

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 6:56 p.m. in City Hall. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson, Council Members Lynne Berg, Cathy Gallups, Rod Holst, Merlyce Johnson, Morris Mattson and Jay Sjoblom. Also present were City Administrator Ron Johnson, Assistant City Administrator Lanell Endres, Police Chief Jeff McCormick, Public Works Director Tom Bergeson, Community Development Director Dave Maroney and City Engineer Greg Anderson.

The purpose of the work session was to discuss future projects.

Discussion	City Administrator Johnson provided a list of potential future projects in which staff would like some direction from the Council on how to proceed and prioritize these projects.
Swimming Pool	The first item discussed was regarding the swimming pool. It was noted that the City held a pool referendum in March, 2014 for \$4.25 million which failed. The Council subsequently authorized approximately \$50,000 for necessary improvements to keep the pool operating for a few years. Comments from the Council included that a decision should be made soon, the City shouldn't continue to put money into the old pool, a pool is a valuable amenity for the community, possibly using the same footprint for a new pool to reduce costs and checking to see if any grants were available to help fund a new pool. The consensus of the Council was that a new pool should be looked at further. City Administrator Johnson indicated consultants can help with the process.
Third St Bridge	According to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the estimated cost to preserve the Third Street bridge would be \$1.4 million. A traffic count indicated about 150 vehicles cross the bridge a day. Comments from the Council included noting that the bridge is on the National Historic Registry which limits what can be done with the bridge, previous consideration was given to making the bridge a walking bridge but was met with resistance from the community, there are issues with the bridge including the footings, safety concerns, a water main and gas line may need to be dealt with as they are attached to the bridge, checking to see if there are any other funding sources including the County and the National Historical Society. It was noted that this bridge was identified for replacement with the All-Hazards County Plan.
Sanitary Sewer Bridge	The sanitary sewer bridge crosses the Cannon River and is at risk of total failure. Approximately 75,000 gallons of sewage passes through the crossing per day which is 25% of the daily wastewater total. A study was completed by the city engineers in 2009 which estimated \$450,000 to

open cut the river, install a lift station and grinder pump. It was suggested that if we do a cut we may want to add the water line which would allow it to be removed from the Third Street bridge. It was noted this project may be a candidate for potential funding from the State legislature. This project was also identified for replacement with the All-Hazards County Plan.

Wall at John
Burch Park

The current retaining wall at John Burch Park is in need of replacement with the south portion sloughing off with the seating shifting. It was estimated in 2008 that the cost to replace the wall and add seating was \$250,000 however there are concerns that this replacement could impact the stability of Seventh Street. Discussion with the Council included considering removing the seating and leveling the ground may be less money, going further out with the wall so it would not impact Seventh Street and checking to see if there are other options.

Highway 19
Pedestrian
Crossing at 7th
St

The Council was informed that the City has a permit with MnDot to install a pedestrian crossing on Highway 19 at Seventh Street. The City called for proposals in 2015 and did not receive any. The project is now included as an alternate in the proposed West Side II project. Staff was considering adding the project as a requirement to the project rather than an alternate. Council discussion included questioning why the State is not participating in the costs since this crosses a state highway. It was noted that original discussions with the State had the crossing at mid-block in which the State was not in total support but gave the permit to do at our own costs. Since the location has changed, the consensus was to go back to the State for further discussions and to leave the project as an alternate option.

Welcome
Center
Development
Plan

A new project for consideration is a Welcome Center development plan. The Council was informed that the Mill Towns State Trail will connect to the City this year and some enhancements are being considered such as additional parking, lighting and a welcome center with a public plaza, rest rooms and an area for the Farmers' Market. The additional parking would come from the removal of the old Lee Chevrolet building currently owned by the EDA which would result in an additional 36 parking spaces. It was noted that a Federal grant application to assist with the costs of the project was coming due and direction was needed from the Council. The consensus of the Council was to proceed with the application as proposed by Staff. Other discussion included future funding for staffing and overhead of the Welcome Center and trying to entice visitors to come to Cannon Falls.

**Downtown
Parking**

Other new projects discussed were downtown parking, a data center and Highway 20 Planning at CSAH 17 and 29. It was noted that there were roughly 250 downtown off-street parking spaces spread out throughout the downtown area and that the winery has a capacity of 250 people, the proposed brewery will have 5000 square feet and the thousands of bicycle trail users with more anticipated with the connection of the Mill Towns Trail will create growing parking concerns. With the possible removal of the Old Lee Chevrolet building to create additional parking, this would help to alleviate some of the issues but more decisions will need to be made to address parking. It was noted that the cost for a parking ramp is approximately \$18,000 per space. As previously discussed, a Federal grant could become available to help fund some of the costs for construction of new parking stalls and to extend the trail from the Cannon Valley Trailhead structure to Mill Street. The DNR has offered to write a letter of support for the project. The Council supported submission of the grant application.

**Highway 20
Planning at
CSAH 17 & 29**

Discussion noted that the reconstruction of the Dakota County 86 intersection that is to be started this year will change the traffic patterns on the north end of the community with more traffic coming into the area. It was suggested that the City take another look at the intersection of Highway 20 at County Roads 29 and 17. The Council agreed that this issue needed to be looked at again and contacting the State to see if they can fund the project since it is a State Highway. It was also noted that the access road that was installed for the Olmsted County Medical Clinic was also intended to be extended to the east/northeast to be used as a second access for Gemini.

Data Center

The Council was informed that the City has been working with Dakota Electric and Great River Energy on a study for a data center site located in the north industrial park area and that more information will be coming on this issue.

**Downtown
Street Lights,
Landscaping &
Sidewalks**

Discussion was held on a potential project of updating the downtown street lights and landscaping including sidewalks. The City owns the approximately 127 globe lights in the downtown area which were installed in the mid-1980s. Due to the age of the lights, replacement parts need to be fabricated. It was noted that the City has had discussions with Xcel Energy on this project. In conjunction with new street lights, the current sidewalks and landscaping should be considered as there are current trip hazards that need to be remedied. The Council suggested contacting the State to request assistance with this project as well since it is along the State Highways.

Highway 52
Corridor Land
Use Planning

Highway 52 Corridor Land Use Planning was discussed noting the changes that have occurred in the south area since the last plan was completed. Staff will work with both Goodhue and Dakota Counties on this issue. The Council noted that the City has a large investment in the south area and we need to make sure we promote development in that area to capture potential property taxes. It was also noted the City has met with Senator Schmit to discuss the issues and concerns and that the businesses should be notified of meetings as appropriate.

Upgrades to
Government
Center

Upgrades to the Government Center building were discussed due to concerns regarding the boiler, issues with carpets buckling, heating and air conditioning issues and possible air quality testing. It was noted the building was originally used as a laboratory with venting that allowed a lot of outside air to be brought into the building. It was noted the cost for thermostat improvements was \$60,000 and HVAC replacement should also be considered. The Council was also informed that piping in the ceiling is becoming corroded and that staff has already experienced a leak with the potential that other piping could fail and that moisture issues have not been addressed. The Council indicated these issues should be planned for the future. It was also noted that this site was also identified in the All Hazard plan to be moved out of the flood zone.

Conclusion

The Council discussed putting a plan together on all of the projects discussed and assigning priority needs as short-term, mid-term and long-term needs and updating the Council as things progress.

Adjournment

The meeting duly adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 16th day of February, 2016.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator