

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery and Council Members Laura Kronenberger, Derek Lundell, Steve Gesme, Lisa Groth, Diane Johnson, and Ryan Jeppesen (remotely). Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Sara Peer, City Clerk; Bill Angerman, City Engineer; and Mitch Althoff, Police Officer.

Call to Order Mayor Montgomery 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 Montgomery led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Groth, seconded by Council Member Gesme, to approve the Agenda as presented. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Input Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure.

Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, commented regarding the public input procedure, noting that the time limit has not been enforced consistently. He also referenced applicable data privacy rules and respectful behavior. He stated his opinion that the City Attorney contract is in conflict with the City Charter.

Tim Dehmer, Cannon Falls, also commented regarding the time limit for public input. He noted that the flag at the Fire Department has been taken down and provided suggestions for resolving this situation.

Public Hearing:
Introduction and First
Reading of Ordinance
392, Authorizing the
Sale of the East Half
of Vacated Ninth
Street Adjacent to
Block 8, Cannon Falls
Co’s Addition to
Cannon Falls,
Goodhue County

Mayor Montgomery opened the Public Hearing at 6:39 p.m.

City Administrator Jensen provided background information and referenced discussions with the Cannon Valley Fair Board. He described the location of the property under discussion and provided rationale for the land sale.

No one spoke during the Public Hearing. Mayor Montgomery closed the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Council Member Gesme asked about the need for an easement, and it was clarified that no utility easement is needed.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Lundell, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 392, authorizing the property sale to the Cannon Valley Fair Board as presented. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

~~A. Just and Correct Claims—Accounting Period Ending March 30, 2023~~

This item was pulled by Council Member Johnson

- B. Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2023, City Council Work Session
- C. Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2023, City Council Meeting
- D. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 391, an Ordinance of the City of Cannon Falls, Minnesota, Authorizing the Sale of Parcel No. 52.420.0160
- E. Approve City Lot Closure Request
- F. Approve Appointment of Gary Tipton to Police Commission
- G. Approve Appointment of Shawn Mothershead to Library Board
- H. Resolution 2679, Authorizing Acceptance of Donation from Cannon Falls Lions Club

A motion was made by Council Member Groth, seconded by Council Member Gesme, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Item A. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Council Business:
Resolution 2678,
Approving Plans and
Specifications and
Ordering
Advertisement for
Bids

City Engineer Angerman provided background information. He detailed the proposed project and reviewed the bidding process. He discussed the existing sewer bridge and reviewed a recommendation for a lift station. He referenced the City's assessment policy. He provided rationale to split the project into two phases, with the first phase to be completed in 2023 and the second phase to be completed in 2024. He commented with regard to the property acquisition process. He discussed project challenges related to drilling under the river.

Council Member Johnson requested clarification of the anticipated project timeline, and City Engineer Angerman provided information in this regard.

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to adopt Resolution 2678. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Just and Correct
Claims – Accounting
Period Ending March
30, 2023

Council Member Johnson requested clarification of property tax expenses. City Administrator Jensen noted that property taxes are paid on City-owned land that is for sale for development. He reviewed these properties.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Lundell, to approve the just and correct claims for the accounting period ending March 30, 2023. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Council Committees /
Commissions /
Nonprofit
Organizations

Mayor Montgomery introduced Maggie Wilson, the new Cannon Area Chamber of Commerce Director. Director Wilson discussed upcoming Chamber events, including the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt, the June 1st Fun Fest, the Chamber golf tournament and fundraiser on June 19, and the Cannon Cruisers car cruise on August 4. She stated that the Chamber office is temporarily located above the bakery in the Nelson Insurance office, with plans to relocate to a permanent location next to the bakery in May. She stated that volunteers are needed to assist with the Fun Fest and other Chamber events.

Council Member Groth summarized topics of discussion during a recent Joint Powers Trail Board meeting, including grant applications toward trail repairs.

Council Member Kronenberger discussed a recent Police Commission meeting, during which a conditional employment offer was approved.

Mayor and Council

Council Members Gesme and Johnson expressed appreciation to Dan and Dianne Howard for their service to the City.

Mayor Montgomery discussed the recent active shooter event and expressed appreciation to City staff, other law enforcement agencies, and School District staff.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Groth, to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 18th day of April, 2023.

Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator