

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor John Althoff and Council Members Bill Duncan, Steve Gesme, Mary Jill Bringgold, Laura Kronenberger, Matt Montgomery (remotely), and Derek Lundell (remotely). Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Dan Howard, Public Works Director; and Mitch Althoff, Police Officer

- Call to Order Mayor Althoff called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call Roll call was conducted. Mayor Althoff and Council Members Bringgold, Duncan, Gesme, Kronenberger, Lundell, and Montgomery were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Althoff led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
- Public Input Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Dawn Lanning, Cannon Falls Township resident, referenced a public hearing notification relating to a proposed ordinance change pertaining to trucking and auto sales. She requested information regarding the draft ordinance language and the reason for the public hearing to discuss the proposed ordinance change. Ms. Lanning also spoke in opposition to reducing the number of Planning Commission members from seven to five, stating that this would result in a reduced amount of public input with regard to City planning activities. She discussed the role and responsibilities of the Planning Commission to determine Findings of Fact, solicit public input, and provide recommendations to the City Council. She commented that the Planning Commission is being punished for doing its job, because the recommendation relating to the Keller Baartman project was not in accordance with the opinions of City Council Members.

Diane Johnson, Cannon Falls resident, referenced comments that were made during the last City Council meeting. She stated her opinion that Cannon Falls is a wonderful community. She commended the City Council for making decisions after careful deliberation and after considering many different opinions.

Becky Youngmark, Cannon Falls resident, spoke in opposition to the proposal to reduce the number of Planning Commission members from seven to five. She also expressed concerns about having a third City Council Member serve as an alternate on the Planning Commission.

Public Hearing:
Resolution 2583,
Certifying Unpaid
Utility Charges to be
Collected with Taxes

City Administrator Jensen provided background information. He noted that this process occurs on a quarterly basis. He stated that the Public Hearing provides an opportunity for residents with unpaid utility charges to speak to the City Council. It was noted that these charges are certified to be collected with property taxes, in lieu of shutting off utilities.

Mayor Althoff opened the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Becky Youngmark, Cannon Falls resident, asked why water bills are so inconsistent. Public Works Director Howard discussed how water charges are calculated. Administrator Jensen indicated that residents with questions about their utility charges can come to City Hall and speak with City staff, who will further explain the process.

No one else spoke during the Public Hearing. Mayor Althoff closed the Public Hearing at 6:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2583.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending October 28, 2021
- B. Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2021, City Council Meeting
- C. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 380, Amending City Code Chapter 32 Relating to the Planning Commission
- D. Resolution 2584, Designating Polling Places for 2022
- E. Resolution 2585, Accepting a Monetary Donation from Goodhue County to the Library
- F. Approve Joint Powers Agreement for State Building Code Administration with Goodhue County for 2022
- G. Resolution 2586, Entering into MnDOT Agreement No. 1048285 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation
- H. Resolution 2587, Authorizing 2022 City License Renewals
- I. Approve Final Pay Request No. 2 for 2021 Street Improvements

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

Council Business:

Approve Public Works
Maintenance
Operator I

Mayor Althoff reported that the interview and selection process has not been completed for this position. No action was taken.

Reports:

Council Committees /
Commissions /
Nonprofit
Organizations

Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Paulson discussed the successful Halloween Trick or Treat Trot event. She expressed appreciation to volunteers and Cannon Falls Police Officers for their assistance.

Chamber President Paulson discussed Deck the Falls activities. She stated that photos of Cannon Falls are being solicited for the cover of the 2022 Discover Guide. She reported that Cannon Rivers Senior Living will be selling pies as a fundraiser for the Cannon Falls Fire Department. She discussed the Light Up Cannon Falls map and the gift tree.

Council Member Kronenberger discussed a recent Cannon Falls Trail Board meeting, during which allocation of bond funding was discussed along with the potential installation of electronic self-pay stations.

Staff

Director Howard provided a Third Street Bridge and water main project update. He discussed a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Biosolids Program application process at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He discussed fall and winter preparations.

Administrator Jensen provided a water tower painting project update.

Administrator Jensen discussed an artesian well in the basement of Brewster's Bar and Grill, noting plans to install a stormwater drain. Mayor Althoff provided additional background information.

Mayor and Council

Mayor Althoff thanked Administrator Jensen for his assistance with video recording of last week's Cannon Falls High School football game.

Mayor Althoff reviewed upcoming meetings.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 16th day of November, 2021.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator