

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson and Council Members Morris Mattson, Cedar Abadie, Mike Dalton, Ken Carpenter, John Althoff, and LeRoy McCusker. Also present were Lanell Endres, Assistant City Administrator; Samantha Meyer, Zoning Assistant; Tom Bergeson, Public Works Director; and Joe Berg, Police Lieutenant

Call to Order Mayor Robinson called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call All members were present.

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Robinson led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Carpenter, seconded by Council Member Althoff and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Public Input Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls property owner, reported that several months ago he requested a response with regard to the City’s position on the use of PVC pipe rather than ductal iron. He noted that he spoke with Community Development Director Dave Maroney and also spoke with the Public Works Commission regarding this topic. He stated that he was advised by City Administrator Ron Johnson that his engineer should submit a proposal to the City Engineer. He indicated that his contractor wants to use PVC pipe and requested permission to do so. Mayor Robinson responded that he will look into this question and get back to Mr. O’Gorman with an answer.

Mr. O’Gorman also commented with regard to discussion during a prior Council meeting relating to actions by Council Member McCusker.

Council Member Mattson commented that City policies should be updated. Mr. O’Gorman requested that the City Council take action with regard to his request to utilize PVC pipe. Mayor Robinson requested information with regard to the current policy in this regard, stating that PVC pipe has been utilized in recent City street improvement projects. Council Member Abadie referenced discussion by the Public Works Commission and expressed agreement that policies need to be updated. She added that departures from current policy can be made. She discussed the process that a property owner should follow in making such a request.

Mr. O’Gorman asked why a written request is required. Mayor Robinson advised Mr. O’Gorman to put his request in writing and

indicated that the policies will be updated.

Council Member Althoff expressed disappointment with regard to the discussion that occurred during the past Council meeting. He described how both Council Members and City employees should express their concerns. He indicated that Council Member McCusker is owed an apology. Public Works Director Bergeson provided additional information and expressed frustration that conflicting direction has been provided to him and to City employees. Council Member Althoff commented that he would have acted in the same manner as Council Member McCusker, stating that there was a safety concern and he was doing his job as a City Council Member to bring this to the attention of the Public Works Department. Director Bergeson reported that the City employee was confused by conflicting directions.

Council Member Abadie commented that, just because Council Member Althoff would have acted in the same manner, this does not make the process correct. She stated her opinion that Council Members should not direct the work of City employees. Council Member Althoff commented that Council Member McCusker was making a suggestion. Council Member Mattson commented that suggestions should be forwarded to Administrator Johnson or to Director Bergeson rather than directly to employees. Mayor Robinson indicated that concerns and policies will be addressed by the Personnel Committee.

Consent Agenda

~~A. Just and Correct Claims—Accounting Period Ending September 28, 2017~~

This item was pulled by Council Member Althoff.

B. Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2017, City Council Meeting

C. Set Budget Workshop(s)

~~D. Approve MnDOT Signage for TH 52~~

This item was pulled by Council Member Dalton.

E. Resolution 2299, Accepting a Monetary Donation for the Fire Department from Gemini, Inc.

F. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 354, Amending Chapter 152 of the Cannon Falls City Code, the Zoning Ordinance, Concerning the Zoning Map and Zoning Classification for a Specific Property

G. Approve Modification of Premise to Rancho Loco Current Liquor License

A motion was made by Council Member Carpenter, seconded by Council Member Abadie and unanimously carried, to approve the

Consent Agenda, minus Items A and D.

Council Business:

Approve MnDOT
Signage for TH 52

Council Member Dalton expressed appreciation for the long-awaited signage. Mayor Robinson echoed these comments.

A motion was made by Council Member Dalton, seconded by Council Member Althoff and unanimously carried, to approve the MnDOT signage for Highway 52.

Just and Correct
Claims – Accounting
Period Ending
September 28, 2017

Council Member Althoff reiterated his concerns with regard to out-of-town credit card expenditures by department heads, stating his preference for utilizing local businesses. Council Member Carpenter commented that perhaps local businesses need to be more competitive. Council Member Althoff commented that it costs money to go out of town to make these purchases. Council Member Carpenter indicated that businesses sometimes offer free delivery. Council Member Althoff commented that he will continue to monitor expenditures.

Mayor Robinson commented that the City saves money by using State contracts for certain purchases. Director Bergeson added that some purchases are made with a credit card but bought locally. He added that out-of-town purchases are typically made outside of employee hours and often because something is not available locally.

Council Member Dalton commented that the situation has improved since Council Member Althoff originally brought up his concerns. Council Member Althoff expressed agreement with the improvement. Mayor Robinson expressed agreement with monitoring of expenditures and purchasing locally when possible.

A motion was made Council Member Dalton, seconded by Council Member Carpenter and unanimously carried, to approve the just and correct claims for the accounting period ending September 28, 2017.

Reports:

Staff

Director Bergeson commented with regard to a recent Public Works Commission meeting, during which the addition of another handicapped parking stall in the Downtown area was discussed. There was also discussion regarding a vacant lot near the trail that may be donated to the City. He noted that the Public Works Commission also discussed development in the Cedar Hills area and the recycling contract.

Director Bergeson discussed patching work, leaf sweeping, and water main flushing by the Public Works Department.

Council Member Dalton expressed concerns about the USAgain drop box near the fairgrounds. Director Bergeson commented that concerns were forwarded and the situation improved temporarily. He discussed the option of eliminating this drop box, adding that this does provide an outlet for getting rid of unwanted items. Council Member Abadie referenced discussion with representatives of USAgain, who noted that the purpose of the drop box is to collect clothing and shoes but that the organization ends up disposing of trash and other items. Assistant City Administrator Endres added that USAgain issues a small revenue-sharing check to the City on a quarterly basis.

Police Lieutenant Berg discussed the Walk to School event on October 4. He noted that a Coffee, Cops, and Conversation activity is scheduled at Hi-Quality Bakery on October 5. He advised safe driving during Homecoming on October 6. The Homecoming Parade was discussed.

Assistant Administrator Endres provided an update regarding the new credit card option for utility payments.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Abadie provided additional information with regard to the proposed handicapped parking stall.

Council Member McCusker discussed a recent Channel 4 segment on the topic of sustainable agriculture, parks, and recreation, which featured Cannon Falls as example for other communities.

Mayor Robinson provided a reminder to be safe during Homecoming.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 17th day of October, 2017.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator