

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 17, 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, Matt Montgomery, and Steve Gesme. Also present were Dave Maroney, City Administrator; Lanell Endres, Finance Director; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; and Nicole Miller, Library Director

Call to Order	Mayor Althoff called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Roll Call	All members were present.
Pledge of Allegiance	Mayor Althoff led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
Approval of Agenda	A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda.
Presentations: Toward Zero Death Presentation	Jessica Seide, Goodhue County Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Safe Roads Grant Coordinator, and Officer Marc Fluhrer, TZD Coordinator with the Cannon Falls Police Department, provided an overview of the TZD program. Coordinator Seide provided statistics on traffic fatalities, discussed factors that contribute to fatal crashes, and summarized the different ways the TZD program is trying to bring these numbers down. Officer Fluhrer discussed how several agencies are working together on enforcement efforts and reviewed programs related to driver safety. Coordinator Seide stated that they need everyone's help to attain the goal of zero deaths and thanked Council Members for their time.
Innovative Power Systems	<p>Patrick Weir from Innovative Power Systems provided Council Members with handouts about his company, a developer of community solar gardens. Mr. Weir reviewed information regarding solar gardens and subscription opportunities. He detailed current and proposed solar garden sites in Goodhue County and adjacent counties. He explained how the City of Cannon Falls could save money by signing up for a solar garden subscription and listed some other subscribers in the area.</p> <p>Council Member Bringgold stated her understanding that there would be no upfront or ongoing costs for the City. Mr. Weir stated that this is correct and explained how this is made possible.</p> <p>Mayor Althoff suggested that Mr. Weir send a subscription packet to City Administrator Maroney so the City Council could take a closer look at the information. Mr. Weir indicated that he will do this.</p>

Mr. Weir also noted that he met in the past with City staff to discuss land that may be available for a solar garden and described where this land is located.

Council Member Montgomery requested clarification of the minimum size of a plot of land that is needed for a solar garden. Mr. Weir stated that this is typically 7 to 8 acres, noting that they may be able to get it down to 6 to 8 acres. He described current laws governing the maximum megawatts of power for a community solar garden.

Council Member Bringgold asked if there was a minimum distance needed between gardens. Mr. Weir noted that this is different in each county and provided examples.

Mayor Althoff again encouraged Mr. Weir to send the information to Administrator Maroney, and stated that the Council will take a closer look.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending September 12, 2019
- B. Meeting Minutes for September 3, 2019, City Council Meeting
- C. Meeting Minutes for September 3, 2019, City Council Work Session
- D. Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 367, Amending Chapter 152 of the Cannon Falls City Code, the Zoning Ordinance Concerning Sponsorship Signs
- E. Resolution 2440, Approve Variance for McDonald's Signage
- F. Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 368, Amending Chapter 152 of the Cannon Falls City Code, Concerning the Zoning Map and Zoning Classification for Specific Property
- G. Resolution 2441, Approve Interim Use Permit
- H. ~~Approve Memorandum of Understanding and Appointment of Interim Public Works Director~~  
*This item was pulled by Council Member Gesme*
- I. Maintenance Operator II Revised Job Description

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Lundell and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus item H.

Council Business:

Resolution 2442,  
Adopting the  
Preliminary Tax Levy  
and Budget  
Collectible in 2020  
and Setting a Public

Finance Director Endres provided information on Resolution 2442, adopting a tax levy increase of 10.72% for the 2020 Budget. She noted that this has been discussed during previous work sessions. She summarized information related to budget line items that

Meeting Date

necessitate this increase. She noted that an increased tax capacity which the County has not yet calculated could result in a lower increase in property tax liability for taxpayers. She stated that the preliminary levy needs to be sent to Goodhue County by the end of the month. She clarified that the final levy percentage cannot be higher than the preliminary levy but can be lower. She noted that there will further discussion prior to the City Council adopting the final budget and levy later this year.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to approve Resolution 2442, adopting the preliminary tax levy and budget collectible in 2020 and setting a public hearing date of December 3, 2019.

Approve  
Memorandum of  
Understanding and  
Appointment of  
Interim Public Works  
Director

Council Member Gesme noted that he is not really against this; he just wanted to make sure that everyone is aware that “interim” does not necessarily mean “temporary.” He stated that the Interim Director will be expected to fulfill the obligations and responsibilities that come with the increase in salary, and that all members of the Public Works Department will need to respond to what the Interim Director directs them to accomplish. Mayor Althoff expressed agreement with these comments.

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement for the Interim Public Works Director.

Reports:

Council  
Committees/  
Commissions/  
Nonprofit  
Organizations

Kyle Paulson, President of the Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, displayed the new “I Love Cannon Falls” mugs that are available at the Chamber. She also provided details regarding the upcoming Flavors of the Falls event. Ms. Paulson also issued a reminder about community garage sales that will take place the weekend of September 20-21 and provided information on where the public can obtain details regarding this event.

Staff

Administrator Maroney discussed a recent Planning Commission meeting, noting that the Council has approved everything they had recommended at their last meeting.

Mayor Althoff provided information on the EDA meeting that was held last week with the Chamber of Commerce, Grow Cannon Falls, and the Economic Initiatives Board. He noted one of the items that was

discussed is they would all like to see a fulltime EDA Director appointed.

Administrator Maroney noted that this was the first time these four groups have met and stated he felt it was a great meeting. He noted they also discussed a “website central” to improve community promotions and coordination. He noted that there is grant funding available from the Blandin Foundation. He stated that he felt an excellent job had been done by everyone involved, including Amy Dombeck.

Administrator Maroney reported that during the regular meeting of the EDA they approved the hiring of an environmental consult to assist representatives of the EDA and Economic Initiatives in developing a plan for clean-up and redevelopment of the now tax forfeit property of the former Cannonball business. He also provided an update regarding progress with asbestos abatement and demolition of the former Lee Chevrolet building. He noted that gravel will be added to the site and that it will be used as added parking area for now.

Mayor Althoff commented that both of these sites are very important to Cannon Falls.

Library Director Miller provided an update of upcoming events at the Library. She noted that she has been going to different locations to sign more people up for library cards and renewals. She also stated that they are still looking for two more Library Board members – a Goodhue County resident and a City resident – and invited anyone who is interested to contact her.

Administrator Maroney reported that the first food truck license was issued to Don’s Crumbled Beef for the full year. He also noted that the grant application for the Third Street Bridge project has been submitted and thanked everyone who was involved in this process. He commented that the results of the application should be received in about two months, adding that there will be a presentation at that time. He summarized some of the details of the application and described how State and Federal grant funds would be used. Administrator Maroney noted that the Planning Commission will not be meeting on October 14 but will meet if needed. Administrator Maroney discussed another \$10,000 payment that was received from the Historical Society for the house next to the museum, bringing the total payments so far to \$45,000 of the \$186,000 purchase price.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Gesme asked Chief McCormick if he had received any complaints regarding Kirby Vacuum salespeople. Chief McCormick indicated that there have been complaints that some of these people are very pushy. Council Member Gesme asked whether permits are required. Chief McCormick discussed the permit requirement and described how the Police Department will handle this situation.

Council Member Gesme also noted that a citizen had called him regarding accumulating trash behind the former Rapp's Short Stop. Chief McCormick stated he had not heard about this but will check into this concern.

Council Member Duncan proposed the scheduling of a work session after the October 1 Council meeting to continue discussion of the budget, particularly the Police Department budget. It was agreed to schedule this budget work session.

Mayor Althoff discussed an open house at Lorentz Meats on Saturday, September 21. He also mentioned several upcoming events at the Cannon Valley Fairgrounds.

Mayor Althoff noted that in addition to Innovative Power Systems, there are two or three other companies that would like to provide a presentation to the Council. He suggested listening to all of these presentations before making any decisions.

Public Input

Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Babe O'Gorman, Cannon Falls, stated that he felt Mayor Althoff is doing a good job. He stated that getting all of the groups together, as had been discussed earlier, was an excellent idea. Mr. O'Gorman commented that he had a list of budget items to share with the Council so they could be discussed during the work session.

Adam Peters, Cannon Falls, stated that he has talked with several people and Council Member Gesme regarding delinquent water bills. He reviewed the procedure that had been in place for delinquent water bills when he was a resident of Red Wing. He suggested implementing a similar process in Cannon Falls to help eliminate delinquent utility bills and property tax assessments.

Tim Dehmer, Cannon Falls, discussed sessions that will be held at the Cannon Falls Library beginning on September 18 called "Can We Talk". He described these as civil conversations about issues that

matter. He noted that the first meeting will focus on what citizens want for Cannon Falls over the next 20 years.

Mr. Dehmer discussed a positive comment he received from someone on Facebook, applauding him for speaking during City Council meetings. He expressed his hope for honest and thoughtful discussions regarding his concerns.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Mattson and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2019.

---

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

David Maroney, City Administrator