

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson and Council Members Morris Mattson, Mike Dalton, Ken Carpenter, John Althoff, and LeRoy McCusker; Council Member Cedar Abadie was absent. Also present were Ron Johnson, City Administrator; Lanell Endres, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator; Tom Bergeson, Public Works Director; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; and Nicole Miller, Library Director (arrived at 6:31 p.m.)

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

Roll Call Roll call was conducted. Mayor Robinson and Council Members Mattson, Dalton, Carpenter, Althoff, and McCusker were present. Council Member Abadie was absent.

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 Chris Weigman, 616 State Street East, Cannon Falls, discussed the proposed winery expansion. He discussed the importance of the winery in terms of tourism and described how the town and local businesses benefit from this tourism.

Mr. Weigman indicated that the identity of his business, Cannon River Catering Company, is defined by the winery. He stated that the winery was the reason that he started his catering business in the first place. He added that the Cannon River Winery is one of the many tourist destinations that Cannon Falls has to offer. He stated that there are small towns throughout Minnesota that would do anything to have an opportunity like this in their community. He stated that losing the Cannon River Winery would have a substantial impact on many local businesses. He expressed support for the proposed winery expansion.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending December 28, 2017
- B. Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2017, City Council Meeting
- C. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 357, Amending Chapter 152 of the Cannon Falls City Code, the Zoning Ordinance, Concerning the Zoning Map and Zoning Classification for a Specific Property
- D. Resolution 2322, Accepting Donation of \$250 from Molitor Brothers Farm to the Fire Department
- E. Resolution 2323, Designating the Depositories for City Funds for

Fiscal Year 2018

~~F. Resolution 2324, Supporting the Maintenance of Local License Bureaus~~

This item was pulled by Council Member McCusker.

A motion was made by Council Member Carpenter, seconded by Council Member Dalton and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Item F.

Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Robinson opened nominations for the position of Mayor Pro Tem. A motion was made by Council Member Dalton, seconded by Council Member Althoff, to nominate Council Member Mattson to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member McCusker nominated Council Member Carpenter to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. This nomination was not seconded. A motion was made by Council Member McCusker, seconded by Council Member Carpenter and unanimously carried, to elect Council Member Mattson as Mayor Pro Tem.

Designation of Official Newspaper for 2018

Assistant Administrator Endres indicated that the City is required annually to designate an official newspaper for all of its publications. She stated that this item was listed under Council Business in order to avoid a potential conflict of interest.

A motion was made by Council Member Carpenter, seconded by Council Member Althoff, to designate the *Cannon Falls Beacon* as the City's official newspaper for 2018. Council Member McCusker stated a desire for things to be more open as far as what is published in the newspaper from a personal standpoint. He discussed how times have changed with regard to the use of the Internet and social media.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried 4:0, with Council Member Dalton abstaining from the vote.

Approve Sale of Parcel 52.100.4080

Mayor Robinson reported that, at the request of the purchaser, the item regarding the possible sale of property has been removed from the Agenda, to be discussed during the next City Council meeting.

Council Member McCusker requested to comment with regard to this item. He discussed how the proposed land sale would benefit the purchaser. He also discussed how this land could potentially be used for a park. He suggested consideration of all of the options. Council Member Althoff stated his understanding that the Council had voted to sell the parcel. City Administrator Johnson clarified that the Council directed staff to bring back an offer from the potential

purchaser. No action was taken.

Resolution 2324,
Supporting the
Maintenance of
Local License
Bureaus

Council Member McCusker asked about involvement by the League of Minnesota Cities regarding issues facing local deputy registrar offices. He discussed the fact that other cities and towns are experiencing challenges and referenced current lawsuits. Assistant Administrator Endres indicated that the Minnesota Deputy Registrar's Association (MDRA) is the organization that is requesting the support via adoption of Resolution 2324. She provided background information with regard to the MDRA. She indicated that the Minnesota Automobile Dealer Association has testified regarding the issues, adding that she could not provide more specific information.

A motion was made by Council Member McCusker, seconded by Council Member Carpenter and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2324, supporting the maintenance of local license bureaus.

Staff Reports

Public Works Director Bergeson reported that new LED street lights have been installed by Xcel Energy. He reported that the ice rink was ready to use. He provided a reminder for the public to stay back from snow plows.

Library Director Miller reported that the new Library Assistant started that day.

Police Chief McCormick discussed dangers associated with the recent extreme temperatures. He noted that Police Officers have been doing extra patrols and recommended that citizens call to report disabled vehicles.

Administrator Johnson reported that the February 6 City Council meeting would need to be rescheduled or cancelled due to caucuses being held that evening.

Administrator Johnson reported that there have been inquiries regarding the maximum number of dogs that a Cannon Falls resident may own. He reviewed the current City Ordinance in this regard and provided comparison information pertaining to other communities. He offered to add this topic to a future City Council meeting agenda, if the Council wishes to further discuss this matter.

Administrator Johnson indicated that a request was received to consider a bow hunting season for deer within the City limits. He indicated that he would forward information from the requestor, who

had offered to share his ideas.

Council Member McCusker asked whether there have been complaints related to dogs. Chief McCormick indicated that, although the City requires that animals be licensed, he suspects that only a fraction of the total number is actually licensed each year. He indicated that, unless there were complaints, it was difficult to know whether there were violations or unlicensed animals. He suggested that, if the Council wished to discuss potential changes in terms of the number of dogs allowed, this discussion should also include licensing requirements.

Council Member McCusker commented regarding the increasing of the number of dog that would be allowed and suggested that the Police Commission discuss the issues and provide a recommendation.

Mayor Robinson referenced the amount of time that was spent discussing the chicken ordinance and asked how many chicken licenses have been issued. Chief McCormick reported that two licenses were issued in 2017, adding that some people may be waiting until this spring.

Council Member Dalton asked how many complaints have been received relative to someone having too many dogs and how many citations have been issued. Chief McCormick reported that no citations have been issued for too many dogs, adding that citations have been issued for excess barking. He noted that some residents are unaware of the limit and stated that the Police Department has been working to educate these residents. Chief McCormick indicated that enforcement is complaint driven.

Council Member McCusker asked about bow hunting. Council Member Dalton indicated that some communities have instituted bow hunting for herd management purposes. He asked how it would be determined whether or not there is an over-population of deer within the City limits. Mayor Robinson stated his understanding that the DNR is involved with deer hunts. Administrator Johnson provided additional information in this regard. Mayor Robinson suggested contacting the DNR to see if there is an issue before proceeding. Chief McCormick added that there are not many large parcels of land within the City limits, as there are in other communities, other than along the edges of the City. He offered to contact a local DNR official and bring back information for Council review.

Council Member McCusker commented that he has noted several deer behind his home and understands the concerns. He commented that the City owns land east of the disposal plant, which might be a good hunting area. He suggested further discussion of this topic.

Chief McCormick indicated that inquiries have been received regarding the south end of the City, the east side near the water tower, and some pertaining to the north side.

Mayor Robinson suggested checking further with the DNR. Chief McCormick indicated that the DNR does aerial counts this time of year.

Mayor and Council
Reports

Council Member McCusker expressed appreciation to City staff for their work during the recent cold weather. He expressed appreciation to the public for their input regarding the proposed winery expansion.

Council Member Carpenter thanked Director Bergeson and the Public Works Department for the excellent job clearing the snow and keeping the streets safe.

Council Member Mattson discussed the current challenges being experienced by the License Center.

Mayor Robinson commented with regard to State mandates.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 16th day of January, 2018.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator