

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 15, 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, Nicole Miller, Library Director; and Joe Berg, Police Lieutenant.

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| 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 Lundell and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda. |
| Proclamation Designating Cannon Falls a Purple Heart City | Mayor Althoff read a proclamation to make Cannon Falls a Purple Heart City and designating the week of October 20-26, 2019, as the week to remember and recognize veterans who are the recipients of the Purple Heart medal. He stated that the City of Cannon Falls has adopted the standards necessary to be designated a Purple Heart City. |
| Presentation: Purple Heart Program | Mayor Althoff introduced Richard Johnson, retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel and representative of the Purple Heart program, who provided background information regarding the program. Colonel Johnson noted that the Military Order of the Purple Heart Minnesota would present two free signs to Cannon Falls, which would be hung right below the welcome to Cannon Falls signs. Mayor Althoff recognized audience members representing the American Legion and the VFW and also Purple Heart recipient Chad Sheridan. |
| Presentation: Nokomis Partners | <p>City Administrator Maroney introduced Corey Orehek, representative of Nokomis Partners. Mr. Orehek discussed the company and the community solar garden subscriptions offered by Nokomis Partners. He discussed community solar gardens in the area and provided examples of local subscribers. He noted that Xcel Energy buys the electricity from the solar garden and explained how this funds the solar garden. Mr. Orehek detailed the requirements to subscribe to a solar garden. He discussed the benefits of participating as a community solar garden subscriber.</p> <p>Mr. Orehek emphasized that the solar gardens were designed to be as inconspicuous as possible. He discussed the benefits of solar power. He summarized the proposal that was presented to the City</p> |

and explained the billing system. He provided details regarding the signing bonus that Nokomis Partners provided to new subscribers.

Council Member Mattson asked about the time period between signing up for a subscription and when the system would be ready. Mr. Orehek explained the process and reviewed the time frame. Council Member Bringgold asked whether the City would eventually be involved in three gardens, and Mr. Orehek indicated that this could be the case.

Council Member Gesme asked about any risks to the City. Mr. Orehek explained that the City would be prohibited from generating energy on-site. He also noted that the City would only receive bill credits when the solar gardens were producing energy.

Council Member Duncan noted that there were misconceptions in the community with regard to solar garden subscriptions. He asked for clarification that there were no upfront costs. Mr. Orehek indicated that this was correct. Council Member Duncan also requested clarification that the City was not building a solar garden and using up land. Mr. Orehek indicated that this was correct and also provided reassurance that the land used for his company's solar gardens was all low-yield rural land.

Council Member Bringgold commented that people have actually used the word "scam" in conjunction with solar garden subscriptions. She stated that she had received a lot of questions about how much money the City was investing, and noted that people found it hard to believe that nothing was being invested. Mr. Orehek reiterated how this was made possible.

Council Member Duncan asked Mr. Orehek if there was a buyout option. Mr. Orehek stated that there was a buyout option and provided details of this.

Council Member Duncan asked Administrator Maroney whether the City Attorney would be reviewing the proposals provided by all three solar garden companies.

Administrator Maroney noted that he would prepare a summary of the three proposals for the next Council meeting, adding that all three contracts have similar language. Mayor Althoff suggested that Council Members discuss this information during the work session following the next Council meeting.

Consent Agenda

~~A. Just and Correct Claims — Accounting Period Ending October 10, 2019~~

This item was pulled by Mayor Althoff

B. Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2019, City Council Meeting

C. Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2019, City Council Work Session

~~D. Application for Payment No. 4 (Final) for Alexander Court~~

This item was removed at the request of Mayor Althoff

E. Resolution 2445, Accepting a Grant of \$3000 from Compeer Financial for Purchase of Ambulance Equipment

~~F. Approve Revised Job Description for the Utility Billing Clerk, Receptionist, Office Assistant Position~~

This item was pulled by Council Member Bringgold

G. Resolution 2446, Accepting a Grant of \$2000 from Minnesota Energy Resources/Wisconsin Public Service Foundation to the Cannon Falls Fire Department

H. Resolution 2447, Accepting a Donation of \$1500 from the Cannon Falls Fire Department Relief Association to the Fire Department

~~I. Handgun Replacement~~

This item was pulled by Council Member Duncan

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

Approve Revised Job Description for the Utility Billing Clerk, Receptionist, and Office Assistant Position

Council Member Bringgold inquired regarding the salary and benefits of the utility billing clerk, receptionist and office assistant position in terms of whether there would be a percentage allocated to the different departments involved. Administrator Maroney noted that this was still being discussed, as this position would be performing additional administrative and receptionist duties outside of the Public Works Department. He stated that the percentage of duties outside of the Public Works Department would not be significant during the first year and may have to be looked at after that.

Council Member Montgomery asked if this position would be a new position, a full-time hire, or a reallocation of duties. Administrator Maroney stated that the largest percentage of this job would be utility billing / Public Works administration but also would include some administrative and receptionist duties for the City in general.

Administrator Maroney commented that they were trying to better manage and limit the number of calls and citizens coming into and out of the Public Works building every day, so this position would be housed in City Hall.

Council Member Lundell expressed concerns about physically moving this position from the Public Works Building and commented that this would hurt the Public Works Department, as this area was already short staffed. He also stated his opinion that, with the Police Department budget unknown at this time, the City should not be filling this position until that budget was decided. Council Member Lundell also requested Interim Public Works Director Anway's opinion with regard to moving this position from the Public Works Building.

Council Member Duncan expressed disagreement with Council Member Lundell's comments, noting that the person who was currently handling the utility billing was located in City Hall and performing those duties in addition to their current position, which was a lot of responsibility. Council Members discussed the pros and cons of locating this position in City Hall as opposed to the Public Works Building.

Council Member Duncan also noted that he felt there was a safety issue with this individual working in the Public Works Building alone. He noted that if Public Works employees need to contact the person in this position, they were out and about anyway, so it would not matter where this individual was housed.

Administrator Maroney stated that he met with Interim Public Works Director Anway and the entire Public Works Department and that this topic had been discussed. He commented that from the customer's perspective City Hall was a better location, but it would be a change for the Public Works Department and would take some adjustment on their part. He summarized both sides of this issue and stated that he did not feel that the Public Works Department regarded this as a significant concern.

It was decided there would be no action taken on this matter until after the budget meeting.

Handgun
Replacement

Council Member Duncan stated that he felt the matter regarding handgun replacement should be postponed until after the second meeting in November, in order for the budget to be better defined. He stated his opinion that waiting until then would not make any real difference.

Police Lieutenant Berg provided additional background information. He provided rationale for making this purchase in the current budget year and discussed how the equipment would be funded.

Council Member Duncan clarified that he was just asking to wait until after the Police Department's budget was discussed. Lieutenant Berg clarified that the expense would come from the 2019 budget.

Council Member Montgomery suggested, as long as the funds were available in the 2019 budget and the Police Department was trying to be fiscally responsible with the equipment upgrade, that the request be approved at this time.

Council Member Mattson requested clarification of the total cost. It was clarified that the total expense would be \$2,367.00. Lieutenant Berg noted that some of the guns would be eligible for trade-in credits. He also discussed ammunition, noting that this expense was not being addressed at this time.

Council Member Duncan asked why this matter was coming up now, when it was first brought up in February. Council Member Bringgold expressed her understanding that the Police Department was trying to make this purchase from the 2019 budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Montgomery, seconded by Council Member Gesme, to approve the handgun replacement proposal. A vote was taken. Council Members Lundell, Bringgold, Mattson, Montgomery, and Gesme voted aye; Council Member Duncan voted nay. The motion carried by a vote of 5:1.

Just and Correct
Claims – Accounting
Period Ending
October 10, 2019

Mayor Althoff noted that he had questions regarding the 2018 street project related to two checks – one for \$1,287 and one for \$8,771 – to SEH. He requested an explanation of these payments. Finance Director Endres explained that these payments pertain to engineering costs and noted that the invoices were from earlier in the year but were being held due to some questions.

Mayor Althoff stated his recollection that there was a mistake made regarding a \$5,200 bill for the cul-de-sac by the school and wondered if this was part of these payments. Finance Director Endres reviewed how these invoices are submitted. She stated that the bills show the hourly rate per individual who works on the project by category, but they do not necessarily have the name of the individual and it is not billed by what they worked on within the project, just for the general overall project.

Mayor Althoff and Council Member Mattson expressed concerns about the billing process. Finance Director Endres explained that the

cul-de-sac issue was not a change order, so there was nothing to separate it from the rest of the project.

Administrator Maroney suggested that City Engineer Greg Anderson be asked to explain this further during the next Council meeting. Council Member Duncan inquired what should be done at this point. Council Member Bringgold asked if this invoice had already been paid. Finance Director Endres stated that she did not know if the check had been mailed, but noted it may have been since it was an old invoice and they try to get those paid as quickly as possible.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Mattson and unanimously carried, to approve the just and correct claims but to discuss this item with City Engineer Anderson during the next Council meeting.

Council
Committees/
Commissions Reports

It was clarified if the next City Council meeting would be on Wednesday, November 6 due to the school board election being held on Tuesday, November 5.

Administrator Maroney provided an update from a recent EDA meeting. He noted that recommendations had been made by the EDA regarding the industrial development project in the industrial park. He noted that two issues would come to the City Council regarding this project, with the first issue pertaining to the current policy and fees for the sewer and water access charges, and the other issue pertained to tax increment financing. He explained that the EDA was recommending that there be an adjustment and some forgiveness in the water access charge for this project. He explained the reasons for this recommendation. Administrator Maroney noted there would be an official request provided to the Council on November 6 from the EDA. He stated that the recommendation from the EDA to the Council was that a 9-year tax increment financing district be looked at for this project. He explained the process for this and noted that the owner of the business was proposing to purchase the land this year and construct the building next year. He noted that more details would be provided during the November 6 meeting.

Council Member Bringgold asked whether this was a manufacturing or warehousing project. Administrator Maroney explained that this was an existing family-owned business that served industrial-type businesses.

Council Member Gesme asked if this project involved land that the EDA owned. Administrator Maroney clarified this was not EDA-

owned land, that it was on privately owned land, and provided a description of where this land was located.

Council Member Bringgold asked if this land was currently in the industrial park. Administrator Maroney provided clarification that this was the case and also stated that the EDA felt this was a good fit for the industrial park in Cannon Falls.

Council Member Bringgold inquired as to how many employees would be involved. Administrator Maroney stated that the company currently employed about 30 people.

Administrator Maroney noted that the Lee Chevrolet building demolition had been completed and the EDA would move forward to the next phase of redevelopment for the site. He noted that there were still some soil issues to be dealt with, but for now the site would serve as a parking area while the EDA moved forward to look for a private interest to redevelop the property.

Mayor Althoff noted that there will be a meeting with Goodhue County on October 24 regarding the former Cannonball property.

Mayor Althoff also noted that there has been discussion with Greg Jablonske regarding his interest in developing part of his 120-acre property. He noted that there has also been discussion with Mr. Jablonske about purchasing a few acres of his land to divert water from Grove Street.

Staff Reports

Administrator Maroney provided an update on a recent Personnel Committee meeting, during which the utility clerk position was discussed. He also noted that the deadline for applications for the Maintenance II position had passed and commented that there were some good candidates. He noted that efforts would be made to step up advertising for the Public Works Director position.

Library Director Miller noted that there was not a quorum for the last Library Board meeting. She discussed an upcoming event at the Library. She noted that the date of the next Library Board meeting had been changed to Monday, November 18, due to the Veterans Day holiday.

Police Lieutenant Berg thanked Finance Director Endres for providing information for the 2020 budget planning process.

Lieutenant Berg discussed recent burglaries and issued a reminder to citizens to lock their windows and doors. He also encouraged citizens to remain alert and report any unusual activity. Lieutenant Berg thanked Goodhue County law enforcement for their assistance. He commented that the Police Department was looking forward to the Trick-or-Trot event.

Administrator Maroney referenced a letter from Cannon Falls School District Superintendent Jeff Sampson regarding a strategic planning meeting on October 21. He noted that Council Members were all invited and encouraged to attend that meeting if possible.

Administrative Maroney provided background information and an update regarding the Sandstone Ridge area. He noted that the Southeast Minnesota Multi-County HRA and Goodhue County were trying to remedy some issues, including the land title. He provided details regarding this issue and noted the City has been requested to help remedy some of the issues. He commented that Goodhue County and SEMMCHRA representatives would like to meet with the City representatives, potentially during a work session on November 13, to discuss the title issues and the future of the Sandstone Ridge area, including relating to park land and road access. He also referenced issues relating to land use for a solar garden. A discussion took place relating to the issues. It was noted that November 13 would work for a work session to discuss these matters.

Mayor and Council
Reports

Council Member Gesme requested an update with regard to drainage concerns expressed by Jim Hernke. Administrator Maroney stated that City Engineer Greg Anderson was working with Johnson & Scofield on topography information and a potential solution.

Mayor Althoff referenced past discussion to request an update from Blaize Holden from Sustane. Council Members noted that they have not received any complaints. Following discussion, it was decided to revisit this matter if there were further complaints or issues.

Public Input

Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Brenda Voshalike, Cannon Falls, referenced her past comments to the City Council relating to the City budget, stating that she may have been misunderstood. She summarized the points that she made during the prior meeting.

Ms. Voshalike commented that the only department that has been asked to cut its budget was the Police Department. She asked whether this was related to a need for budget cuts or related to a personality issue. She summarized her work history with the Public Safety Department. She suggested that instead of cutting down these individuals, people should be thanking them for the job they do. She suggested that perhaps the fact that the crime rate was so low was due to the work of the Police Department. She recommended concentrating on ways to increase revenue for the City, as opposed to focusing on budget cuts.

Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, distributed information to Council Members. He expressed support for the Cannon Falls Police Department and also commended the Mayor and Council for looking into the administrative costs. He referenced past discussion of the Police Department budget. He expressed concerns about administrative costs and the work of the Police Chief. He stated his understanding that the Police Chief wanted to cut a patrol officer and questioned if that was what the Council wanted. He reviewed statistics related to the number of police calls the prior year. He discussed mutual aid agreements and assistance provided by Goodhue County law enforcement.

Mr. O’Gorman stated that last year Police Chief McCormick attended seven conferences, at a cost of several thousand dollars. He commented that mandatory training was necessary, adding that it was the Council’s job to help determine what that was. He questioned why the Council had not looked into overtime pay to exempt employees following a tornado, which was to be submitted to FEMA for reimbursement. He also questioned why there was security detail being provided at the winery by the Police Department.

Joe Sheryak, Cannon Falls, commented that he has lived in Cannon Falls for 13 years. He stated that he did not understand why the City was looking to cut the Police Department’s budget, as they protect the citizens of Cannon Falls and they were the first people to respond to every emergency.

Jon Grimes, Cannon Falls, commented that he was shocked to hear the City Council ask the Police Department what a 5-15 percent budget cut would look like. He noted that Chief McCormick stated a cut that size would need to include cutting staff. He noted that no other department had been asked to make cuts to their budget. Mr. Grimes commented that if there were cuts to the Cannon Falls Police Department, the residents of Cannon Falls would be placed at risk

along with the members of the Police Department. He provided the example of a scenario of a home burglary at 2:00 a.m. and what could occur as a result of the proposed cuts. He commented that the cuts could result in unintended consequences.

Mr. Grimes commended Chief McCormick and Lieutenant Berg for the job they have done. He commented that the safety of the residents and the officers needed to be a priority with the Council. Mr. Grimes stated that if the Council was looking to make cuts in the budget, they needed to look at all the departments in the City and not just the Police Department.

Josh Witt, Cannon Falls, noted that he was not in agreement with cutting the Police Department's budget. He provided information regarding the size of the Cannon Falls Police Department compared to other cities of similar size. He noted that if any positions would be cut, that would leave the Police Department understaffed. Mr. Witt also provided statistics on money spent on public safety in Cannon Falls compared to its peer group, noting that Cannon Falls spends slightly above the median but well below the maximum compared with other cities. Mr. Witt referenced recent budget discussions, during which it was suggested that the starting point should be the 2019 budget. He commented that this was not a relevant number from which to start. He provided reasons for this and also provided relevant numbers with which to work. He commented that from his perspective the Police Department's budget seemed reasonable. He suggested that the Council consider budget cuts in areas that were not essential services.

Adam Peters, Cannon Falls, suggested that the Council review administrative costs and redundancies within the Police Department. He commented that other City departments were also not running smoothly. He suggested working together to build a better community.

Sam Jennings, Cannon Falls, stated that the Police Department did an excellent job and that crime rates were low. He added that staff members were friendly and did a lot of community outreach for which they were not paid. He commented that going after them does nothing for community morale. He suggested focusing on long-term fiscal responsibility.

Mike LeVesque, Cannon Falls, suggested considering the area's students. He discussed potential negative impacts in terms of emergency response times. He noted that he has three daughters

who have medical needs and the public safety personnel of Cannon Falls know how quickly they need to respond to his address. He stated that the City needed to keep the force going as they are needed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Joe Gerten, Cannon Falls, discussed the number of criminals who were picked up in Cannon Falls, due to its location along a major transportation corridor. He noted that he previously drove for a tow company and had to deal with a lot of those crimes.

Mr. Gerten suggested considering crimes that were committed in the surrounding area. He commented that cutting the Police force would open the door for more crime to come to Cannon Falls.

Ashley Evans, Cannon Falls, stated that she was a Victim Services Advocate for Goodhue County and worked primarily out of the Cannon Falls High School and Middle School. She discussed the relationships that have been built and the impacts that Cannon Falls Police officers have had on the children of Cannon Falls and the community.

Patricia Reed, Cannon Falls, noted that her youngest child has down syndrome and went missing in May. She stated that due to the efforts of the Cannon Falls Police Department, he was returned safely. She commented that she knows several of the officers and understands the weight these officers feel for the jobs they perform and how it affects their families. She stated that the Cannon Falls Police Department needed the support of the community.

Guy Wilts, Lakeville, Minnesota, stated that he was a Project Manager for Shire Construction. He discussed his frustration with the lack of communication from City staff related to a house that his company was trying to build at 116 Limestone Road. He detailed some of the issues with this project. He commented that he felt a good source of income for the City would be to allow more houses to be built; adding that if the City did not make the process easier this would not be possible. He requested that someone look into this issue.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Mattson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 6th day of November, 2019.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

David Maroney, City Administrator