

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, 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 Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; Laura Qualey, Community and Economic Business Specialist; Nicole Miller, Library Director (remotely); and David Kendall, City Attorney.

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 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.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending July 17, 2020
- B. Meeting Minutes for July 7, 2020, City Council Meeting
- ~~C. Bituminous Crack Sealing Proposal~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Montgomery
- ~~D. Resolution 2492, Approving an Agreement for an Electric Vehicle Charging Station for the City of Cannon Falls~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Gesme
- E. Resolution 2493 – Accepting a Monetary Donation of \$750.00 from Country Financial for the Ambulance Department
- F. Resolution 2494, Accepting Monetary Donation of \$250.00 from Gemini for the Ambulance Department

A motion was made by Council Member Mattson, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus items C and D.

Council Business:
Resolution 2495, Approve Conditional Use Permit for John Anderson

City Administrator Jensen provided background information regarding the CUP request. He stated that this request had been approved unanimously by the Planning Commission and also previously by the City Council, but he noted that due to a publishing error this item is required to be brought before the City Council again.

A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2495, approving a Conditional Use Permit for John Anderson.

Resolution 2496,
Conditional Use
Permit Valley
View Recovery
Center, Inc.

Mayor Althoff stated that he would accept public input on this item but requested that any input be limited to new comments, as this topic has been discussed by the public several times in the past. No one came forward to provide public input regarding this item.

Council Member Mattson offered a suggestion that some sort of screening be placed for the smoking area of the proposed facility. He also relayed citizen comments that the facility should have a kitchen installed as soon as possible.

Council Member Bringgold commented she felt that this was delving too much into the owner's business, and this was not really the City Council's job.

Jacob McGuire, Owner/CEO of Valley View Recovery Center, stated that he was present to answer any questions. Regarding the smoking area, he noted that his business plan does address screening. Regarding the suggestion of installing a kitchen, he stated that he would very much like to have a kitchen in the facility, adding that trying to accomplish renovations during the licensing process slows things down considerably. He stated that once the facility is licensed, he plans to work with the Minnesota Department of Health to start updating parts of the kitchen area. He reiterated that he would very much like to have a full kitchen in the facility in the future but at this point has no immediate plans in this regard.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Gesme, to adopt Resolution 2496, approving a Conditional Use Permit for Valley View Recovery Center, with the condition of providing a screened smoking area as soon as possible. A roll call vote was requested, and the motion carried unanimously.

Bituminous Crack
Sealing Proposal

Council Member Montgomery noted that he pulled this item for discussion. He referenced the \$15,000 cost and stated his understanding that this project was not discussed by the Public Works Commission. He commented that he drove through this neighborhood and felt that the streets were in fairly good shape. He asked why this area was selected for crack sealing.

Administrator Jensen provided background information. He suggested the development of a bituminous plan in the future.

Administrator Jensen stated a goal of keeping the good streets in good condition so that the bad streets can be addressed. He noted that there will be a lot of mill and overlay projects completed in the

future. He stated that there is a debate regarding which method is better – crack sealing or mill and overlay. He reiterated the goal of trying to keep the good streets in good condition and concentrate on mill and overlay projects for the worst streets in the future.

Council Member Montgomery asked how much time a crack sealing project will buy the City and whether this will be worth the \$15,000 expense. Administrator Jensen reiterated that there are multiple opinions in this regard and reviewed potential options. He stated that the current infrastructure needs to be maintained. He noted that two housing developments will be able to be done with this project.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Lundell and unanimously carried, to approve the bituminous crack sealing proposal.

Resolution 2492,
Approving an
Agreement for an
Electric Vehicle
Charging Station
for the City of
Cannon Falls

Council Member Gesme commented he is not against this, but does oppose the proposed location as well as the alternate location for the charging station. He asked why these are the only two options being presented.

Community and Economic Business Specialist Qualey provided background information. She stated that the City parking lot was considered and it was determined that during the week the two proposed spots are the last parking spots used in the parking lot. She noted that anyone using the charging station would not be taking up a space close to the trail head and gazebo. She stated that the company that would be installing the charging station had asked that the spot be easily identified. She added that there is also existing power to this area. She stated that the company also requires a paved lot for the charging station. Ms. Qualey noted that the alternate location is owned by Althoff Hardware and an agreement would need to be developed.

Mayor Althoff stated that this company had initially wanted to put this charging station at Casey's, but he suggested a Downtown location.

Council Member Montgomery commented that the Cannon Valley Trail Board approved electric charging stations at the Welch Station.

Mayor Althoff noted that this charging station will not cost the City any money, but the City needs to provide the location.

Council Member Lundell asked how people with electric cars are able to locate charging stations. Ms. Qualey noted that there is an app that lists charging stations around the country. She commented that

this is a way to attract people into to Downtown Cannon Falls for 30-40 minutes. She stated that if the City were to consider installing a charging station in the future, the City would bear the expense. She described the proposal as a great opportunity for Cannon Falls.

Council Member Gesme stated that this location was discussed in the past. He expressed his opinion that this area is too congested. He suggested a different potential location. Ms. Qualey noted that the location needs to be ADA compliant, which is why the first location was suggested. She again noted that cars would typically park in this location for 30-40 minutes. Council Member Gesme reiterated his opinion that this location would create an issue.

Council Member Lundell asked about payment for the charging services, and Ms. Qualey stated that the approximately \$5 cost would be paid by users with a credit card. She noted that the company will provide reporting to show how often the station is used. She stated that the agreement would keep the charging station in this location for five years and that the company will provide signage. She stated that if non-electric vehicles are parking there, this may need to be addressed in the future with an ordinance.

Council Member Montgomery asked if the proposed charging station has been discussed with businesses in the area. Ms. Qualey indicated that she has not contacted any of the surrounding businesses.

Council Member Lundell asked how the final location would be determined. Ms. Qualey noted the City owns the first option, but with the alternate option an agreement would need to be reached with Althoff Hardware.

Reports:

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Lundell, to adopt Resolution 2492, approving an agreement for an electric vehicle charging station in Downtown Cannon Falls at the primary site as proposed. The motion carried by a vote of 5:1 with Council Members Duncan, Lundell, Bringgold, Mattson, and Montgomery voting aye and Council Member Gesme voted nay.

Council
Committees/
Commissions

Mayor Althoff noted that Kyle Paulson, President of the Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, had contacted him stating that she would be unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor Althoff stated that Ms. Paulson had wanted to report that the August 9 Fun Fest has been cancelled and the Chamber golf

tournament has also been canceled. He added that the Chamber will try to schedule a Fun Fest in September.

Community and Economic Business Specialist Qualey provided an update with regard to EDA activities. She reported that the EDA approved a \$7,000 loan to the owner of the property located between the *Beacon* and Coldwell Banker toward soil borings. She noted that this loan would be repaid once the property owner receives reimbursement. She discussed potential redevelopment plans for this site.

Ms. Qualey discussed a web design and rebranding project for the Cannon Valley Senior Center.

Ms. Qualey reported that a \$10,000 Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Small Town Grant application has been submitted to help offset impacts from the pandemic. She stated that these funds, if awarded, would be used to enlist the aid of a marketing firm to help promote Cannon Falls businesses and tourism.

Ms. Qualey provided an update with regard to plans for redevelopment of the former Cannonball property.

Ms. Qualey reported that the City of Cannon Falls has received \$310,000 from the CARES Act. She referenced discussion of how to utilize these funds to help offset some of the impacts of the pandemic, noting that this money will need to be spent by November 15, 2020. She added that more information will be provided during a future Council meeting.

Ms. Qualey summarized discussion with Chamber President Paulson regarding a potential “crazy days” type event in August, during which businesses would have an opportunity to perhaps recoup some of the lost income from cancelled events. She inquired whether a permit would be required for this type of event. She noted that no street closures would be requested for this event. Mayor Althoff stated that a permit has never been required for such an event in the past.

Mayor Althoff summarized topics of discussion during a recent Planning Commission meeting, noting that these items were acted upon by the City Council earlier in the meeting. He noted that, due to the primary election, the next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled on August 17.

Library Director Miller discussed browsing and computer appointments and curbside service at the Library. She stated the

Staff

mystery grab bags have been very popular. She provided an update regarding Library activities and programs. She provided an update regarding staffing changes. She stated that she has been working with Community and Economic Business Specialist Qualey with regard to obtaining more mobile hot spots for the Library to loan out.

Council Member Bringgold asked if hot spots might be an eligible purchase from the CARES Act funds. Library Director Miller expressed agreement that this would be a great idea and reviewed the approximate cost of each hot spot. Council Member Bringgold commented that working from home and distance learning will likely continue for a while.

Council Member Montgomery discussed a recent Park Board meeting. Regarding the pool, he noted that the pump was determined to be working and the pipes will need to be inspected. He stated that the Park Board has invited a representative of the School Board to be present at the August meeting to discuss the tennis courts and perhaps develop a relationship between the City and the School Board to divide up the cost of maintaining the tennis courts. He referenced discussion of mobile hot spots for East Side Park, Hannah's Bend Park, and Riverside Park.

Council Member Lundell requested an update regarding the new West Side park. Council Member Montgomery stated that the West Side park has been approved. Administrator Jensen reported that construction on the West Side park will begin next week.

Administrator Jensen discussed a meeting with representatives of Goodhue County relating to CARES Act funding.

Administrator Jensen referenced the design review process for the trail grant.

Administrator Jensen provided an update regarding the interview process for the Public Works Director position.

Mayor and
Council

Council Member Gesme noted that he has been approached by residents with concerns about improper right turns at the stop lights. Chief McCormick noted that the Police Department is aware of this issue. He stated that he will discuss this with MnDOT, try to get the *Beacon* to run another story, and perhaps do some educational traffic stops. Council Members noted safety concerns.

Mayor Althoff noted that he received a lot of feedback from the public regarding the trees that were taken down in the area of the City parking lot. He referenced approval by the City Council for tree replacement. He stated that perhaps a motion should have been made to take down the trees. He stated that the reason this was done was because the trees had matured to the point where they were making the concrete and pavement heave, so they needed to be replaced.

Public Input

Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, stated that he attended the Park Board meeting and commented that members of the Park Board appeared to be concerned about the tennis courts being locked. He expressed agreement with building a relationship with the School Board regarding the tennis courts. He noted that the same situation had occurred with John Burch Park, stating his understanding that no agreement was reached. He noted there had been a lot of discussion regarding the school not maintaining the tennis courts. He compared this situation to that of the swimming pool. He noted that the pool has not been properly maintained. He also noted that Hannah’s Bend Park was recently closed. He recommended that the City maintain City facilities and develop agreements with other organizations for facilities that do not belong to the City.

Tim Dehmer, Cannon Falls, asked whether there is a statute of limitations on issues he has been concerned about. He referenced a pledge to “Learn More, Start Talking, and Pass It On.” He stated understanding that action would not be taken on issues raised during the public input period but requested consideration of his issues being placed as an action item on a future Council meeting agenda. He summarized an incident that occurred at the Library along with an incident at a grocery store. He requested an opportunity for his concerns to be heard. Mayor Althoff stated that he could not comment but will look into this issue.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Montgomery, seconded by Council Member Duncan and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 4th day of August, 2020.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator