

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 20, 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; Joe Berg, Police Lieutenant; Tim Malchow, EMS Chief; and Laura Qualey, Community & Economic Business Specialist

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 Mayor Althoff requested the addition of a presentation by Cannon Falls Historical Society Board President Steve Dabelow. He also requested the removal of Item I from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Public Input Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Erik Porten discussed the state-wide shortage of EMS personnel and expressed opposition to the proposed layoffs of Ambulance Service personnel. He asked why Ambulance Service members who have not worked in over a year have not been added to the list. He stated that the reason for his layoff has been listed as “personal reasons.” He stated that the process has been not only morally and ethically wrong but fraudulent. He stated that forced masking is the only thing that has prevented him from working, noting that he has suggested and sought out multiple avenues to continue working for the Cannon Falls Ambulance Service. He referenced the City’s updated policy for unscheduled part-time employees that was approved a few months ago by the City Council. He detailed his service to the community since 2011. He stated that if the City Council votes to lay him off, it would not be for personal reasons but rather due to his unwavering personal beliefs.

A prepared statement was read upon behalf of an Ambulance Service employee in opposition to the proposed layoffs of Ambulance Service staff and seeking community support.

Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, discussed a home he is building on Bluff Drive. He expressed concerns relating to the installation of a

sidewalk, noting that this has hampered construction activities. He requested leaving a section open at this time, to be completed later.

Presentation:
Cannon Falls
Historical Society
Presentation

Cannon Falls Historical Society Board President Steve Dabelow discussed the acquisition of property adjacent to the Historical Society from the City of Cannon Falls a number of years ago for a purchase price of \$186,000. He discussed fundraising efforts and presented a check for \$10,000, noting that this brings the total to \$160,000. He added that there is another \$3,500 in commitments and indicated that a check for \$5,000 will be presented in the near future. He suggested that the City Council consider making a contribution or forgiving all or a portion of the remaining \$16,000. He stated that funds are also being raised toward a window replacement project at the fire hall and referenced other planned improvements.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending September 14, 2022
- B. Meeting Minutes for August 16, 2022, City Council Work Session
- C. Meeting Minutes for September 6, 2022, City Council Meeting
- D. Approve Appointment of Wendy Roeber to Police Commission
- E. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 388, an Ordinance of the City of Cannon Falls, MN, Amending City Code Chapter 152 Relating to Development Applications
- F. Approve SEMMCHRA Donation of Land (Lookout Point)
- G. Approve Hiring of Part-Time Cable Technician Reas Sessions
- ~~H. Approve John Burch Park Rental for CF High School Humanities Fundraiser~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Lundell
- ~~I. Approve Layoff of Ambulance Personnel – Gabriel Jordahl~~
This item was removed from the Consent Agenda
- J. Approve Layoff of Ambulance Personnel – Chris Thompson
- K. Approve Layoff of Ambulance Personnel – Adam Peine
- L. Approve Layoff of Ambulance Personnel – Erik Porten

Mayor Althoff reviewed the Consent Agenda. A motion was made by Council Member Bringgold to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Item H, which was moved to Council Business, and Item I, which had been removed from the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Duncan, a vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Council Business:

Approve John Burch
Park Rental for CF
High School

Council Member Lundell discussed the fundraiser and suggested waiving the \$100 rental fee for the use of John Burch Park. Other

Humanities
Fundraiser

events were discussed. It was suggested to consider this as the City's contribution toward the fundraiser.

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Montgomery, to approve the use of John Burch Park for a Cannon Falls High School fundraiser, waiving the \$100 fee.

Council Member Kronenberger asked about clean-up activities. It was stated that every group that uses the park is responsible for clean-up afterwards. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Council Committees /
Commissions /
Nonprofit
Organizations

Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Paulson discussed upcoming community events, including a blood drive on September 29 at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church, the 50th annual Sogn Valley Art Fair on October 1 and 2, a customer appreciation day at Ferndale Market on October 1, and a concert featuring The Whitesidewalls on October 29 to raise funds for the Cannon Falls Senior Center. She stated that the Chamber Board will be holding a planning meeting on October 14.

Council Member Gesme summarized topics of discussion during a recent Cable Commission meeting, including the introduction of part-time cable technician applicant Reas Sessions.

Council Member Duncan summarized topics of discussion during a recent Finance Committee meeting, including the SEMMCHRA Lookout Point property and fire contracts with the townships. He suggested that the Finance Committee add Cannon Falls Historical Society Board President Steve Dabelow's request to a future Finance Committee agenda for further discussion. Mayor Althoff referenced the location of the Lookout Point property and provided additional background information.

Council Member Kronenberger summarized topics of discussion during a recent Library Board meeting, including the potential installation of a flag outside the Cannon Falls Library.

Staff

Public Works Director Howard reported that the water tower project has been completed. He stated that blacktopping projects are progressing and discussed a pickleball court project.

EMS Chief Malchow discussed a recent joint meeting of the Ambulance Service, the Fire Department, and Mayo Clinic Health

System. He discussed mass casualty training activities. He discussed a patient followup process in conjunction with Mayo Clinic Health System. He also referenced discussion of a proposal to remount one of the older ambulances.

Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey reviewed recent EDA activities, including expansion projects in the Industrial Park and a property forfeiture acquisition at the corner of Minnesota and Cedar Streets that will be developed for housing. She provided a Keller-Baartman project update.

Police Lieutenant Joe discussed recent vandalism incidents.

City Administrator Jensen provided an update regarding the process of working with the Cannon Valley Fair Board and the City Attorney on property transfers.

Mayor and Council

Council Members Bringgold and Gesme expressed appreciation to Cannon Falls Ambulance Service personnel for their service to the community.

Council Member Gesme suggested that Public Works Director Howard work with Babe O’Gorman on the sidewalk issue. Mr. O’Gorman indicated that he will install the missing section of sidewalk at no charge to the City following construction of the home. Public Works Director Howard indicated that an approximately 15-foot section will be left open, adding that the homebuilder will be kept in the loop as well.

Mayor Althoff reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 4th day of October, 2022.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator