

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 19, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson and Council Members Jay Sjoblom, Morris Mattson, Rodney Holst, Cathy Gallups, Merlyce Johnson, and Lynne Berg. Also present were Ron Johnson, City Administrator; 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 Holst and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Public Input There was no public input with regard to items not listed on the Agenda.

Resolution 2208,
Vacating Easterly
Five Feet of Vine
Street City Administrator Johnson provided background information and rationale for the partial street vacation request of vacating the easterly five feet of Vine Street. He reported that staff recommends approval of this request. Mayor Robinson requested clarification of the location of the garage on the property under discussion, and additional information was provided.

Mayor Robinson reviewed the Public Hearing procedure and opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m. No one came forward to speak. Mayor Robinson closed the Public Hearing at 6:34 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Holst, to adopt Resolution 2208, vacating the easterly five feet of Vine Street. Council Member Berg inquired whether this vacation would affect only the lot under discussion, and clarification was provided that this is the case. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending July 15, 2016
- B. Meeting Minutes for July 5, 2016, City Council Meeting
- C. Emergency Response Team Mutual Aid Agreement
- D. Approve Temporary Malt Liquor License for Fire Relief Association
- E. Accept Resignation of Police Reserve Officer
- F. Install Water / Sewer Stubs

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

Off-Leash Dog Park
Request

Todd Martin, identifying himself as a Cannon Falls resident, provided background information regarding a request to establish a fenced-in, off-leash dog park where well-behaved canine citizens can exercise and socialize in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property, or wildlife. He reviewed the goal of developing a beautiful, well-maintained space open to all dog lovers and friends who are willing to uphold the park's rules and restrictions. He described the proposal as a community project in partnership with the City of Cannon Falls.

Mr. Martin reviewed several key factors:

- Potential dog park locations were discussed.
- Flood plain considerations were referenced.
- Fencing options were discussed.
- Dog park maintenance was reviewed, potentially utilizing City staff and/or volunteers.
- Provisions for "poop bags" were discussed.
- Lawn and landscape responsibilities were discussed.
- Picnic facilities were discussed.
- Park rules and restrictions would need to be established and posted.
- Park fees and sponsorship opportunities were discussed.
- A volunteer network could be established to provide assistance.
- Potential use of City equipment was discussed.

He stated his opinion that this park is a necessity and discussed benefits to the community.

Council Member Berg inquired with regard to Mr. Martin's involvement in the project. Mr. Martin discussed his hope for a partnership with the City. He indicated that others have shown interest in supporting the project.

Council Member Berg commented regarding a potential location referenced for the dog park and parking considerations. Public Works Director Bergeson provided additional information related to this site. Council Member Berg commented that this property is owned by Goodhue County.

Council Member Berg inquired with regard to maintenance responsibilities. Director Bergeson commented that City staff could assist with maintenance, including mowing the area approximately every two weeks.

Council Member Berg recommended establishing a committee to discuss the project in more detail, including County and City representation. She added that responsibilities and costs would need to be further delineated. She discussed the benefits of a dog park in Cannon Falls.

Council Member Mattson inquired with regard to dog park fees charged by other communities. Mr. Martin discussed fees charged by a dog park in the Rosemount area. Fee collection options were discussed.

Council Member Mattson inquired about fencing. Mr. Martin and Council Member Berg provided additional comments in this regard, suggesting that a six-foot fence be considered. Director Bergeson recommended considering a four-foot fence. He also suggested offering seasonal dog park passes.

Council Members recommended further discussion. Mayor Robinson inquired with regard to using park funds. Administrator Johnson and Director Bergeson commented that this is a possibility. Council Members suggested a potential partnership with Goodhue County. Mr. Martin indicated that he has communicated with Goodhue County staff.

Council Member Berg inquired regarding law enforcement and/or public safety concerns. Police Chief McCormick discussed potential flooding concerns and other issues and recommended involvement in the planning process. He commented that City Code revisions may be required. He stated his opinion that a four-foot fence should be adequate. He added that owners will need to be in control of their animals at all times, even when off leash. He discussed potential trail enhancements and parking options. He expressed support for further discussion.

Mayor Robinson suggested that Director Bergeson and Administrator Johnson work on forming a committee. He thanked Mr. Martin for bringing the proposal to the City and encouraged interested residents to become involved in the project.

Staff Reports

Director Bergeson reviewed various options for contacting him.

Chief McCormick provided rationale to institute parking restrictions in the City parking lot on August 5 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the request of the Cannon Cruisers. A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Holst and unanimously carried, to approve this request.

Chief McCormick discussed a request by a property owner to remove one of the old warning sirens in the 1100 block of Fifth Street. He stated that this siren is obsolete, broken, and has no value. A motion was made by Council Member Berg, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve this request. Mayor Robinson inquired with regard to the cost of removing the old warning siren. Chief McCormick indicated his understanding that staff will perform this task utilizing City equipment. A vote was held, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chief McCormick discussed National Night Out neighborhood parties on August 2 and invited the Mayor and Council Members to participate along with Public Safety personnel.

Administrator Johnson commented with regard to a recent meeting with representatives from MnDOT, Goodhue County, and the City of Cannon Falls for discussion of the Highway 52 interchange and proposed overpass. Planned repairs to the roundabout intersections and signage were discussed. The land acquisition process was reviewed.

Administrator Johnson reported that the Highway 19 / Seventh Street crosswalk was also discussed during this meeting. It was reported that no State funding is currently available toward this project. Mayor Robinson suggested re-bidding the project to see if a better price can be obtained. Administrator Johnson reported that project plans and specification documents were previously developed. Crosswalk signage was discussed. Although not required, Mayor Robinson recommended including this signage as part of the project, citing safety concerns. Chief McCormick expressed agreement with this recommendation. Council Member Berg asked whether this signage could be added later. Chief McCormick suggested planning for signage to be placed. Mayor Robinson commented with regard to parking issues.

Mayor Robinson further commented with regard to the recent MnDOT meeting, citing the need for long-term transportation planning and

funding by the State. He suggested ongoing communication with legislators with regard to the need for long-term transportation funding.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 3rd day of August, 2016.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator