

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, June 21, 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; Dan Howard, Public Works Director; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; Dianne Howard, Zoning Administrator; Laura Qualey, Community and Economic Business Specialist; and Sara Peer, City Clerk.

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 Gesme, seconded by Council Member Lundell and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Public Input Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, clarified his comments during a past Council meeting, at which time he expressed concerns that Police Chief McCormick had compiled minutes of a Police Commission meeting, even though he is not a member of the Police Commission. He noted that the City Charter indicates that the Police Commission should select a Secretary from its membership. He further expressed concerns that Chief McCormick had run the last Police Commission meeting. He also commented that a Police Officer candidate’s race was discussed during this meeting. Mr. O’Gorman also expressed concerns that a motorcycle was illegally parked in front of City Hall.

Presentations:
Historical Society

Cannon Falls Historical Society President Steve Dabelow introduced Museum Director Zachary Wareham. Mr. Wareham presented the ninth installment payment to the City for the property located at 212 West Mill Street. He noted that \$150,000 has now been paid, with a balance remaining of \$36,000, adding that the plan is to provide the next contribution by the end of the summer.

2021 Audit
Presentation

City Administrator Jensen introduced Brad Falteysek from Abdo, the City’s audit firm. Mr. Falteysek referenced the Management Letter and the Annual Financial Report. He reviewed the audit process and reported that an unmodified or “clean” opinion is being issued regarding the City’s financial statements. He discussed a minor finding relating to internal controls, noting that this is common in small cities. He reviewed the year-end fund balances and referenced City

policies pertaining to fund reserves. He discussed the general fund and enterprise funds. Comparison information with other communities was provided.

Mayor Althoff asked about water and sewer rates, and Mr. Falteysek provided additional information in this regard. City Administrator Jensen discussed the stormwater fund and referenced upcoming projects. Comparison information was further discussed.

A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the 2021 Audit.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending June 16, 2022
- B. Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2022, City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Removal of Ice Rink Bathroom Structure
- D. Approve Tennis Court Agreement with Cannon Falls School District
- E. Approve Temporary Liquor License for Cannon Falls Bears Baseball Association
- F. Approve Temporary Liquor License for VFW Post 4452
- G. Approve Temporary Liquor License for Cannon Valley Fair Board
- H. Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 384, Amending City Code Chapter 111 Relating to Brewer Licensing
- I. Resolution 2636, Adopting Primary and General Election Judges for 2022 and Setting the Hourly Wages

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

Council Business:
Tree and Brush Pile in
the City Compost Site

Public Works Director Howard provided background information. He noted that wood grinding is no longer provided for free and District Energy St. Paul will no longer accept wood chips from outside of the metro area. He reviewed two quotes for grinding and hauling services. He stated that some communities have been burning brush material. Council Members asked about the possibility of closing the yard to brush but continuing to accept grass clippings and small twigs. It was discussed that this may be problematic. The option of controlled burns was discussed.

Inappropriate dumping by outside commercial haulers was discussed. Signage and security cameras were discussed. It was noted that there is no ordinance in place regulating this process.

It was suggested to close the south gate, approve a camera system, install signage that indicates “grass clippings only for Cannon Falls residents, no commercial dumping,” and ask the Public Works Commission to further discuss the issues and provide a recommendation. It was also suggested to work with the Fire Department on a slow burn of the existing brush pile.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan to close the south gate, install signage indicating “grass clippings only, no commercial dumping,” start a controlled burn of the existing brush pile as soon as possible, and research a security camera system. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gesme. Council Member Kronenberger spoke in support of paying for wood chipping services and allowing businesses that operate in Cannon Falls to drop off brush material. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried by a vote of 5:1, with Council Member Kronenberger voting nay. It was suggested to ask the Public Works Commission to discuss this topic.

Resolution 2635, Set
Public Hearing for
Proposed Annexation
of Property owned by
Josie Hayes,
Currently Located in
Cannon Falls
Township

City Administrator Jensen provided background information and reviewed a request to annex approximately 44 acres into the City and zone this area R-3. He stated that the Planning Commission discussed the annexation proposal and recommended the scheduling of a Public Hearing. He summarized discussion with representatives of Cannon Falls Township during a recent Finance Committee meeting, during which past failed developments were referenced. Administrator Jensen reviewed a concept plan that was submitted in conjunction with the annexation request and discussed the Public Hearing notification process.

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Montgomery, to adopt Resolution 2635, setting a Public Hearing for discussion of the annexation proposal on August 2, 2022.

Reports:

Council Committees /
Commissions /
Nonprofit
Organizations

Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Paulson reported that Cannon Falls was the featured community on the Minnesota 97.5 radio station from June 16-19. She stated that stories can be accessed from the station’s website.

Chamber President Paulson also discussed the recent Chamber golf tournament and expressed appreciation to Lundell Heating and Air Conditioning for sponsoring the lunch and happy hour.

Chamber President Paulson discussed the upcoming open air fair on July 14, noting that a DJ, vendors, and food trucks are still needed.

Chamber President Paulson reported that volunteers are needed to staff the entry gates at the Cannon Valley Fair.

Chamber President Paulson thanked flower basket sponsors.

Mayor Althoff also discussed the upcoming Cannon Valley Fair.

Council Member Duncan summarized topics of discussion during a recent Finance Committee meeting.

Council Member Gesme summarized topics of discussion during a recent Planning Commission meeting, during which the annexation request was discussed and a recommendation to move the process forward was unanimously approved.

Council Member Kronenberger summarized topics of discussion during a recent Library Board meeting.

Council Member Lundell discussed a recent Police Commission meeting, during which a Police Officer finalist was selected.

Staff

Public Works Director Howard provided a water tower project update. He reported that Progressive Rail and Goodhue County will be working on railroad crossing projects. He discussed the MnDOT street project. He reported that the pool and splash pad are now open. He noted that a new backstop has been installed at Archie Swenson Fields and discussed recent vandalism at the concession stand.

Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey provided an update regarding the Keller-Baartman project. She also discussed the first phase of the Veterans Memorial Park project, with a ribbon cutting planned in September.

Police Chief McCormick reviewed parking restrictions during the Cannon Valley Fair.

City Administrator Jensen further discussed the Downtown street project.

Administrator Jensen also discussed survey work in conjunction with the land ownership process between the City and the Cannon Valley Fair Board.

It was noted that the State has approved a liquor license application for Rancho Loco. City Administrator Jensen stated that City staff is working on proposed revisions to the City's liquor license application and approval process and will present these to the City Council during a future meeting.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Kronenberger clarified that the downtown street project is a State (MnDOT) project and not a City project.

Council Member Gesme discussed the new Public Works pickup truck.

Public Works Director Howard was asked to provide an update regarding the Third Street Bridge project.

Mayor Althoff reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and invited everyone to visit the Cannon Valley Fair from July 1-4.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 5th day of July, 2022.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator