

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Thursday, November 5, 2020, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Council Members Morris Mattson, Bill Duncan, Derek Lundell, Mary Jill Bringgold, Matt Montgomery, and Steve Gesme; Mayor John Althoff was absent. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; Laura Qualey, Community & Economic Business Specialist; Nicole Miller, Library Director (remotely); and David Kendall, City Attorney (remotely).

- Call to Order Mayor Pro Tem Mattson called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call Roll call was conducted. Council Members Bringgold, Duncan, Gesme, Lundell, Mattson, and Montgomery were in attendance. Mayor John Althoff was absent.
- Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Pro Tem Mattson led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda.
- Public Hearing:
Resolution 2513,
Certifying Unpaid
Utility Charges to be
Collected with Taxes Mayor Pro Tem Mattson opened the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m. No one came forward to speak during the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:32 p.m.
- A motion was made by Council Member Duncan to adopt Resolution 2513. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lundell. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Presentation:
Historical Society
Presentation Steve Dabelow, President of the Cannon Falls Area Historical Society, discussed a recent trolley tour. He reported that a donation of \$50,000 has been made by Jerry Williams, a former Cannon Falls resident and son of Doc Williams. He added that the family will also be donating some items from Doc Williams. He noted that pledges and donations now total \$146,701, with more than \$120,000 received. He stated that the pay-back amount to the City for the property is \$186,000.
- Mr. Dabelow discussed the challenges of being closed during the pandemic.
- Mr. Dabelow noted that donations of items have continued to come in during this time, including the “community bobsled.” He also discussed the donation of a book from long-time fifth grade teacher Darlene Wendelschafer and the donation of a uniform from Lynnea

Sjoquist, who toured with the All American Red Heads women's basketball team.

Mr. Dabelow discussed grant opportunities and a book project detailing the importance of the Mineral Springs Sanatorium relating to the treatment of tuberculosis.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending October 29, 2020
- B. Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2020, City Council Meeting
- C. Resolution 2514, Accepting a Donation of \$25 from Elvena and William Schmugge for the Police Department
- D. Resolution 2515, Approving a Cooperative Snow Removal Agreement with MnDOT
- E. Approve Fireworks Permit for Chamber of Commerce
- F. Resolution 2516, Accepting a Transfer of CARES Act Money from Leon Township for the Ambulance Department
- G. Resolution 2517, Accepting a Transfer of CAREs Act Money from Belle Creek Township for the Ambulance Department
- H. Purchase Ventilator with Bi-Level Support for Ambulance Department

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

Council Business:

Farmers Market Discussion

City Administrator Jensen provided background information, noting that Council discussion of this topic was tabled until the end of the farmers market season. He referenced discussion by the Finance Committee and options suggested by City Attorney Kendall. He suggested discussion of the options, noting that no decisions need to be made at this time.

Council Member Bringgold suggested changing the timing of the Downtown Farmers Market, so that this becomes a complementary market and not a competing market. She also suggested moving the market to John Burch Park and provided rationale for these suggestions.

The use of the bandshell for community activities during the farmers market was discussed. Council Member Mattson suggested getting the involved parties together for further discussion of these options.

Council Member Duncan referenced discussion by the Finance Committee of holding the farmers market on Thursdays.

Council Member Montgomery spoke in support of retaining the farmers market on Saturday mornings. Council Member Bringgold reiterated her concerns about using the City parking lot for the Downtown Farmers Market. Community activities were further discussed.

Steve Josephson introduced himself as a long-time Downtown Farmers Market vendor. He discussed the value of retaining the market in the City parking lot. He noted that traffic is blocked off for four hours on Saturday mornings during the market season. He suggested signage for the overflow parking lot.

Council Member Gesme spoke in support of retaining the market in the City parking lot of Saturday mornings.

A motion was made by Council Member Montgomery to approve Option 1, under which the Downtown Farmers Market would remain in the City parking lot, but the City would manage the operation by executing a lease with all parties who wish to have a stall on City property. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gesme. A vote was conducted. Council Members Mattson, Gesme, Lundell and Montgomery voted aye; Council Members Duncan and Bringgold voted nay. Four ayes; two nay; motion carried.

It was suggested to schedule a meeting with all vendors prior to next season. Administrator Jensen indicated that he will work with the City Attorney on the lease language.

Video Server
Replacement / Body
Worn Camera
Discussion

Police Chief McCormick provided background information and referenced past Council and Finance Committee discussion of this topic. He noted that the City's video server is currently being used for squad car video data. He stated that when the City switches to a new server, there will be no video data storage available. He stated that the vendor recommended storing Police Department video on a separate server, for security and cost effectiveness. He noted that additional storage capacity would need to be purchased in order to use the City's server to store Police Department video data, along with the software to run the video storage system. He reviewed the challenges of accessing this data through the City's network. He recommended replacing the video server, at a cost of approximately

\$13,500. He noted that the proposed system could accommodate both squad car videos and body camera videos.

