

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor John Althoff and Council Members Morris Mattson, Bill Duncan, Mary Jill Bringgold, Derek Lundell (remotely), Matt Montgomery (remotely), and Steve Gesme (remotely). Also present were Dave Maroney, City Administrator; Neil Jensen, incoming City Administrator; Mike Althoff, Fire Chief; and Tim Malchow, EMS Chief.

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 Council Member Montgomery requested an addition to the Agenda regarding discussion of turning on the lights at John Burch Park in honor of the Class of 2020.

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

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending April 2, 2020
- B. Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2020, City Council Meeting
- C. Resolution 2476, Authorize Purchase and Acceptance of Land for the Third Street Bridge Project
- D. Approve 2020 Goodhue County Mutual Aid Fire Service Agreement
- E. Approve Boat Trade-In and Boat Purchase for Fire Department
- F. Resolution 2474, Accepting a Monetary Donation from Cannon Falls Fire Department Relief Association in the amount of \$2,500
- G. Approve Welch Mill to Use Riverside Park to Launch Canoes and Kayaks
- H. Authorization to Change Bank Signature Cards

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

Council Business:

Resolution 2475,
Designating Building
as Structurally
Substandard

City Administrator Maroney noted that this is a continuation of the project to redevelop the former Cannonball site. He provided an update regarding the current status of the project.

Administrator Maroney provided an explanation of the process that needs to be followed to allow a City to preserve the opportunity to legally establish a Tax Increment District in the event that the Council

decides to do this in the future. Administrator Maroney commented that adoption of Resolution 2475 would pre-qualify the existing building as substandard and allow for flexibility in terms of potential future financing options.

A motion was made by Council Member Mattson, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to approve Resolution 2475, designating the building as structurally substandard.

Approving
Development
Agreement for
Carstensen Rentals
LLC (TIF District
No. 2-8)

Administrator Maroney referenced the previous Public Hearing and approval by the City Council of a tax increment financing plan for the Carstensen trucking project. He noted that, with the adoption of this plan, the builder/developers have been allowed to access the site. He referenced the TIF plan and the discussion of a development note and agreement and provided details in this regard.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Mattson and unanimously carried, to approve the development agreement for Carstensen Rentals, LLC (TIF District No. 2-8).

John Burch Park
Lights

Council Member Montgomery referenced a program called "Lights Across Minnesota," which involves high schools lighting up their athletic fields to honor the graduating classes of 2020 and all of the events they will miss out on this spring. He reviewed a proposal he received that on Wednesday nights at 8:20 p.m., which in military time would be 2020, the lights at John Burch Park will be turned on for 20 minutes and 20 seconds. He noted that people would be encouraged to walk by or drive by to show their support and community unity, while practicing proper social distancing.

A motion was made by Council Member Montgomery, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to turn on the lights at John Burch Park on Wednesday nights at 8:20 p.m. for 20 minutes and 20 seconds, as long as the Stay at Home order is in place or until students are allowed to return to school.

Reports:

Council
Committees/
Commissions

Incoming City Administrator Jensen reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on March 26. He noted that Council Member Bringgold was appointed as Chairperson. He noted that Abdo, Eick, and Meyers has compiled a financial report and recommendations. Administrator Jensen noted that City staffing and operations during the Stay at Home order were discussed.

Administrator Jensen noted that the Finance Committee also discussed two parcels of land for potential purchase by the City.

Council Member Bringgold reported the Library Board conducted a meeting on March 27 via Zoom, and a decision was made that the Library would continue to allow employees to work on site and at home. She noted that another meeting is scheduled on April 10 to reevaluate this issue. Mayor Althoff noted that he and Council Member Bringgold will attend this Library Board meeting on April 10 and requested input from the City Council.

Staffing issues and potential options were discussed relating to Cannon Falls Library and DVS Office personnel during the Stay at Home order. Authority relating to the decision-making process was clarified. Administrator Jensen provided additional information in this regard. It was suggested to treat staff as fairly as possible, even if this means staff will not be treated equally due to differing circumstances. Mayor Althoff reiterated that he and Council Member Bringgold will attend the Library Board meeting on April 10 and will discuss staffing issues. Council Members expressed agreement with the proposed approach.

Council Member Bringgold noted that the Joint Powers Trail Board did not meet on March 24, adding that the next meeting is scheduled on April 28.

Staff

Fire Chief Althoff noted that the Fire Department along with other departments that are dealing with public safety and healthcare are facing many challenges presently. He noted that the biggest challenge for the Fire Department is the responders themselves not wanting to get sick with the coronavirus and bring that home to their families. He commented that this is more of a mental challenge for his department than dealing with calls. He noted that the department is taking more precautions with hand sanitizing, wearing masks, and having a decontamination station set up at the Fire Station for Police, Ambulance, and Fire personnel. He stated that there is a shortage of masks, but this is not out of line with most fire departments around the country. He expressed his hope that they will be getting more supplies in the next week or two. He stated his understanding that the Minnesota Legislature is in process of approving first responders with COVID-19 to be covered under Workers Compensation. He commented that he is not sure whether this will apply to all Fire Department personnel but will follow up on this question. He stated that most calls are going to the EMS staff presently. He noted that they are doing an excellent job of responding and adjusting their

approach. He commented that this is a trying time, but staff members seem to be holding up well.

EMS Chief Malchow noted that he has been busy attending webinars and meetings throughout the state virtually and getting updated. He stated that they have been working hard to obtain PPE. He stated that Northfield Hospital has been a great advocate for them in terms of obtaining hand sanitizer and other resources. He stated that he has been meeting regularly with his staff, and Dr. Laudon from Mayo has conducted several phone conversations with staff to answer their questions. He noted that systems are in place to treat patients and to keep staff safe.

Fire Chief Althoff expressed his appreciation to the EMS staff for helping to provide supplies and set things up at the Fire Station.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Duncan discussed technical challenges related to conducting City Council meetings. He stated his understanding that it is hard for people who are attending remotely to hear the discussion. He stated his opinion that it should be an individual decision in terms of whether people want to attend in person or remotely. It was suggested that perhaps a better system could be worked out for attending remotely. Council Member Duncan encouraged everyone to stay healthy and to continue following the social distancing recommendations.

Mayor Althoff reiterated that Council Members may attend the next Council meeting in person or remotely.

Mayor Althoff noted that he received an update from the Historical Society relative to the property sale and stated that a \$10,000 payment is anticipated soon. He stated that their hope was to be able to pay up to \$100,000 by the end of the year, but now with the pandemic this may take longer.

Mayor Althoff noted that he recently received several calls regarding odor complaints from Sustane. He suggested inviting Blaize Holden to attend a future Council meeting. Administrator Maroney commented that he communicated with Mr. Holden, who discussed an equipment failure that may have temporarily caused the increased odor. Mayor Althoff commented that Sustane has spent a lot of money trying to correct this problem. He noted that if the problem continues, he will contact Mr. Holden.

Mayor Althoff expressed his appreciation to Mike Gesme for providing the ability for Council Members to attend the meeting remotely.

Public Input

Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Babe O’Gorman, Michael Avenue, Cannon Falls, expressed concerns that Police Chief McCormick, the City’s Emergency Management Director, has not been in attendance during recent meetings. He also discussed a recent meeting he had with Administrator Jensen.

Mayor Althoff noted that he had sent a memo to department heads indicating that if they did not have anything on the agenda, they did not need to attend this meeting.

Mayor Althoff commented these are tough times and encouraged the public to observe social distancing, stay safe, and support local businesses.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 21st day of April, 2020.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator