

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Monday, April 4, 2016, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson and Council Members Jay Sjoblom, Rodney Holst, Merlyce Johnson, and Lynne Berg. Council Members Morris Mattson and Cathy Gallups were absent. 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; Greg Anderson, City Engineer; and Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief.

Call to Order Mayor Robinson called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:36 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 Holst and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda.

Public Input John Althoff, 100 East Colvill Street, Cannon Falls, reported a problem with a sewer back-up in December of 2015. He stated that it was determined that the problem was due to the line being plugged with tree roots from the Colvill main to about 50 feet below his property. Mr. Althoff stated that the Public Works Director was aware of the problem and was in agreement to proceed with repairs, so Mr. Althoff had the work completed. More than 200 feet of pipe was installed to correct the problem. He clarified that this was on City property, even though the map lists this as a private septic system. He stated that he attended the Public Works Commission meeting in February and inquired with regard to reimbursement toward the cost of the project but that no compensation was offered. He added that measures were also taken to avoid spring run-off on neighboring properties.

Mayor Robinson inquired as to the cost of the project. Mr. Althoff provided an itemized billing statement. Council Member Berg asked about the location of the repairs, and Mr. Althoff reiterated that City property was involved. Council Member Berg asked why Mr. Althoff was involved in getting the problem corrected. Mr. Althoff replied that he had no sewer service from December 17, 2015, through the third week in January. Public Works Director Bergeson stated that it was unclear whether the problem involved City property or private property. Director Bergeson stated that, as the Althoff property has a well and is not on City water, they are charged a base rate for sewer services. Mayor Robinson recommended that this concern be further researched. Director Bergeson commented that the sewer line was never properly maintained by either party. Mr. Althoff reviewed the cost of the repairs along with the straw matting, barriers, and grass seed that were used in an attempt to try to prevent problems with

spring run-off. Council Member Berg recommended that this issue be further discussed by the Public Works Commission.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending April 1, 2016
- B. Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2016, City Council Meeting
- C. Resolution 2190, Accepting a Donation to the Library in Memory of Joan Rohlf
- D. Resolution 2191, Accepting a Donation to the Library in Memory of Paul Schluter
- E. Resolution 2192, Accepting a Donation to the Library in Memory of Esther Senrick
- F. Resolution 2193, In Support of Dedicated Funding for City Streets
- G. Accept Resignation of Reserve Officer
- H. ~~Approve Community Paramedic Job Description~~ Pulled by Council Member Berg
- I. ~~Approve Community Paramedic Pay~~ Pulled by Council Member Berg
- J. ~~Hire Shari Sheryak for Part-Time Community Paramedic~~ Pulled by Council Member Berg
- K. Set Hearing to Consider Additional Assessments

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Berg and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Items H, I, and J. Council Member Berg stated that she pulled Items H, I, and J in order for more information to be provided to the public.

Spring Garden Road

City Administrator Johnson provided background information with regard to past discussions concerning the closure of Spring Garden Road. Administrator Johnson reported that the City Attorney was consulted regarding potential options, and statutory information pertaining to minimum maintenance roads had been provided to the Council. Staff concerns related to liability, as this road was fairly rough and had a steep embankment on one side, were discussed. The recommendation was to designate Spring Garden Road as a minimum maintenance road, per statute, from April 1 through October 31, and designate it as closed from November 1 through March 31. Mayor Robinson asked whether the Public Works Commission has discussed this issue. It was reported that the Public Works Commission has not discussed this.

John and Phyllis Althoff, 100 East Colvill Street, asked why the road should be closed from November through March. Mr. Althoff stated that the gates that were installed do not serve any purpose and encourage snowmobilers to drive across private property. Council

Member Berg provided additional background information, citing concerns related to safety and complaints and stating that there was no reason to keep the full road open, as the other end had been closed. The gates were installed to indicate that the road was closed, except for access by neighboring residents. Mr. Althoff commented that there was not much traffic on this road, adding that once the extension of Highway 24 was completed there would likely be even less traffic.

Mr. and Mrs. Althoff requested that the paved section of the road from Park Street to the top of the hill be allowed to be open all year long. Mrs. Althoff stated that she was unaware of any safety issues. Mr. Althoff added that other roads have even steeper grades than does Spring Garden Road.

Mayor Robinson inquired regarding Public Safety Department concerns. Police Chief McCormick stated that the only accident he was aware of occurred during a bike race. He agreed that other streets have comparable grades, although they are full-width streets. He stated that traffic patterns would shift once the Highway 24 extension has been completed. He concurred that there was not a lot of traffic on Spring Garden Road. He stated that signage could be placed indicating that there was no through traffic on this road. Chief McCormick added that there is another home in this area. Mr. Althoff commented that complaints about ATV and snowmobile use constitute a law enforcement issue.

Mrs. Althoff commented that this road has been treated as a minimum maintenance road, adding that they have helped clear brush in the past. Mr. Althoff commented that the overlay that was put down about two years ago has held up well. Mr. and Mrs. Althoff suggested that the proposed dates be used as a guideline in terms of when to close the road.

Council Member Berg requested clarification of the minimum maintenance road statute. Administrator Johnson commented regarding liability issues addressed by the statute. Chief McCormick added that the statute does not define when minimum maintenance roads have to be closed. He clarified that if the road was designated as a minimum maintenance road, this would be a year-around designation. He added that the Council could add further restrictions. Mr. and Mrs. Althoff stated that they were willing to work with Public Works with regard to when the road should be closed. Council Member Johnson asked whether the road could be designated as minimum maintenance and be left open year-around. It was stated

that this was an option.

A motion was made by Council Member Berg, seconded by Council Member Holst, to designate Spring Garden Road as a minimum maintenance road, open year-around. Chief McCormick commented that it would be helpful to clarify winter maintenance. Director Bergeson expressed concerns related to spring conditions as well. Council Member Berg amended her motion to include maintenance and closure of this road at the discretion of the Public Works Department. Mayor Robinson re-stated the motion, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Cannon Valley Fair
Association Request
/Agreement

Administrator Johnson provided background information and reviewed the revised agreement regarding the Cannon Valley Fair's request to connect rest rooms at the fairgrounds to the City's sanitary sewer system. The Public Works Commission reviewed the request and recommended the Cannon Valley Fair Association be allowed to install a water meter to measure water and sewer usage to the restrooms only and to allow a connection to the sanitary sewer. Due to the fact that the property is basically only used for the four to five days of the fair and very few other events, they are recommending that the water and sewer be billed once per year and that no monthly minimums be billed or stormwater utility fee be charged.

A motion was made by Council Member Berg, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the agreement with the Cannon Valley Fair Association.

Approve Community
Paramedic Job
Description

Council Member Berg reiterated that she pulled Items H, I, and J regarding the community paramedic program in order to provide public information related to this new service, the job description and compensation, and the benefits of this service to the community. Ambulance Director Malchow provided background information. He described how a community paramedic program helps to bridge the healthcare gap for Medicaid recipients. He reviewed the training that is involved and the certification process. He discussed the job description and provided rationale for the proposed compensation. He discussed the qualifications of Paramedic Shari Sheryak.

Council Member Berg commented that this is a great service to the community. Mayor Robinson commented with regard to the amount of work that went into developing the program. He stated that Cannon Falls will be the first community in the Mayo Clinic Health System to have a community paramedic program. Council Member

Berg inquired with regard to the time frame for implementation of the program, and Director Malchow provided additional information.

A motion was made by Council Member Berg, seconded by Council Member Holst and unanimously carried, to approve the Community Paramedic job description.

Approve Community
Paramedic Pay

A motion was made by Council Member Berg, seconded by Council Member Holst and unanimously carried, to approve the Community Paramedic pay.

Hire Shari Sheryak for
Part-Time Community
Paramedic

A motion was made by Council Member Berg, seconded by Council Member Holst and unanimously carried, to approve the hiring of Shari Sheryak as a Part-Time Community Paramedic.

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Maroney reported that the Planning Commission would not be meeting during April.

City Engineer Anderson provided an update with regard to the upcoming street improvement project.

Director Bergeson reported with regard to trash dumping issues at the compost site and requested public assistance in this regard. He stated that hydrant flushing will begin on April 11 and will continue for approximately three weeks. He reported with regard to the nuisance clean-up process and announced that the City-wide clean-up day will be May 21 from 8 AM to noon at the Public Works facility.

Director Malchow reported that the new ambulance had arrived, with staff training to begin the following week. He added that the second LUCAS system was also in service.

Chief McCormick commented regarding issues related to illegal dumping at the compost site or anywhere in the City, stating that 911 can be utilized by citizens to report concerns. He added that providing a license plate number would be helpful to law enforcement personnel. He also issued a reminder with regard to increased pedestrian, bicycle, and motorcycle traffic with the nicer weather.

Administrator Johnson reviewed the Mayo Clinic Health System Annual Report.

Administrator Johnson provided a sanitary sewer bridge project update, stating that information was forwarded to Representative Tim Kelly and Senator Matt Schmit. He reported that Senator Schmit had agreed to bring this issue up with the Finance Committee.

Administrator Johnson discussed a potential grant opportunity to fund design work for the Third Street Bridge, estimated to cost approximately \$145,000. If this grant were approved, there may be Federal funding available to finance 80% of the bridge construction, with the 20% potentially covered by the State.

Administrator Johnson reported regarding Senator Schmit's assistance on behalf of the City related to concerns about high health insurance premiums in Southeast Minnesota.

Mayor and Council
Reports

Council Member Sjoblom commented with regard to illegal dumping issues throughout the State.

Mayor Robinson reported that he and others testified during recent State Senate committee hearings with regard to the health insurance premium issue and the possibility of a Federal waiver. Mayor Robinson reported that he also testified with regard to the proposed zip rail project, and Senator Schmit was working to form a committee. He reported that the City continues to work with Senator Schmit on the overpass and the sewer bridge project.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 19th day of April, 2016.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator