip to Washington, DC, during which transportation concerns were discussed. He encouraged citizens to contact their legislators with regard to this critical issue.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 7th day of July, 2015.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator