

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 2, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson and Council Members Morris Mattson, Cedar Abadie, Bill Duncan, Ken Carpenter, John Althoff, and Derek Lundell. Also present were Lanell Endres, Interim City Administrator; Greg Anderson, City Engineer; Mike Althoff, Fire Chief/Public Works Director; Nicole Miller, Library Director; and Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief.

Call to Order Mayor Robinson called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He expressed appreciation to the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department, Ambulance Service, City staff, Cannon Falls School District, citizens of Cannon Falls, and all of the volunteers who came forward to help with clean-up activities following the recent storm event.

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 Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Public Input Babe O’Gorman, 26980 Michael Avenue, Cannon Falls, complimented Public Works Director Althoff on doing a good job, before and after the disaster. He expressed concerns that Mayor Robinson told the public to place debris next to the street, stating that this made things more difficult for Public Works. He also expressed concerns that the proper procedure was not followed in terms of disciplining a Public Works employee and commented that Police Officers were “nit-picking.”

LeRoy McCusker, 100 Stoughton Street West, Cannon Falls, described how people worked together following the storm. He expressed appreciation to the City Council and City staff for their hard work and extra effort.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending September 27, 2018
- B. Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2018, City Council Meeting
- C. Temporary Liquor License and Street Closure Date Change Request for VFW Post 4452
- D. Resolution 2385, Accepting Donation of \$500.00 from Sjoquist Hay and Straw to the Fire Department

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

Consent Agenda as submitted.

Excessive Hours
Worked by Exempt
Employees During
Storm Event

Police Chief McCormick commented that he had been serving in an emergency manager capacity following the storm on September 20. He stated that he, along with the Public Works Director and the EMS Chief, have worked many extra hours. He referenced changes to the personnel policy that were approved by the City Council in 2016 with regard to compensating exempt employees for time worked during a local emergency. Chief McCormick stated that the Council has the ability to pay overtime or encourage employees to take time off to compensate for additional hours worked. He requested that the Council provide direction in this regard, so that schedule adjustments could be made if necessary.

Mayor Robinson commented that he spoke with the Director of the Goodhue County Office of Emergency Management, who indicated that the storm damage would most likely qualify for State aid and potentially for Federal aid, which may cover some of the overtime expenses. Chief McCormick stated his understanding that the State threshold had been met. He described the process of qualifying for Federal disaster relief. He discussed the timeline for this process to take place.

Council Member Duncan stated that the recent storm event met the threshold of above and beyond normal duties. He recommended paying Department Heads for reasonable overtime hours worked due to the storm. He suggested reviewing the documentation and waiting to see whether these costs would be partially covered by State or Federal disaster relief.

Chief McCormick stated that the Council could request that the hours be preserved for now and then take further action to authorize the payment of overtime hours, once a State or Federal disaster declaration has been made. He stated that he worked approximately 37 hours more than he normally would have during this period. Mayor Robinson suggested totaling these hours and including these costs in the disaster documentation. Chief McCormick requested direction from the Council in terms of preserving these hours until more information is known.

A motion was made by Council Member Althoff to preserve the hours for the three Department Heads, pending the outcome of the disaster declaration, with the matter to be revisited at that time. The motion was seconded by Council Member Duncan.

Mr. O’Gorman commented with regard to volunteer assistance and public perception.

Council Member Duncan referenced comments made by Public Works Director Althoff that volunteers from other communities should keep track of mileage, hours, etc., noting that these expenses may be reimbursed if State or Federal aid was approved. Public Works Director Althoff provided additional information in this regard, noting that assistance was requested from Red Wing, Pine Island, Inver Grove Heights, and Hastings. He added that employees from other municipalities also showed up to help out. Chief McCormick commented that this information would be incorporated into the disaster documentation.

Council Member Duncan asked about contractor assistance. Director Althoff discussed tree removal contractors.

Chief McCormick clarified that City staff were paid for the hours worked on Saturday, other municipal employees were compensated through their local unit of government, and other people volunteered their time. He discussed the reimbursement process through FEMA and the State.

A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

City Engineer Anderson provided a street improvement project update. Council Member Duncan asked about the wear coat. Mr. Anderson indicated that the wear coat would be applied toward the end of October, as the last step.

Library Director Miller reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the bike rack was delayed as a result of clean-up activities from the storm. She noted that the bike rack event had been rescheduled for October 6. She discussed other events and activities at the Cannon Falls Public Library.

Director Althoff discussed upcoming street work. He provided a dog park project update. He discussed tree and stump removal and boulevard patching that would be needed as a result of the storm and requested direction from the Council, noting that this work had not been budgeted.

Council Member Duncan asked about damage to utility lines. Director Althoff discussed gas lines that were damaged the night of the storm and subsequently. He referenced an article that will appear

in the *Beacon* with regard to stump removal precautions.

Council Member Duncan recommended getting as much done as possible before winter. He asked whether some of these costs could be added to the disaster documentation. Chief McCormick stated that performing this work now would allow these expenses to be documented as clean-up costs. Director Althoff commented that the LMCIT insurance adjuster agreed with this approach. Council Members expressed agreement with this plan.

Fire Chief Althoff discussed Fire Prevention Week activities. He thanked Fire Department, Public Works Department, and Ambulance Service staff for their tireless work.

Angels Care Center and Twin Rivers Senior Campus evacuations were discussed.

A park update was provided.

Chief McCormick reviewed recent press releases related to the storm. He reported that there were no storm-related injuries. He noted that, upon learning that the power would be out for two to three days, a local emergency was declared by Mayor Robinson. He discussed the decision to evacuate Angels Care Center and Twin Rivers Senior Campus.

Chief McCormick reported that his preliminary assessment counted at least 260 trees that were down, not including trees within the mobile home parks, the cemeteries, or City parks. He commented that the final number would be much higher. He stated that his preliminary assessment indicated that at least 33 buildings and 3 vehicles were damaged, again noting that the final number would be higher. He stated that he would be conducting a detailed assessment, which would provide a more complete picture of the damage to residential and commercial properties and other structures.

Chief McCormick reported that two tornadoes struck Cannon Falls on September 20, an EF-1 on the south side and an EF-0 on the north side, along with straight line winds.

Chief McCormick discussed the volunteer clean-up day that was held on September 29, with equipment and staff assistance from Inver Grove Heights, Hastings, Pine Island, and Red Wing. He stated that Public Works was planning to remove the remaining brush beginning on October 15. He clarified that Public Works would only be picking

up brush from the storm at that time. He suggested that people who do not have the ability to move brush to the curb contact the Police Department, which will be coordinating volunteer assistance.

Chief McCormick thanked College City Beverage, the Prairie Island Indian Community, Cannon Falls Ace Hardware, Merchants Bank, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Catholic United Disaster Recovery Team, C & S Vending, and Cannon Falls Public Schools for their donations and assistance during the clean-up day.

Chief McCormick recognized Police Department staff for their work and dedication. He discussed a Toward Zero Death event that was conducted on September 26, which focused on seatbelt usage and distracted driving. He stated that this event was planned months in advance. He referenced feedback from community members, both positive and negative, about this event. He stated that, although the timing was perhaps not ideal, this campaign was very important.

Interim Administrator Endres also expressed appreciation to City staff and the community for their support.

Mayor and Council
Reports

Council Member Duncan discussed volunteer assistance that was provided and how the community came together.

Council Member Abadie commented that, while she could understand the argument against conducting a TZD event during the storm clean-up period, nothing should negate the importance of encouraging seatbelt use.

Council Member Althoff agreed that he could see both sides of the TZD event discussion. He stated that perhaps the event should have been rescheduled. He relayed feedback from some of the volunteers, who stated that the clean-up day was very organized.

Council Members Lundell and Carpenter thanked City staff, volunteers, and the community for their efforts. Council Member Carpenter reported that a Park Board meeting was scheduled the night of the storm but that no business was conducted due to the lack of a quorum. Council Member Mattson expressed appreciation to the entire community.

Mayor Robinson described some of the volunteer efforts that occurred immediately following the storm. He discussed the evacuation process. He stated that eventually a meeting would be

held to discuss what went well and what could be improved in the future, including coordination with Goodhue County. He commented that he was very proud of how the residents of Cannon Falls came together.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lanell Endres, Interim City Administrator