

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery and Council Members Laura Kronenberger, Derek Lundell, Steve Gesme, Lisa Groth, Ryan Jeppesen, and Diane Johnson. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Sara Peer, City Clerk; and Joe Berg, Police Lieutenant.

- 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 Lundell, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
- Public Input Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure.
- Curt Beissel, Cannon Falls resident, referenced past discussion of allowing go-kart races at the Fairgrounds. He provided an example of the noise generated by a go-kart and discussed intensity, vibration, and amplitude. He suggested that the Fair Board consider neighborhood concerns and commented that the role of the City Council is to do what is best for the community.
- Presentation:  
Goodhue County  
Recycling Program
- Willie Root, Goodhue County Solid Waste Official, introduced himself and discussed the importance of public education. He stated that garbage is processed at the City of Red Wing Solid Waste Campus and the resultant material incinerated by Xcel Energy to produce energy.
- Mr. Root reviewed the County's recycling drop-off locations. Mayor Montgomery asked what happens when improper items are placed in recycling boxes. Mr. Root commented that the majority of people try to recycle correctly. He referenced information to be distributed to the public relating to recycling practices and procedures. He stated that this is a separate process from the curb-side recycling service that is offered to Cannon Falls residents. He discussed plastics recycling and urged residents not to dispose of landscaping materials in recycling boxes.
- Mr. Root discussed used oil recycling along with ways to recycle clothes, florescent bulbs, and batteries. He discussed the 24-hour

recycling shed in Red Wing. He clarified that recycled items need to be separated by the public and will be further sorted by County staff.

Mr. Root discussed household hazardous waste collection events and noted that volunteers will no longer be allowed to provide assistance for insurance reasons. He discussed ways to dispose of old tires, electronics, appliances, and furniture. He provided rationale for hazardous waste collection efforts and examples of improper recycling. The challenges of Styrofoam, lithium batteries, and bottles with liquids were discussed. Cardboard recycling was discussed. Mr. Root reviewed a list of hazardous waste materials that can be dropped off at the Goodhue County Recycling Center in Red Wing.

Consent Agenda

~~A. Just and Correct Claims—Accounting Period Ending May 11, 2023~~

*This item was pulled by Council Member Groth for discussion and moved to Council Business.*

- B. Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2023, City Council Meeting
- C. Approve 2023 Swimming Pool Lifeguards
- D. Approve 2023 John Burch Park Agreement with School District
- E. Approve Girl Scout Silver Project Proposal  
*Mayor Montgomery provided additional background information.*
- F. Approve Pool Caulking Project  
*Clarification was requested by Council Member Johnson, and additional information was provided by City Administrator Jensen.*
- G. Approve Fair Board Water Truck Request
- H. Approve Police Officer Adjustment
- I. Approve Swimming Pool Parking Lot Reconstruction Bid

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Item A.

Council Business:  
John Burch Park  
Donation Agreement  
and Dugout Plan  
Approval

City Administrator Jensen provided background information. He discussed the project and stated that the Park Board has recommended approval of the agreement. Rich Burr spoke on behalf of the Cannon Falls Bears and the John Burch Park supporters group. He provided additional information regarding the proposed project. Roles and responsibilities were reviewed. Mayor Montgomery expressed appreciation for the donation from the supporters group.

It was suggested to repurpose the old stone material, and Mr. Burr discussed plans in this regard. The concession stand and ADA

compliant restrooms were discussed. The anticipated project schedule was reviewed.

A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve the John Burch Park donation agreement and dugout plan as presented. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Market Study  
Proposal from DDA  
Human Resources

City Administrator Jensen provided background information and rationale for the proposed pay study. He referenced the need to comply with the State's pay equity system. He reviewed the study proposal and costs. Council Members spoke in support of the study proposal. Council Member Lundell asked whether the City would be obligated to abide by the study recommendations. City Administrator Jensen reviewed options in this regard. Current hiring challenges were discussed. The project timeline was discussed along with the frequency of future studies. City Administrator Jensen reviewed the process of obtaining comparison information with other communities to assist with labor contract negotiations. The benefits of employee retention were discussed. The costs of the initial study and ongoing maintenance were clarified. City Administrator Jensen indicated that additional information will be provided for Council consideration, if the initial study proposal is approved.

A motion was made by Council Member Groth, seconded by Council Member Kronenberger and unanimously carried, to approve the market study proposal as presented.

Just and Correct  
Claims – Accounting  
Period Ending May  
11, 2023

Council Member Groth referenced a recent payment to the attorney firm Hoff Barry, PA, for data requests. She discussed expenses relating to other recent data requests from one individual. Mayor Montgomery asked about additional City staff time to process data requests. City Administrator Jensen indicated that he has not been able to closely monitor these costs recently because of other current responsibilities. He referenced data from 2022. Mayor Montgomery summarized discussion with other community representatives relating to data requests. Council Member Groth commented regarding the costs of data requests in terms of staff time and added stress.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Jeppesen, to approve the just and correct claims as presented.

Reports:

Council Committees /  
Commissions /  
Nonprofit  
Organizations

Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Director Maggie Wilson reported that the Chamber office has moved to 127 Fourth Street North. She stated that the 2023 Discover Guides have been received and will be distributed to local businesses and surrounding communities. She discussed new window clings that include a QR code for use by visitors. She discussed website updates. She discussed upcoming events, including the Fun Fest on June 1st, the Chamber golf tournament on June 19, and the Cannon Valley Fair medallion hunt. The coupon book was discussed.

Mayor Montgomery summarized topics of discussion during a recent EDA meeting, including financials, loan payments, and a presentation from Art.org representatives.

City Administrator Jensen summarized topics of discussion during a recent Park Board meeting, including the Girl Scout silver project proposal, the John Burch project and donation agreement, the medallion hunt, and the pool caulking project.

Council Member Johnson summarized topics of discussion during a recent Library Board meeting, including library activities, the summer reading program, the Little Free Food Pantry, 2024 budget planning, and the upcoming Library Board meeting schedule.

Staff

Police Lieutenant Berg reminded community members to watch for pedestrians, especially during the summer months.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Kronenberger referenced past discussion of the go-kart track and State guidelines relating to the Fairgrounds. She suggested that residents with comments or concerns about the go-kart track contact the Cannon Valley Fair Board.

Council Member Jeppesen spoke in support of the John Burch Park project.

Mayor Montgomery discussed an upcoming meeting at Veterans Park.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Groth and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

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Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator