

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 1, 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; Nicole Miller, Library Director; and Wes Anway, Interim Public Works 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 Duncan, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda.

Presentations:
Novel Energy
Solutions City Administrator Maroney introduced Rick Masloski of Novel Energy Solutions and referenced a solar project in the Sandstone Ridge development that the Company has been considering.

Mr. Masloski discussed the benefits of the Minnesota Community Solar Garden Program. He provided a summary of the two options that Novel Energy Solutions provides for solar garden subscriptions. Mr. Masloski reviewed the history of Novel Energy Solutions and discussed changes that have occurred in the community solar garden industry. He reviewed the rules of the new program, discussed the estimated cost savings, provided a brief explanation of the solar credit that would be listed on the billing statement, and listed names of cities and other entities that have subscribed to the Novel Energy Solutions program. He discussed eligible solar garden sites.

Council Member Bringgold asked if the power would always be obtained from the same solar garden. Mr. Masloski stated that there is really no way to know from which garden the power would originate and discussed how the energy savings is calculated. Mr. Masloski noted that solar gardens are meant to save customers money and also help the environment. He commented that Novel Energy Solutions has been working with SEMMCHRA on a project in the Sandstone Ridge development.

Council Member Bringgold requested clarification of the guaranteed savings.

Mr. Masloski provided additional information in this regard.

Mayor Althoff thanked Mr. Masloski for the presentation and encouraged

him to forward a Subscription Agreement to Administrator Maroney for further consideration. Mr. Masloski noted that Administrator Maroney already has the packet.

Administrator Maroney provided an update regarding the Sandstone Ridge property. He noted that the City continues to work with SEMMCHRA and Goodhue County with regard to potential options for development of this property. He referenced a proposal to vacate some rights-of-way and eliminate some easements in order to work on cleaning up the title on the Sandstone Ridge property. He noted that there is interest in working with Novel Energy Solutions or other companies to possibly develop a solar garden.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending September 26, 2019
- B. Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2019, Council Meeting
- ~~C. Second Reading and Adoption, Ordinance 367, Amending Chapter 152 of the Cannon Falls City Code, the Zoning Ordinance, Concerning Sponsorship Signs
This item was pulled by Council Member Montgomery~~
- D. Second Reading and Adoption, Ordinance 368, Amending Chapter 152 of the Cannon Falls City Code, Concerning the Zoning Map and Zoning Classification for a Specific Property
- E. Hire Unscheduled Part-Time Employee for Ambulance Department
- F. Resolution 2443, Accepting Grant of \$500 for Farmers Market
- G. Warning Siren Annual Service Agreement
- H. Resolution 2444, Accepting a Donation of \$350 from the Cannon Falls Cruisers to the Police Department Reserves Program

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

Council Business:

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 367, Amending Chapter 152 of the Cannon Falls City Code, the Zoning Ordinance, Concerning Sponsorship Signs

Council Member Montgomery requested clarification of the Ordinance language indicating “For City Parks and City Athletic Complexes Sponsorship Signage, if Approved by the City Council.” He asked if that meant that the City Council would approve the ability to place the sponsorship signs, or if the Council would also approve the sponsors who get to use the signage.

Administrator Maroney clarified that Ordinance 367 would allow sponsorship signs to be requested for approval by the City Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Montgomery, seconded by

Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 367, concerning sponsorship signs.

Reports:
Council
Committees/
Commissions/
Nonprofit
Organizations

Kyle Paulson, President of the Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, summarized the upcoming calendar of events. She noted that event schedules for the Flavors of the Falls have been distributed. Ms. Paulson requested approval from the Council for parking to be blocked off in front of two of downtown murals – the mural on the Burkhardt Building and the Althoff mural – in order for the historical trolley tour to get close enough for participants to view the murals properly. She provided details regarding Flavors of the Falls activities, including trolley rides. She noted that she has worked with Administrator Maroney and MnDOT with regard to parking spaces for the trolleys. A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to block off parking in front of two murals and allow the requested parking spaces for the trolleys.

Council Member Montgomery provided an update from a recent Cannon Valley Trail Joint Powers Board meeting. He noted that a new vendor was approved on a trial basis to provide bike rentals, which will be located at Welch, and explained the process for this. Council Member Bringgold noted that a grant was approved to provide new toilets near one of the bridges. It was noted that construction will begin on the bridges around October 10, with bridges and portions of the trail being closed.

Staff

Interim Public Works Director Anway noted that hydrant flushing will begin on October 7 and will take approximately 2-1/2 weeks. He also noted that the new equipment that was approved has arrived.

Library Director Miller provided an update of upcoming events at the Library. She noted that during the Minnesota Library Association Conference in September she provided a presentation on how to start a fitness program in a public library. She commented that she was very happy with the attendance at this presentation.

Police Chief McCormick provided an update on the events taking place during Homecoming Week and also the upcoming Flavors of the Falls. He noted that there may be some increased congestion during this busy weekend.

Administrator Maroney introduced Wes Anway, Interim Public Works Director, and commented that he has been doing a great job since

taking over the position.

Administrator Maroney discussed an upcoming meeting that will take place at Tim Nybo's building to look at the stormwater issue. He noted that yesterday he, Mayor Althoff, Interim Director Anway, Tony Haan, and Beau Kennedy of the Soil and Water Conservation District climbed the hill at Grove Street to inspect the stormwater drainage problem area and try to find a reasonable solution.

Administrator Maroney noted that Nokomis Partners is another solar provider that is interested in providing a presentation and asked if the Council would like to hear from them on October 15. Mayor Althoff expressed his interest in hearing a presentation from them also. Administrator Maroney commented that all three companies are credible and capable. He stated that he will contact Nokomis Partners to see if they are available to provide a presentation on October 15. He noted that he has received a Subscription Agreement from Patrick Weir of Innovative Power Systems. He discussed involvement by the City Attorney. Mayor Althoff suggested scheduling a brief work session for further discussion of the options.

Administrator Maroney commented that the Harvest Fest event at Artisan Plaza was very successful. Mayor Althoff expressed agreement with this.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Gesme commented that he first met Interim Public Works Director Anway at the Eighth Street lift station on a Sunday night. He expressed appreciation for him coming out to help.

Council Member Montgomery thanked the ninth grade civics class participants who were in attendance.

Council Member Lundell asked if there will be a Homecoming Parade. Chief McCormick noted that he has not been contacted regarding this.

Mayor Althoff commented that he would like to see the City initiate a solar garden subscription as soon as possible.

Mayor Althoff discussed a Habitat for Humanity project, noting that an invitation has been extended for Council Members to attend an upcoming appreciation dinner.

Mayor Althoff provided an update regarding demolition of the former Lee Chevrolet building.

Public Input

Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, noted that during the last Council meeting he requested that someone contact him regarding the budget but no one contacted him. He commented that he then sent an email along with all the data to all of the Council Members and noted that Mayor Althoff contacted him. He expressed appreciation for this along with the time and effort the Mayor Althoff puts into his job. He also expressed appreciation for the job being done by Administrator Maroney. He stated his hope that the Council Members will assist Mayor Althoff and Administrator Maroney regarding City issues.

Gary Sigmeth, Cannon Falls Township, stated that he wanted to discuss the donation to the Police Department. He provided background information on the Cannon Cruisers and its mission related to community service projects. He commented that members wanted to donate to the Police Department because they did an outstanding job during cruising events. He expressed his appreciation to the Police Department.

Tim Dehmer, Cannon Falls, commented that he had hoped for an opportunity to discuss his issues. He stated his hope that more community members will become interested and involved in City government.

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 7:22 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 15th day of October, 2019.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

David Maroney, City Administrator