

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor John Althoff and Council Members Bill Duncan, Steve Gesme, Matt Montgomery, Mary Jill Bringgold, and Laura Kronenberger; Council Member Derek Lundell was absent. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Dan Howard, Public Works Director; Bill Angerman, City Engineer; Tyler Johnson, Police Officer; and Sarah Schwarzhoff, City Attorney.

Call to Order	Mayor Althoff called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He commented that the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred 80 years ago on December 7, 1941.
Roll Call	Roll call was conducted. Mayor Althoff and Council Members Bringgold, Duncan, Gesme, Kronenberger, and Montgomery were in attendance.
Pledge of Allegiance	Mayor Althoff led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
Approval of Agenda	<p>Mayor Althoff requested an addition to the agenda relating to a presentation by Cannon Falls Historical Society President Steve Dabelow.</p> <p>A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as amended.</p>
Public Input	There was no public input.
Presentation: Cannon Falls Historical Society Presentation	Historical Society President Steve Dabelow presented a check to the City of Cannon Falls for \$10,000 toward the purchase of City-owned property for use by the Cannon Falls Historical Society. He expressed appreciation for generous donations from the community. Mayor Althoff provided background information. President Dabelow discussed how the property is being used. He also discussed a bobsled project.
Public Hearing: 2022 Final Budget and Levy Public Hearing	City Administrator Jensen summarized the final 2022 budget and tax levy. He reviewed budgeted amounts for employee salary adjustments, health insurance costs, and mill and overlay projects. He discussed budget savings resulting from the closure of the Vehicle License Center. He referenced LGA funding and other revenue sources.

Administrator Jensen discussed water and sewer infrastructure expenses and noted that there will be no increase in water and sewer rates in 2022.

Administrator Jensen commented that the Library bond will be paid off in 2022.

Administrator Jensen reported that the proposed 2022 tax levy represents a decrease of 0.2%. He commented that prices are rising due to inflation, noting that the current tax levy may not be sustainable in 2023.

Council Member Duncan commented that residential property taxes may increase due to increased property valuations and other tax levies.

Mayor Althoff opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. No one spoke during the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:16 p.m.

It was noted that the Council will take action on the 2022 budget and tax levy during the next Council meeting on December 21.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending December 3, 2021
- B. Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2021, City Council Meeting
- C. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 381 and Summary of Publication, an Ordinance of the City of Cannon Falls, Minnesota, Amending City Code Chapter 152 Relating to Conditional Uses in the B-2 Highway Business District
- D. Approve Replacement of Aluminum Channel Gates
- E. Resolution 2596, Accepting the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act
- F. Approve the Appointment of Diane Johnson to the Planning Commission

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

Council Business:

Resolution 2595,
Receiving Preliminary
Report and Calling for
Public Hearing on
Bluff Drive
Improvements

City Engineer Angerman provided background information and referenced a list of items that need to be fixed or completed. He stated that the project has been estimated to cost approximately \$105,000, noting that a total of 15 properties would be assessed

100% of this cost. He stated that the Public Works Commission has recommended the scheduling of a Public Hearing to initiate the project during the January 18, 2022, Council meeting.

City Engineer Angerman noted that the Public Works Commission also recommends calculating assessments on a per-each basis, or approximately \$7,000 per parcel. He reviewed the next steps, which would include the scheduling of a Public Hearing, after which a super majority vote of Council Members would be required to order the improvements. He noted that if the project moves forward, plans and specifications would then be developed in order to conduct a bidding process. He noted that once bids are received, the actual cost of the project and the assessments would be determined. He noted that a second Public Hearing would then be scheduled for discussion of assessments. He reviewed the anticipated project timeline. It was clarified that the assessments would be divided equally among the 15 impacted properties, including vacant lots.

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2595.

Water Tower Painting
Professional Services
Agreement

Administrator Jensen discussed the proposed water tower maintenance project. He also discussed plans to apply for a broadband grant to cover the cost of expanding the water tower ring to enable the installation of additional equipment in order to expand broadband services to the surrounding area. City Engineer Angerman further discussed the water tower maintenance project and reviewed the project timeline and estimated cost. He requested that the Council approve the professional services agreement in order to create the bid documents. The condition of the water tower was discussed. It was noted that typical fire protection capacity would be maintained during the project.

A motion was made by Council Member Montgomery, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to authorize City staff to enter into a professional services agreement for the water tower maintenance project.

River Road Sanitary
Sewer Extension

Public Works Director Howard, City Engineer Angerman, and City Administrator Jensen provided background information and discussed the proposed sanitary sewer extension project. It was noted that the homeowners would have the ability to hook up to City sewer services following the project, which would allow these homeowners to sell their properties in the future. Estimated costs were discussed. It was

noted that this project would be coordinated with a planned Goodhue County road project.

A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve a feasibility study and present options to the property owners.

Reports:

Council Committees /
Commissions /
Nonprofit
Organizations

Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Paulson discussed recent Deck the Falls events and expressed appreciation to parade entrants and the volunteers who assisted with these activities. She discussed the Light Up Cannon Falls contest and tour map. She also discussed the Chamber's Buy Local Giving Tree project. She detailed the holiday scavenger hunt activity and provided four clues.

Council Member Bringgold provided a Cannon Falls Trail Board update.

Council Member Montgomery summarized a recent EDA meeting, during which the Keller-Baartman project was discussed along with further discussion of the strategic plan, which focuses on housing and growth. It was noted that a Housing Committee will be formed.

Council Member Bringgold summarized a recent Public Works Commission meeting. She noted that the Third Street Bridge is now open.

Staff

Administrator Jensen referenced recent discussion of the Downtown Farmers Market and a petition that was presented. He clarified that the market is open to any vendors who wish to apply, noting that vendors under the age of 16 are not charged a fee. He referenced contact information that is listed on the application. He provided rationale for the current \$100 vendor fee. He noted that produce, flowers, and homemade goods are allowed. It was suggested to review this information next spring.

Public Works Director Howard reported that the new water main under the Third Street Bridge has been connected and is functioning. He stated that a new wastewater pump has not yet arrived.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Kronenberger summarized a recent conversation with VFW Post 4452 Commander Jesse Johnson, who expressed interest in renaming the Third Street Bridge in honor of veterans.

Council Member Montgomery stated that a member of the public is interested in joining the Park Board. He stated that this person is interested in discussing how to make Cannon Falls a more bicycle-friendly community.

Council Member Duncan suggested discussion of sandwich board type signage. City Attorney Schwarzhoff indicated that she will research the City Code in this regard.

Council Member Gesme expressed appreciation to Public Works staff.

Mayor Althoff reported that a Third Street Bridge dedication ceremony is scheduled on December 16 at 1:00 p.m. He reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Montgomery and unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. and was followed by a work session.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 21st day of December, 2021.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator