

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson and Council Members Morris Mattson, Bill Duncan, Ken Carpenter, John Althoff, and Derek Lundell; Council Member Cedar Abadie was absent. Also present were Lanell Endres, Interim City Administrator; Greg Anderson, City Engineer; Mike Althoff, Fire Chief / 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.

Roll Call Upon call of the roll, present were Mayor Robinson and Council Members Mattson, Duncan, Carpenter, Lundell, and Althoff; 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 Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Public Input Babe O’Gorman indicated that he was asked to serve on the Public Works Commission by Council Member Abadie, but noted that she now opposes his appointment. He stated that there were a lot of issues that need to be addressed, such as meeting scheduling. He requested that the Council consider an exemption that would allow him to serve on the Public Works Commission. Mayor Robinson stated that the Public Works Commission would be discussing this matter and forwarding a recommendation to the City Council.

LeRoy McCusker, 100 Stoughton Street West, Cannon Falls, expressed concerns about personnel issues at City Hall and voiced support for hiring Dave Maroney as the new City Administrator. He stated that Mr. Maroney was very qualified to assume this position, adding that many communities were hiring from within. He suggested, if Dave Maroney was hired as the City Administrator, that Samantha Meyer assume the EDA responsibilities. He recommended that the Council consider taking action in this regard.

Kyle Paulson, President of the Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, discussed the Fun Fest on August 9, which would include 52 vendors, a bike carnival and parade, dance performances, and other activities.

Ms. Paulson also discussed the Chamber’s 27th Annual Golf Tournament, which would be held on September 27 at Gopher Hills. She reviewed sponsorship opportunities for this event.

Mr. McCusker requested an update with regard to Progressive Rail activities and a new auto dealership.

Public Hearing:
Resolution 2371,
Certifying Unpaid
Utility Charges to be
Collected with Taxes

Interim City Administrator Endres provided background information. She stated that on a quarterly basis a Public Hearing was held, after which unpaid utility charges were certified to be collected with property taxes. She stated that the Public Hearing provided an opportunity for citizens to speak to the City Council with regard to unpaid utility bills.

Mayor Robinson opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. When asked about the credit card option, Interim Administrator Endres stated that credit card usage had increased, but this had not necessarily decreased the amount of unpaid charges.

No one came forward to speak during the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:46 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Althoff, seconded by Council Member Carpenter and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2371, certifying unpaid utility charges to be collected with taxes.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending July 31, 2018
- B. Meeting Minutes for July 17, 2018, City Council Meeting
- C. Chainbreaker Bicycle Ride
- D. Temporary Liquor License for St. Pius V Catholic Church
- E. Resolution 2372, Authorizing Acceptance of a Monetary Donation by Cannon Falls Library Foundation
- F. Resolution 2373, Authorizing Acceptance of a Monetary Donation by Gemini, Inc.
- ~~G. Service Line Warranty Program Letters~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Duncan.
- H. Cannon Valley Rural Fire Association Fire Agreement
- I. Final Pay Request for Schumacher Excavating
- J. Fill Paramedic Vacancy
- K. Hire Unscheduled Part-Time Employee
- L. Application for Payment No. 2 for 2018 Street Improvement Project
- M. MMUA Delegate Appointment

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

Set Budget Workshop

Interim Administrator Endres provided background information regarding the budget process. She stated that the preliminary 2019 budget needed to be set by the end of September. She recommended the scheduling of a budget workshop for the Council to review the proposed budget and suggested scheduling the workshop on August 21, following the regular Council meeting. Council Members expressed agreement with this suggestion.

Third Street Bridge
Rehabilitation Project
and Resolution 2374

Goodhue County Engineer Greg Isakson stated that the resolution that the Council was being asked to consider pertained to the proposed bridge design for the Third Street Bridge rehabilitation project. He noted that, as a historic structure, any modifications could not change the bridge's character-defining features. He reviewed the roadway width and four components of the structure that did not meet current standards, including the traffic railing, the pedestrian rails, the vertical clearance, and the bridge load rating.

Engineer Isakson stated that adoption of Resolution 2374 would acknowledge that the project would not be held to the current standards. He recommended adoption of Resolution 2374.

Council Member Althoff asked about the use of grant funding. Engineer Isakson stated that a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society was used toward developing the bridge design. He discussed plans to apply for grant funding toward inspection costs. He noted that Federal and State funding would be requested to help cover project construction.

A motion was made by Council Member Carpenter, seconded by Council Member Lundell and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2374, approving bridge traffic railing, pedestrian railing, roadway width, vertical clearance, and load rating factor design exception requests for the proposed rehabilitation of Bridge L5391 project.

County Road 17
Discussion

Mayor Robinson referenced past Council discussion regarding County Road 17 and the need for a pedestrian/bicycle trail. City Engineer Anderson provided background information and reviewed past proposals. Council Member Althoff referenced discussion of speed concerns and asking Goodhue County to consider reducing the speed limit. He also expressed concerns about project costs. Engineer Anderson stated that there have been a number of project proposals. He agreed with a request to reduce the speed limit.

Mayor Robinson asked about the process to reduce the speed limit.

Police Chief McCormick stated that this would be a County decision, based upon a speed study conducted by the State. He stated his understanding that more information would be provided within the next couple of months. He stated that, even if the speed was lowered, this would not address all of the concerns. He noted that the shoulders were very narrow. He suggested that the City and the County try to find a more permanent solution to separate pedestrians from the roadway.

Council Members discussed safety issues. Council Member Duncan referenced past discussion of the options. Chief McCormick commented that changes in property ownership and new development have resulted in more variables.

Mayor Robinson suggested further discussion after the speed study results have been made available.

ZEF Energy

Interim Administrator Endres discussed a request from ZEF Energy to consider entering into an agreement relating to the installation of electric vehicle charging stations along the Highway 52 corridor.

Jim Losleben introduced himself as a manufacturer representative of ZEF Energy. He provided background information with regard to a recent financial settlement from Volkswagen. He stated that the MPCA has issued an RFP for 22 electric vehicle charging stations to be built around Minnesota. He stated that ZEF Energy was seeking community partners for its project bid, noting that the bid was due by August 15. He described the 50kW charging stations that would be built, owned, and operated by ZEF Energy. He discussed a request for a non-binding letter of intent for the City of Cannon Falls to work with ZEF Energy, if the bid was awarded. He clarified that there would be no cost to the City. He reviewed the proposed letter of intent.

Council Member Duncan asked whether the proximity of Cannon Falls, located between Rochester and the Twin Cities, was a factor. Mr. Losleben indicated that Cannon Falls was the last major city located outside the seven-county metropolitan area. He described Cannon Falls as a good location for an electric vehicle charging station. He noted that the company would not be allowed to install charging stations in the metro area due to the number of systems already in the area.

When asked whether Cannon Falls was the only community in the Highway 52 corridor that was being requested to be a partner,

Mr. Losleben reviewed the planned corridors and other communities that have been contacted.

Council Member Duncan asked whether ZEF Energy would work with the City to determine the best site for a charging station. Mr. Losleben stated that the City would be part of the decision-making process, which would include looking at economic and efficiency factors.

Mayor Robinson asked about lease payments. Mr. Losleben provided additional information in this regard.

Council Member Duncan asked Interim Administrator Endres for an opinion. She indicated that the City Attorney had reviewed the information and had no concerns, other than asking why the City would enter into an exclusive agreement with this company.

Council Members commented that a charging station would help bring people into Cannon Falls. It was noted that the letter of intent would be non-binding.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Carpenter and unanimously carried, to authorize staff to sign a letter of intent with ZEF Energy for the charging station project bid.

Mr. Losleben expressed appreciation for the support and noted that more information should be available by October.

Discuss Process for
City Administrator
Hiring

Interim Administrator Endres requested direction with regard to City Council involvement in the hiring process of a new city administrator. Mayor Robinson provided an update from the Personnel Committee regarding a plan to conduct first-round interviews with several candidates.

Council Members expressed agreement with the Personnel Committee's recommendation to conduct the first round of interviews and present finalist(s) to the City Council for consideration.

Service Line Warranty
Program Letters

Council Member Duncan referenced past discussion regarding the Service Line Warranty Program. He expressed concerns about the City being involved in this project.

Council Member Althoff expressed concerns about using local contractors.

Interim Administrator Endres provided additional information.

Council Member Carpenter noted that the suggested changes were made to the letter. He agreed with the use of local contractors.

Mayor Robinson expressed concerns about the City advertising for this company. Council Members suggested that the company send out their own letters.

Insurance coverage options were discussed.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan for the City to not participate in this process. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mattson. Council Member Althoff commented that there were not many communities in the area participating in this program. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Engineer Anderson provided an update with regard to the street improvement project. The cul-de-sac at the end of Minnesota Street was discussed. Engineer Anderson reported that the School Board voted to split the cost.

Fire Chief Althoff discussed the street dance and the Fire Department hiring process. He provided an update with regard to the new rescue truck. He discussed National Night Out.

Public Works Director Althoff discussed alley paving projects.

Chief McCormick discussed recent and upcoming events. He discussed the Chainbreaker Ride, which would come through Cannon Falls on August 11, noting that this was a fundraiser and not a race.

Interim Administrator Endres discussed the City Council and Mayor candidate filing process.

Interim Administrator Endres discussed the primary election on August 14 and the new electronic voting equipment.

Mayor and Council
Reports

Council Member Althoff asked about a policy relating to food vendors in the Downtown area. Chief McCormick referenced past discussion of this topic. Chief McCormick suggested further discussion of this topic.

Council Member Althoff asked if the new car dealership in the

downtown area had permits similar to the other dealership. Chief McCormick indicated that there may have been a zoning issue for the other dealership. Mayor Robinson requested that Interim Administrator Endres or Zoning Assistant Meyer look into this.

Progressive Rail activities were discussed. Chief McCormick provided additional background information. Mayor Robinson suggested monitoring the situation.

Council Member Mattson asked about playground equipment and LED lights. Interim Administrator Endres provided background information and an update with regard to the LED lights. Director Althoff indicated that he would follow up on this issue. Director Althoff discussed the playground equipment, noting that the Park Board would be discussing this project. Council Member Carpenter provided additional background information.

Mayor Robinson welcomed Mike Althoff as the new Public Works Director.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 21st day of August, 2018.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lanell Endres, Interim City Administrator