

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor John Althoff and Council Members Bill Duncan, Steve Gesme, Matt Montgomery, Mary Jill Bringgold, and Derek Lundell; Council Member Laura Kronenberger was absent. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Dan Howard, Public Works Director; Tyler Johnson, Police Officer; Bill Angerman, City Engineer; Dianne Howard, Zoning Administrator; and Shelley Ryan, City Attorney (remotely).

- 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, Lundell, and Montgomery were present. Council Member Kronenberger was absent.
- Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Althoff led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda Mayor Althoff requested an addition to the Consent Agenda relating to a Fair Board sign on the John Burch Park fence. A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Public Input Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.
- John Wilcox, Cannon Falls, commented regarding the procedure that should occur when a Council Member attends a meeting from a remote location. He also asked whether Board and Commission meetings are being recorded and retained, per Minnesota statutes.
- Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, referenced an item on the Consent Agenda relating to making a conditional offer of employment to a police officer, noting that this candidate has not yet been interviewed. He stated that this approach would conflict with the City Charter and with Ordinance 370 of the City Code. He suggested following the proper procedure. He also expressed concerns regarding inaccurate Police Commission meeting minutes. Mr. O’Gorman referenced recent City Council discussion of a trash hauler contract, noting that pertinent questions were not asked and a final decision regarding this matter was never communicated to the public.
- Consent Agenda
- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending June 2, 2022
 - B. Meeting Minutes for May 17, 2022, City Council Meeting
 - C. Resolution 2632, Accepting a Donation from Chuck and Eva Drometer Estate for \$14,497.46 to the Fire Department
 - ~~D. Conditional Offer Approval for Police Officer~~
This item was pulled by Mayor Althoff

- E. Approve Street Crack Sealing
- F. Approve Portable Pressure Tanks
- ~~G. Approve Ries Farms LLC Compost Site Proposal~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Montgomery
- H. Approve Trail Repair
- I. Approve Drinking Fountain Placement
- ~~J. Approve Rancho Loco Liquor License~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Gesme
- K. Fair Board Sign on John Burch Park Fence

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Items D, G, and J.

Council Business:

Resolution 2633,
Declaring Cost to be
Assessed and
Ordering Preparation
of Proposed
Assessment in
Connection with Bluff
Drive Wear Course
Paving

City Engineer Angerman provided background information. He discussed the project bids, noting that the low bid was submitted by Rochester Sand and Gravel in the amount of \$87,553.25. He reviewed the assessment approval process, including a Public Hearing. He stated that the final assessment amount, including administrative costs, would be \$108,559. He referenced the City's assessment policy and reviewed deferment options. He detailed the next steps in the process.

Mayor Althoff reviewed the resolution language.

Resolution 2634,
Calling Hearing on
Assessments for Bluff
Drive Wear Course
Paving

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan to adopt Resolution 2633 and Resolution 2634. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gesme, a vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approve Rancho Loco
Liquor License

Council Member Gesme requested that the City Attorney provide background information and a recommendation. City Attorney Ryan reviewed the application and noted deficiencies. Council Member Gesme suggested considering a conditional City liquor license approval, noting that the State would also need to approve the liquor license application. Patrick Moore introduced himself as an attorney representing Rancho Loco. He provided additional information and stated that the applicant has been working with the City Attorney and with the State on the liquor licensing process.

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to approve the liquor license for Rancho Loco, contingent upon approval by the State.

Conditional Offer
Approval for Police
Officer

Mayor Althoff clarified the process of hiring a new police officer.

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve a conditional offer for a police officer.

Approve Ries Farms
LLC Compost Site
Proposal

Council Member Montgomery relayed concerns relating to non-residents using the compost site. He suggested more specific signage, including hours of operation.

A motion was made by Council Member Montgomery, seconded by Council Member Duncan, to approve the Ries Farms LLC compost site proposal. Past abuses were discussed. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports:
Council Committees /
Commissions /
Nonprofit
Organizations

Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Paulson expressed appreciation to flower basket sponsors. She discussed the benefits of an advertisement in *AAA Living* magazine. She discussed a part-time summer intern position at the Chamber. She stated that the June Fun Fest has been cancelled, due to the lack of vendors. She noted that Open Air Fairs are scheduled in July and September, with a Fun Fest scheduled in August. She discussed the upcoming Chamber golf tournament. She discussed a Lions Club pancake feed on June 19. She discussed the Cannon Valley Fair and the 4th of July parade.

Council Members Lundell and Bringgold summarized topics of discussion during a recent Public Works Commission meeting, including new lights in the City parking lot.

Council Member Montgomery summarized topics of discussion during a recent Park Board meeting, including trail repairs, security measures, pickleball court options, and park maintenance activities.

Staff

Public Works Director Howard discussed roof repairs from hail damage. He reported that the pool will open on June 8. He reported that the new pickup has arrived at the dealer. He discussed a grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation toward the cost of an ADA lift chair at the pool.

City Engineer Angerman provided a water tower painting project update.

Zoning Administrator Howard reported that the official building permit application and final plans have been submitted for the Keller-Baartman project.

Police Officer Johnson provided a reminder to watch for pedestrians, especially now that school is out for the summer, and to be vigilant.

City Administrator Jensen discussed recent vandalism in City parks. He reported that an annexation request has been received and will be discussed during a future Council meeting.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Montgomery congratulated graduating seniors. He discussed increased foot traffic.

Council Member Bringgold referenced a comment earlier in the meeting by Babe O'Gorman relating to the trash hauler contract discussion. She expressed agreement that the City Council should have issued a statement indicating that this type of system is not feasible at this time.

Council Member Gesme asked about the grinder schedule at the compost site. Director Howard provided additional information in this regard.

Council Member Gesme congratulated local banker Roxanne Flaten on her recent retirement.

Mayor Althoff reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and provided a reminder regarding the Cannon Valley Fair on July 1-4.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold, 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 21st day of June, 2022.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator