

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor John Althoff and Council Members Morris Mattson, Bill Duncan, Derek Lundell, Mary Jill Bringgold, and Steve Gesme; Council Member Matt Montgomery was absent. Also present were Dave Maroney, City Administrator; Lanell Endres, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; Nicole Miller, Library Director; Tim Malchow, EMS Chief, and Sulo Kyyra, EMS Lieutenant.

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

Roll Call Roll call was conducted. Mayor Althoff and Council Members Lundell, Mattson, Duncan, Bringgold, and Gesme were present. Council Member Montgomery was absent.

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

Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Lundell and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda.

Public Hearing:
Resolution 2435,
Certifying Unpaid
Utility Charges to be
Collected with Taxes

Finance Director Endres noted that a Public Hearing was conducted quarterly to give citizens an opportunity to speak regarding proposed assessments for unpaid utility bills.

Mayor Althoff opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m. No one came forward to speak during the Public Hearing. Mayor Althoff closed the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Bringgold, to adopt Resolution 2435, certifying unpaid utility charges to be collected with taxes. Council Member Gesme inquired as to what this amount was. Finance Director Endres reported a total amount of \$15,021. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending August 15, 2019
- B. Meeting Minutes for August 7, 2019, City Council Meeting
- C. Meeting Minutes for August 7, 2019, City Council Work Session
- D. Resolution 2436, Approve Setback Variance for Tara and Justan Duden
- E. Support BCBS Grant Application
- F. Cable Studio Upgrades
- G. Hire PEG Access Technician
- H. Resolution 2437, Approve Property Conveyance

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

Council Committees/
Commissions
Reports

City Administrator Maroney noted that during a recent Public Works Commission meeting a problem with an artesian well in the Downtown area was discussed. He provided background information on this issue and summarized discussion of potential solutions. He noted that City staff was working out the details of a design and cost to address this problem. He noted that the issue originated in a building across the street from Mr. Nybo's building, describing this as an unusual situation. Mayor Althoff commented that he felt this was a problem that needed to be addressed. Tim Nybo provided additional background information with regard to the issues with the artesian well. He expressed appreciation for the City's cooperation in trying to get this problem resolved. Administrator Maroney commented that the City would continue to work with Mr. Nybo to determine a solution to address this issue along with identifying responsibilities. He stated that more specific information would be provided during a future Council meeting.

Council Member Lundell noted that the only thing on the Planning Commission's agenda was the Duden property variance, which was approved on the consent agenda.

Administrator Maroney commented regarding the proposed private advertising issue for the scoreboard at John Burch Park. He stated that the only way to accomplish this would be an amendment to the Sign Ordinance. He stated that he had been working on some draft language with the City Attorney. He noted that a Public Hearing on this topic would be conducted during the Planning Commission meeting in September.

Administrator Maroney provided an EDA update. He noted that an additional bid was received to remove asbestos and demolish the former Lee Chevrolet building. He stated that this bid was about \$13,000 less than an earlier bid. He reported that the EDA approved an authorization to go ahead with the demolition. He noted that City staff was working with the contractor to establish a demolition date, most likely the second or third week in September.

Administrator Maroney discussed a request for Goodhue County to delay an auction of the former Cannonball tax forfeited property. He provided details of different ways to deal with tax forfeited properties. Administrator Maroney noted that there would be site cleanup costs for the property. He referenced discussion by the Economic Initiatives Board and the EDA in this regard, who have agreed to work cooperatively. He reviewed next steps, including preparation of a RFP to complete an environmental review and analysis of the site prior to determining cleanup costs and exploring funding options. Mayor Althoff stated that he would like to see something developed there that was right for the property.

Staff Reports

Administrator Maroney reviewed plans for an upcoming joint meeting of economic partners for a discussion of ways to cooperate and market the community.

EMS Chief Malchow discussed a recent inspection by EMSRB, noting that the Ambulance Department did very well. Mayor Althoff commended EMS Chief Malchow on this accomplishment.

Library Director Miller provided an update on events going on at the Library. She also noted that the roof leak issue had been resolved.

Police Chief McCormick discussed a recent Cops and Cones for a Cause event, which provided funds and nonperishable items to donate to the Food Shelf. He also commented that the officers who participated in these events were doing so on their own time.

Finance Director Endres reported that the Cannon Falls Area School Board would be holding a special election on the first Tuesday in November, noting that by law a public meeting could not be held that evening, so the City Council meeting would need to be rescheduled.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Gesme reported that the Cable Commission met and discussed items that have been accomplished and a change in personnel.

Public Input

Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Kyle Paulson, President of the Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, reviewed an upcoming open house that would be held Downtown. She thanked all participants in the August Fun Fest. She reviewed upcoming events and information.

Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, commented that he felt Ms. Paulson should not be part of the Public Input portion of the meeting, in case she had some action she needed from the Council. He also commented that the public comes to City Hall and the Police Department to get facts. He expressed concerns that he has been accused of causing the resignation of former Public Works Director Althoff and that he caused the City to become a hostile work environment. He noted that he does not work at City Hall. He also referenced an event that had taken place after the last City Council meeting. He asked if Council Members had a plan for how these things would be handled in the future. He also inquired as to why a representative from the newspaper was not present and not reporting on these events. Mr. O’Gorman expressed agreement with Council Member Bringgold’s comments during the last meeting that the Council should have better protected Director Althoff. He also commented that he has not been responsible for any City employees leaving their jobs.

Tim Dehmer, Cannon Falls, noted he had recently been approached by several people stating that it was not clear to them what he was trying to say during previous City Council meetings. He noted that he had an unpleasant experience with a local business and that this caused him to question the integrity, knowledge, and courage of the Police Department and the City. He commented that he felt it was a good thing that the Council gave Mr. O’Gorman a chance to speak without cutting him off. He also stated that he agreed with Mr. O’Gorman’s comments regarding Ms. Paulson and the Chamber. Mr. Dehmer quoted several phrases from the motto of the Police Department and thanked the Council for their time.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold, seconded by Council Member Duncan and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 3rd day of September, 2019.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

David Maroney, City Administrator