Chief McCormick discussed the current body camera system. He noted that this was never intended to be a video management system.

Chief McCormick recommended the purchase of five body worn cameras along with a video management system and provided rationale for this recommendation. He stated that, should this be needed, the squad video and the body camera video could be displayed side by side with a synced audio track. He noted that the cost of the five body cameras would be \$24,500.

Chief McCormick also discussed video redaction software, at a cost of \$7,511. He noted that this software would not be needed for squad videos but would be needed for body camera videos. He provided an example of when a redacted video may be ordered by a court. He commented that the purchase of this software could be deferred at this time.

Council Member Mattson asked whether additional storage capacity could be added to the existing system. It was noted that the current system is obsolete. Administrator Jensen discussed the new City server. He stated his understanding that additional storage could be added to this server to accommodate the squad car video. Chief McCormick clarified that the primary advantages of purchasing a separate server would relate to data security and video management support.

Council Member Mattson asked about the warranty on the separate server. Chief McCormick noted that the system would be supported for five years, adding that the system itself would most likely last about 8-10 years. He stated that support would need to be purchased after five years.

Council Member Duncan suggested taking action with regard to each component separately.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan to purchase the video server. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lundell. Chief McCormick detailed what this purchase would entail. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Lundell spoke in support of the body camera purchase, describing this as a type of insurance.

Chief McCormick clarified that the cost of the body cameras without the redaction software would be \$16,620.

Council Member Duncan commented that he sees no need for new body cameras, stating his opinion that the Police Department budget is already too large. He stated that other law enforcement agencies do not use these.

Council Member Lundell asked whether this purchase is budgeted. Chief McCormick indicated that the purchase would be made with available forfeited funds and not money from the General Fund.

Council Member Montgomery spoke in support of the proposed body camera purchase, stating that the Cannon Falls Police Department has been a leader in this category for nearly 10 years.

Council Member Gesme asked about the selective use of body worn cameras. Chief McCormick reviewed the Police Department policy in this regard. He stated that the new camera system would always be running and would be able to provide pre-event recordings, adding that audio is not recorded until the system is activated by the officer.

When asked about the redaction software, Chief McCormick recommended purchasing just the body cameras at this time.

Council Member Gesme asked whether the body cameras can fail. Chief McCormick stated that wireless connections can go bad. Council Member Gesme asked how long the video camera footage would be available, in the event that a complaint is filed against an officer. Chief McCormick reviewed what would happen in that circumstance. Council Member Gesme expressed concerns that the use of body cameras would not be consistent. Chief McCormick stated that body camera use has been very consistent. He discussed how videos have been used as a training tool and also used to benefit both officers and citizens.

Council Member Bringgold spoke in favor of purchasing the replacement body cameras.

A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold to purchase five body cameras. City Attorney Kendall provided a legal perspective in

terms of limiting legal liability. Chief McCormick stated that this equipment would be covered by forfeiture funds. The cost of the equipment was clarified as \$16,620. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gesme. Council Member Gesme suggested monitoring body camera usage. Chief McCormick stated that the policy would be reviewed if there are concerns. A vote was conducted and the motion carried by a vote of 5:1, with Council Member Duncan voting nay.

Council
Committees /
Commissions

Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Paulson expressed appreciation to the community, the Police Department, the volunteers, and the families who participated in the recent Trick or Treat Trot event.

Ms. Paulson discussed the Deck the Falls activities, including the parade, tree lighting, and fireworks. She stated that the entry deadline for parade units is November 20. She reviewed safety precautions.

Ms. Paulson stated that Aqualand Aquarium Center will be open Thursday through Monday from noon to 6:00 p.m. It was discussed that this will bring many people into town.

Ms. Paulson discussed a holiday boutique, From the Hearts, that will be open at the office of Weichert Realtors the weekend of Deck the Falls.

Ms. Paulson stated that interviews are being conducted for an opening on the Chamber Board of Directors for 2021.

Staff

Library Director Miller discussed upcoming interactive programs. The suspension of late fees was discussed.

Chief McCormick expressed appreciation to the City Council for approving the equipment purchases.

Administrator Jensen discussed flooding issues near Grove Street, stating that City and County representatives are exploring potential solutions.

Administrator Jensen reported that proposals to provide legal services are due on November 6. He reviewed the interview and selection process.

Administrator Jensen discussed the purchase of a new transit bus in 2021, with the City's cost share being 10%, or approximately \$9,200.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Montgomery discussed a recent event hosted by the Cannon Falls Education Foundation and thanked local businesses for their support. He also thanked City staff for their hard work on Election Day.

Council Member Duncan congratulated the incoming Council Members.

Council Member Gesme expressed appreciation to the citizens of Cannon Falls for re-electing him to the City Council.

Public Input

Mayor Pro Tem Mattson reviewed the public input procedure.

No one came forward to provide public input.

Mayor Pro Tem Mattson reviewed upcoming meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 17th day of November, 2020.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator