

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 16, 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; Lanell Endres, Assistant City Administrator; Dave Maroney, Community Development Director; Tom Bergeson, Public Works Director; Tim Malchow, Ambulance Director; Justin Padgett, Library 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 Amended Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Holst and unanimously carried, to approve the amended Agenda.

Public Input Rosie Schulter, Stanton Township, reported with regard to the installation of upper body exercise equipment along the trail. She stated that a dedication ceremony will be held on Friday, August 19, at 10 a.m. Mayor Robinson expressed appreciation to Ms. Schulter for her work on the project.

Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, expressed concerns with regard to two vacancies on the Planning Commission and recent meetings that were unable to be conducted due to lack of a quorum. Mayor Robinson reported that new Planning Commission members were in the process of being appointed. Mr. O’Gorman reported that he helped recruit new Planning Commission members. Mr. O’Gorman commented with regard to citizen engagement in other groups and inquired with regard to the Police Commission meeting schedule. Police Chief McCormick provided additional information with regard to the Police Commission meeting schedule, which currently meets as needed, at least twice per year. He stated that the Police Commission was involved in the hiring process for Police Department personnel and reviewed ordinances. Mr. O’Gorman inquired with regard to the Park Board. Public Works Director Bergeson reported that these responsibilities had been assumed by the Public Works Commission.

Mr. O’Gorman commented with regard to challenges to businesses as a result of the new Highway 52 overpass, adding that a business owner had expressed interest in rejuvenating the former Grandpa’s Garage property. Mayor Robinson stated that the highway project was planned before he was elected as Mayor. Council Member Berg provided background information, stating that she was the Mayor when the process began in 2003.

Mr. O’Gorman inquired with regard to scheduling the next Planning Commission meeting and approving new Planning Commission appointments. Mayor Robinson indicated that this would be taken care of. Council Member Berg provided additional historical background information with regard to the Police Commission meeting schedule.

Mark Lokowich, 648 Union Court, Cannon Falls, discussed concerns with regard to parking issues along Union Court. He reported that residents had discussed various options, and no parking after 10 p.m. had been suggested. He requested that citations be issued for parking violations. He also suggested that no parking be allowed on empty lots. It was clarified that Union Court was the responsibility of the City. The street width was discussed. Chief McCormick suggested that the Public Works Commission discuss the parking issues, adding that appropriate signage would be required in order to enforce any parking restrictions. He recommended that residents call the Police Department to report parking violations. Issues related to parking over the curb were discussed. Chief McCormick discussed the City’s parking ordinances and stated that no enforcement was conducted while the street was a private street. Mayor Robinson requested that Mr. Lokowich be invited to attend the next Public Works Commission meeting and provide information. Mr. Lokowich commented that last winter an emergency vehicle was unable to gain access to the area.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending August 12, 2016
- B. Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2016, City Council Meeting
- C. Hire Unscheduled Part-Time Ambulance Employee
- D. Hire Unscheduled Part-Time Ambulance Employee
- E. Approve Special Assessment Agreement

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

Request Withholding
of Sale of Tax-
Forfeited Parcel

City Administrator Johnson provided background information regarding a tax-forfeited parcel. He stated Counties were required to put tax-forfeited property up for public auction, unless the local government expressed interest in acquiring the property. The property under discussion was pointed out on a map. He reported that the Southeast Minnesota Multi-County HRA had been researching the possibility of a housing development project in this

area. Stantec was hired to compile a feasibility report, and it was felt that there was potential for redevelopment. It was recommended that the City Council request that Goodhue County not proceed with an auction of this property for six months. Utility lines were discussed.

Mayor Robinson inquired as to whether there would be a cost to the City for doing this, and Administrator Johnson verified that there would be no cost. Council Member Mattson inquired with regard to utility service lines. Public Works Director Bergeson provided additional information, stating that the water main under the road bed appeared to be in good shape but described everything off the road bed as sketchy. Administrator Johnson commented that further research related to utility service lines would be part of the development process. Mayor Robinson discussed potential benefits of redeveloping this property. Council Member Berg inquired whether soil issues would make extension of City water and sewer services challenging. Administrator Johnson provided additional information.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Gallups and unanimously carried, to request that Goodhue County withhold the sale of the tax-forfeited parcel 52.456.0090 for six months to allow for continued planning within the Sandstone Ridge subdivision.

Planning Commission
Appointments

Mayor Robinson requested an addition to the Agenda related to discussion of the two individuals who had applied to become members of the Planning Commission. A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Holst and unanimously carried, to add this discussion topic to the Agenda.

Mayor Robinson reviewed applicant information received from Glenn Lundell and Mike Daniels and recommended that they be appointed to the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Berg and unanimously carried, to approve the appointments.

Staff Reports

Ambulance Director Malchow reported that the Ambulance Service had been extremely busy.

Public Works Director Bergeson provided a West Side street improvement project update, stating that the project was proceeding on schedule, with a substantial completion date of September 9 and a final completion date of October 7. He provided another reminder

with regard to the dedication ceremony for the outdoor exercise equipment on Friday, August 19.

Community Development Director Maroney reported that the Planning Commission would be meeting on Monday, August 29, beginning at 6:30 p.m. He commented that two public hearings would be held during this meeting, one related to the proposed Residential Business District zoning amendment and the other related to both the zoning amendment and rezoning of the B2 Highway Commercial District.

Library Director Padgett commented with regard to a successful summer reading program at the Library.

Police Chief McCormick reported that the river level had been rising due to recent rainfall and was expected to remain higher than normal for approximately 1-1/2 weeks.

Chief McCormick discussed safety concerns related to the intersection of Highways 20 and 19 and MnDOT's plans for lane striping. When asked by Mayor Robinson if striping would be enough, Chief McCormick stated that MnDOT was reluctant to add additional signage at the intersection.

City Administrator Johnson reported that potential bond re-funding would be added to a future City Council meeting agenda as a result of historically low bond rates.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Mattson discussed complaints he received related to traffic tie-ups during a recent Highway 52 detour. Chief McCormick provided additional information, and Council Members provided additional comments. Council Member Mattson recommended that feedback be forwarded to MnDOT.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 6th day of September, 2016.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator