

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor John Althoff and Council Members Bill Duncan, Steve Gesme, Matt Montgomery, Mary Jill Bringgold, Laura Kronenberger, and Derek Lundell. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Mitch Althoff, Police Officer; and Sarah Schwarzhoff, City Attorney.

Call to Order	Mayor Althoff called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Roll Call	Roll call was conducted. All members 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 Duncan, seconded by Council Member Lundell and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
Public Input	There was no public input.
Public Hearing: Organized Solid Waste Collection Public Hearing	<p>City Administrator Jensen provided background information. He referenced Council discussion during a recent work session, at which time it was decided to conduct a Public Hearing on the topic of organized solid waste collection in order to gather citizen feedback. He noted that, per State law, the City is authorized to pursue organized solid waste collection. He commented that Public Hearing notices were also sent to the City's currently licensed solid waste haulers.</p> <p>City Attorney Schwarzhoff provided additional information and summarized the process that would take place, if the City Council decides to move forward with an organized waste collection system.</p> <p>Mayor Althoff noted that the recycling contract is set to expire at the end of the year, which prompted discussion regarding the possibility of limiting the number of solid waste haulers. He commented that other communities have pursued this option. He reiterated that the current Public Hearing was scheduled in order to solicit feedback from citizens. He referenced some of the benefits of limiting the number of solid waste haulers, including decreased truck traffic, competitive rates, and a more convenient billing and payment system.</p> <p>Mayor Althoff opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m.</p> <p>John Lee, Cannon Falls resident, expressed opposition to a solid waste contract with the City, stating that he can negotiate a better rate on his own.</p>

Floyd Haeuszer, Park Street, Cannon Falls, discussed his experience in the industry, as the former owner of Green Line Disposal and a former general manager of Materials Recovery in Rosemount. He detailed the benefits of competition among solid waste haulers. He commented that condo owners often share containers. He also questioned whether street damage can be attributed to garbage haulers, noting that potholes are more likely the result of freeze / thaw cycles. He spoke in support of more consumer choice and less government interference.

Belinda Kuhn, Cannon Falls resident, expressed appreciation for the opportunity for residents to provide input. She reviewed the ratings of several of the waste haulers and spoke in favor of resident choice.

The Mayor and Council Members discussed the recycling contract and the bidding process. It was clarified that no specific waste hauler has been selected.

Jean Stangler, Minnesota Street, Cannon Falls, commented that some residents leave the area for a period of time during the winter. The Mayor and Council Members indicated that there would be provisions for this situation. Ms. Stangler also expressed concerns about having to pay for a large container. The Mayor and Council Members indicated that various options would be considered.

Becky Youngmark, Cannon Falls resident, spoke in favor of residents having several choices for garbage collection. She suggested allowing the residents to make the decision via a referendum vote.

John Wilcox, Cannon Falls resident, expressed concerns that organized waste collection would lead to the loss of the free market system and competition. He asked whether a performance bond would be required, which may preclude smaller companies from bidding on the contract. He asked whether negotiations would be confidential or whether there would be transparency with the public. He asked whether the selected hauler would use the existing containers. He inquired how the rising cost of fuel, labor, and other expenses would be addressed.

Mr. Wilcox suggested considering how an organized waste collection system may negatively impact existing businesses or deter businesses in the future.

Joe Gerten, Sixth Street North, Cannon Falls, commented that the current recycling company did not respond when he complained that

his recycling container had not been picked up for multiple weeks. He stated his opinion that any business that wishes to offer services to Cannon Falls residents should be allowed to do so.

Bobby Stewert introduced himself as a representative of Highland Sanitation. He referenced the negotiation process that took place when the City of Saint Paul transitioned to an organized collection system. He reviewed some of the pros and cons of an organized system as opposed to an open market system. He discussed the billing process. He suggested checking to see whether cities with organized trash collection systems, such as Saint Paul and Bloomington, have experienced cost savings in terms of street repairs. He noted that the weight of the trucks is one of several factors. He commented regarding the importance of public participation in the process. He discussed some of the challenges faced by smaller haulers relating to the bidding process.

Mayor Althoff discussed how other surrounding communities have handled waste collection. The bidding process for the recycling contract was further discussed. It was noted that the contract is not necessarily awarded to the lowest bidder.

Mr. Stewert referenced the impacts of the Goodhue County Solid Waste Designation Plan that was adopted within the last couple of years.

Ms. Kuhn expressed concerns that Waste Management has made a practice of buying up smaller haulers to eliminate competition.

Mr. Gerten asked whether the purchase of the selected company would void the contract. He commented that the quality of service has gone down since the changeover to a new recycling company as a result of a buyout. City Attorney Schwarzhoff indicated that a non-assignment clause could be part of the contract language, in addition to requirements relating to the quality of service.

No one else spoke during the Public Hearing. Mayor Althoff closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending March 30, 2022
- B. Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2022, City Council Meeting
- C. Approve K. Larson as an Unscheduled Part-Time Paramedic
- D. Approve Summer / Fall Event Street Closures
- E. Approve 2022 Contracted Police Services Rates

F. Resolution 2624, Accepting a Monetary Donation of \$750 from  
Country Financial to the Ambulance Department

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

Council Business: There was no other Council business.

Reports:

Council Committees /  
Commissions /  
Nonprofit  
Organizations

Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Paulson reported that the 2022 Discover Guides are in the process of being distributed. She discussed the Easter Hunt on April 16. She stated that nonperishable food and cash donations will be collected during this event for the Cannon Falls Area Food Shelf. Chamber President Paulson also discussed other ways that Cannon Falls is being promoted. She detailed plans for Fun Fests in June and August and Open Air Fairs in July and September. She discussed the Chamber golf tournament.

Staff

City Administrator Jensen reported that an infestation of Emerald Ash Borer has recently been discovered in Cannon Falls and noted that residents may wish to begin treating their ash trees.

Mayor and Council

Mayor Althoff reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Montgomery and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

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John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator