

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor John Althoff and Council Members Bill Duncan, Steve Gesme, Laura Kronenberger, Derek Lundell, Mary Jill Bringgold, and Matt Montgomery (remotely). Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Sarah Schwarzhoff, City Attorney; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; and Shelley Ryan, Attorney with Hoff Barry.

Call to Order

Mayor Althoff called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m.

Solid Waste Contract Discussion

This item was discussed following discussion of the data practices policy.

City Attorney Schwarzhoff introduced Attorney Ryan. Attorney Ryan provided background information and described organized collection systems that have been implemented in other Minnesota communities. She referenced State statutes in this regard and suggested developing policy objectives. She provided an overview of the process, including negotiation with haulers, contract negotiation, a public hearing requirement, and a six-month holding period after the decision is made to implement an organized collection policy. She reviewed the regulatory process and contract requirements. She discussed documentation, public education, and the need for a process that is defensible both politically and legally.

Council Members asked about the process of inviting haulers to participate in negotiations. Attorney Ryan provided additional information in this regard. She also discussed the types of services that can be included in the contract, such as clean-up days and Christmas tree removal. Attorney Ryan detailed some of the benefits of an organized collection environment. The question of contracting with one hauler as opposed to multiple haulers was discussed.

The recycling contract was discussed. City Attorney Schwarzhoff stated that the recycling contract could potentially be extended for six months to a year, if the City Council decides to move forward with an organized collection process, so that recycling could be part of the negotiation process.

Attorney Ryan commented that the process is designed to foster open communication. City Attorney Schwarzhoff indicated that research would need to be conducted to determine whether a referendum is required or optional, according to the City Charter.

Council Duncan reiterated some of the benefits of an organized collection process in terms of decreased truck traffic and cost savings. He referenced public comments that were offered during the

recent public hearing in opposition to this type of system. He noted that it is the responsibility of the City Council to try to balance what is best for the City and its residents.

Attorney Ryan further discussed the referendum process, noting that this would assure community involvement.

Council Members commented that some members of the public would be unhappy with organized collection, regardless of the outcome of the process. Attorney Ryan reviewed the rights of the currently licensed haulers. She added that the process could be abandoned at any point, if it is deemed to be unworkable.

Mayor Althoff reviewed some of the comments he has received from residents in opposition to organized collection and discussed some of the billing challenges. Administrative costs and staff time were discussed.

City Attorney Schwarzhoff reviewed the negotiation process for the recycling contract. She also discussed other ways to potentially decrease truck traffic.

Council Members discussed the challenges of an organized collection system, with the consensus being to not move the process forward at this time.

Data Practices Policy      This item was discussed following the call to order.

City Attorney Schwarzhoff summarized a revised data practices policy and fee schedule. She reviewed the types of information that may be released and the types of information that must remain confidential, such as certain personnel records.

Adjournment                The work session adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

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John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator