

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor John Althoff and Council Members Laura Kronenberger (remotely), Bill Duncan, Derek Lundell, Mary Jill Bringgold, Matt Montgomery, and Steve Gesme. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Sara Peer, City Clerk; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; Bill Angerman, City Engineer; and Nicole Miller, Library Director (remotely).

- Call to Order Mayor Althoff called the City Council meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
- Roll Call All members were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Althoff led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Oath of Office City Clerk Peer reported that she administered the Oath of Office for Council Member Kronenberger previously at her home. She administered the Oath of Office for Council Members Gesme, Lundell, and Montgomery.
- Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
- Consent Agenda
- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending December 31, 2020
 - B. Meeting Minutes for December 15, 2020, City Council Meeting
 - C. Resolution 2529, Establishing License Fees and Compensation
 - D. Approve 2021 Appointments
 - E. Resolution 2530, Designating the Depositories for City Funds for Fiscal Year 2021
 - F. 2021 Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Non-Union
 - G. Statutory Tort Limits
 - H. Resolution 2532, Approving Street Vacation and Lot Split at 915 N. Sixth Street
 - I. Resolution 2533, Accepting a Monetary Donation from the Cannon Falls Fire Department Relief Association for \$18,500 to the Fire Department
 - J. Approve Equipment Purchases and Trade for Fire Department
- A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
- Council Business:
Election Mayor Pro
Tem
- Mayor Althoff nominated Council Member Gesme to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for 2021. The nomination was seconded by Council Member Montgomery. A voice vote was conducted and Council

Members Lundell, Duncan, Montgomery, Bringgold, and Kronenberger voted aye; Council Member Gesme abstained from the vote. Five ayes; one abstention; motion carried.

Designation for
Official Newspaper for
2021

City Administrator Jensen commented that this item is typically placed on the Consent Agenda for approval, but he noted that the *Cannon Falls Beacon* is currently completing the requirements to become a legal newspaper, following its acquisition by O'Rourke Media Group last year. He stated his understanding that this will occur on January 6, 2021.

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the *Cannon Falls Beacon* as the official City newspaper for 2021.

Professional Service
Agreement Third
Street Bridge Water
Main (WHKS)

Administrator Jensen reported that the Public Works Commission discussed this topic during a recent meeting and recommended that the water main run under the river instead of being attached to the Third Street Bridge.

City Engineer Angerman noted that there is currently a 6-inch water main on the bridge that is believed to be at least 50 years old and perhaps 75 years old or more. He provided background information regarding the three water mains that cross the river. He noted that two options would be to increase the size of the pipe on the bridge or, if the City is comfortable with only two crossings of the river, to eliminate this water main. He noted that hanging a larger size pipe on the bridge was deemed to not be an option. He discussed the option of running this pipe under the river and detailed this process. He noted that the gas company recently bored the same size pipe under the river. He stated that the contractor is reasonably confident that this can be accomplished for an 8-inch water main.

Engineer Angerman discussed preliminary work that was previously authorized, stating that it was ultimately decided to wait on doing soil borings until the City Council makes a decision with regard to moving the project forward. He stated that approximately \$2,500 of the \$10,000 authorized has been spent to this point. He reviewed a recommendation to move forward with directional drilling of an 8-inch water main underneath the river.

Council Member Duncan asked whether drilling would be done fairly close to where the gas line has been placed.

Engineer Angerman clarified where the boring would be done, noting that this would be closer to the bridge and provided rationale for this approach. A discussion took place as to the soil conditions in this area.

Council Member Gesme commented that it had been discussed that if it could be guaranteed that the other two river crossings would never fail, this crossing would not be needed. Council Members expressed support for the third water main.

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to approve a professional services contract with WHKS for a water main to be bored under the river near the Third Street Bridge.

Approve IUOE Local
49 Union Contract
(Public Works)

Administrator Jensen reviewed the labor union negotiation process for a new contract for 2021-2023. He reviewed a proposal for a 1% raise in January and a 1% raise in July for the three-year term of the contract. He noted that union representatives have approved the proposed labor agreement.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the union contract with IUOE Local 49.

Resolution 2531,
Providing for a Post-
Employment
Healthcare Savings
Plan for IUOE
Local 49.

Administrator Jensen noted that this is the same healthcare savings plan that the LELS union has, which expired with the current contract.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Montgomery and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2531, providing a post-employment healthcare savings plan for IUOE Local 49.

Reports:
Council
Committees/
Commissions

Kyle Paulson, President of the Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, expressed appreciation to everyone who put up Christmas lights. She issued a reminder that Governor Walz will be providing an update regarding the COVID-19 situation on January 6, including plans to ease some of the current restrictions. Ms. Paulson shared some of the Chamber accomplishments during 2020.

Administrator Jensen discussed a recent Public Works Commission meeting. He noted they had discussed the Third Street Bridge water main and also continued discussion of the Grove Street run-off issues in the face of potential new development.

Administrator Jensen stated that the Public Works Commission discussed the water service repairs in the Mill Street area and clarified City and property owner responsibilities relating to these repairs.

Administrator Jensen reviewed a Public Works Commission recommendation to deny a request for an additional streetlight along North Gate Circle.

Council Member Montgomery discussed a recent Park Board meeting, during which a swimming pool update was provided, adding that the current plan is to open the pool this summer. He noted that a presentation was provided relating to potential improvements to John Burch Park, in order to host baseball tournaments in the future. He summarized some of these plans. Administrator Jensen and Mayor Althoff provided additional background information and discussed potential grant opportunities. It was noted that a presentation will be provided to the City Council in the near future.

Police Chief McCormick discussed a recent Police Commission meeting, noting that they are in the process of filling a position created by an officer's resignation. He adding that there may be a couple of other anticipated openings, and the Police Commission recommended moving forward with an application process. He noted that an internal candidate from the Police Reserve has been recommended to fill the position of the resigned officer.

Staff

Administrator Jensen reported that Public Works staff will be working on the ice rink.

Library Director Miller discussed upcoming events and activities at the Library. She noted that curbside service is still being offered at this time.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Montgomery reported that he recently received a complaint about the trail. He stated that someone has been walking in the cross-country ski tracks and ruining them.

Council Members Duncan and Gesme and Mayor Althoff extended a welcome to Council Member Kronenberger and stated that they look forward to working with her.

Council Member Kronenberger thanked everyone for their patience and stated that she appreciates the opportunity to serve on the City Council.

Mayor Althoff issued a reminder regarding upcoming meetings.

Public Input

Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Brenda Voshalike noted that she holds the honor of being employed by the City of Cannon Falls for the past 40 years and expressed appreciation for the recognition she has received. She commented that this length of service is unusual these days and described the satisfaction she has received from performing her duties. She recognized the dedicated service of long-term City employees Bonnie German and Lanell Endres. She discussed the importance of valuing City employees and thanking them for their service to the community.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Bringgold, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 19th day of January, 2021.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator