

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 19, 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 in attendance were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Dan Howard, Public Works Director; Laura Qualey, Community & Economic Business Specialist; Dianne Howard, Zoning Administrator; and Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief.

- 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 present.
- 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 Bringgold and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
- Public Input Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.
- Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, cited information from the City’s recent financial audit. He commented that the Vehicle License Center (DMV) was not consistently losing money in recent years, as had been reported. He also pointed out inaccuracies in the cover letter. He referenced past discussion of an outside service assuming this responsibility and requested that the City Council reconsider this.
- Consent Agenda
- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending July 12, 2022
 - B. Meeting Minutes for July 5, 2022, City Council Meeting
 - C. Accept Paramedic Resignation and Approve to Fill Position
 - D. Set Council Work Session on August 16, 2022
 - E. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 385, Amending City Code Chapter 151 Relating to Public Utilities
 - F. Approve Conveyance of MnDOT Parcel 2506-034-208, PID 52.100.0760, Riverside Park
 - G. Approve Third Street Bridge Approach Blacktopping (South Side)
 - H. Approve Alley Repair
 - I. Approve Cannon Car Cruisers Club Request
 - J. Approve New Lights for the City Parking Lot
 - K. Approve Curb and Catch Basin Repair
 - L. Approve Vehicle Auction for Public Works Truck
 - M. Approve Pickleball Court at East Side Park
 - N. Approve Hiring of Police Officer
 - O. Resolution 2639, Approving Conditional Use Permit and Variance for 31720 318th Street

- P. Resolution 2640, Approving Conditional Use Permit for PID 52.700.0090, Stalland Holdings
- Q. Resolution 2641, Approving Conditional Use Permit for 6686 Bluff Drive
- R. Resolution 2642, Approving Conditional Use Permit for 6682 Bluff Drive

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

Council Business:
City Compost Site

Public Works Director Howard summarized discussion of the waste wood yard during a recent Public Works Commission meeting, including discussion of the grinding quotes. He reviewed the most recent quotes and discussed options.

Council Members asked whether wood chips could be made available to the public. Director Howard indicated that this could be an option. Council Member Montgomery relayed taxpayer concerns about the cost and asked about a controlled burn. Director Howard reviewed the challenges of a controlled burn. Council Member Duncan commented that the Public Works Commission is going to work on developing a set of rules going forward. It was clarified that the site is currently still shut down to commercial haulers. The bids were discussed. City Administrator Jensen clarified that competitive quotes can be accepted, with expenses in excess of \$175,000 requiring a formal bidding process. Council Member Kronenberger asked what would happen to the chips if they are not hauled away. Director Howard stated that the chips would decompose into compost within approximately 12 to 18 months.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Bringgold, to accept the bid from Brayton Johnson of Johnson Construction and Tree Service. The project schedule was discussed. Council Members spoke in support of taking action to deal with the current wood waste pile and develop new rules. Council Member Kronenberger asked about the possibility of allowing commercial haulers to deposit wood waste in the future, indicating that commercial haulers have expressed a willingness to pay a fee. Council Member Bringgold indicated that City Administrator Jensen and Public Works Director Howard plan to meet with commercial haulers to discuss a potential fee schedule.

Following discussion, 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 everyone who participated in and attended the recent open air fair. She discussed the upcoming fun fest on August 11. She discussed the 2021-2022 advertising campaign, provided web statistics, reviewed postcard and email responses, and detailed grant funding and community partnerships toward marketing costs. She discussed print and online ads, distribution of the Discover Guides, and plans for billboard advertising along Highway 52. She discussed promotion of area attractions, events, and local businesses. A poster campaign and the use of QR codes were also discussed. Chamber President Paulson also discussed updates to the Chamber website. She expressed appreciation to the Gold Level sponsors and community partners.

Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey provided an EDA update and reviewed recent changes to the loan program.

Council

Council Member Lundell reiterated recent discussions by the Public Works Commission.

Council Member Montgomery expressed appreciation for donations toward the creation of pickleball courts in East Side Park. He expressed disappointment that the Minnesota Legislature did not pass a bonding bill during the last session and discussed new fundraising efforts toward John Burch Park improvements.

Council Member Duncan summarized topics of discussion during a recent Finance Committee meeting, including the budget planning process and the process of developing fire coverage contracts with the townships.

Council Member Gesme and Zoning Administrator Howard summarized discussion during a recent Planning Commission meeting, including public hearings followed by recommendations to approve several CUP requests. It was noted that the next Planning Commission meeting will be held on August 15.

Staff

Public Works Director Howard discussed additional work at the approach to the Third Street Bridge. He provided a water tower painting project update. The start times for the next Public Works Commission and Park Board meetings were discussed.

Council Member Duncan asked about the speed sign along Fourth Street, and Police Chief McCormick provided additional information in this regard. The option for a more permanent speed sign was discussed. Other speeding concerns were discussed, and past discussions in this regard were referenced.

Mayor and Council Mayor Althoff reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

Adjournment A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Montgomery and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 2nd day of August, 2022.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator