

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery and Council Members Derek Lundell, Steve Gesme, Lisa Groth, Ryan Jeppesen, and Diane Johnson; Council Member Laura Kronenberger was absent. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Laura Qualey, Community and Economic Business Specialist; Sara Peer, City Clerk; and Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief.

- Call to Order Mayor Montgomery called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call Roll call was conducted. Mayor Montgomery and Council Members Gesme, Groth, Jeppesen, Johnson, and Lundell 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 Gesme, seconded by Council Member Groth and unanimously carried, to approve the amended Agenda as presented.
- Public Input Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure.
- Rosie Schluter, Cannon Falls, suggested consideration of adding an image of legendary Minnesota Vikings Coach Bud “Stone Face” Grant onto a local grain bin or other structure.
- Brian Douglas, 1124 Minnesota Street West, Cannon Falls, inquired regarding the future of the former Terrace of Cannon Falls building. Mr. Douglas also asked about enforcement of the noise ordinance and expressed concerns about the recent demolition derby.
- Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, referenced a past request for Public Works Commission meeting minutes. He stated that minutes from commission meetings should be readily available to the public. He provided the example that the public should be able to obtain information about a prospective police officer hire. He clarified that he has been billed for data requests from the City. He also requested information about Project Tulip.
- Mayor Montgomery asked City Administrator Jensen to comment regarding data request fees. City Administrator Jensen reviewed the policy for data requests, noting that in certain instances the requestor is charged a fee.
- Consent Agenda A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending May 30, 2023

- B. Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2023, City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Market Analysis and Grid Calibration
- D. Approve Home Wedding Request
- E. Approve Hire of Unscheduled Part-Time Employee D. Reither for the Ambulance Department
- F. Approve Hire of Administrative Assistant and Permit Technician
- G. Approve Hire of Public Works Director
- ~~H. Approve Purchase of Utility Locator~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Johnson.
- ~~I. Approve Bill's Blacktop Quotes~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Jeppesen.
- J. Approve Pavement Resources Crack Sealing Quote
- K. Approve Hire of Unscheduled Part-Time Employee J. Esparza for the Ambulance Department

A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Items H and I.

Council Business:

July 4th City Council Meeting

Mayor Montgomery suggested scheduling one Council meeting during July, to be held on July 11.

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to cancel the July 4 and July 18 Council meetings and schedule a special Council meeting on July 11.

Approve Bill's Blacktop Quotes

Council Member Jeppesen stated his understanding that blacktop would be applied onto the former Lee Chevrolet property, owned by the EDA. City Administrator Jensen commented that this property is currently used for parking purposes. He referenced soil borings and noted that there are challenges to developing this property. Mayor Montgomery commented that since demolition of the building the property has been treated as an extension of the City parking lot. Council Member Johnson asked whether the EDA would be willing to transfer ownership of the property to the City. Community & Business Development Specialist Qualey stated that the EDA has not discussed this but indicated that she will suggest the addition of this topic to a future meeting agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Groth and unanimously carried, to approve the blacktop quotes.

Approve Purchase of
Utility Locator

Council Member Johnson asked how the utility locator would be used and whether it could be used to locate lead pipes. City Administrator Jensen provided information in this regard. He also discussed potential grant funding toward lead line research.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the purchase of a utility locator.

Reports:

Council Committees /
Commissions /
Nonprofit
Organizations

Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Director Maggie Wilson discussed the recent Fun Fest. She reported that updated Cannon Falls maps are available at the Cannon Valley Trail kiosks. She expressed appreciation to Cromer Creations and flower basket sponsors along with thanking Public Works for maintaining the baskets. She discussed a Chamber breakfast on June 14. She commented that teams and volunteers are still needed for the golf tournament on June 19 at Cannon Golf Club. She discussed other upcoming events, including a car cruise on August 4, and reviewed other upcoming community events.

Mayor Montgomery summarized topics of discussion during a recent EDA meeting, including a grant program and \$469,000 in State funding toward John Burch Park projects. He stated that the EDA also discussed the Hardwood Estates project and lodging taxes.

Council Member Lundell summarized topics of discussion during a recent Park Board meeting, including a request by the Fair Board to place a sign on the John Burch Park fence and discussion about the pool.

Council Member Lundell summarized topics of discussion during a recent Public Works Commission meeting, including items listed on the Consent Agenda and the advertisement for a Public Works Maintenance II position.

Staff

Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey encouraged homeowners to apply for Small Cities Development Program grants through SEMMCHRA, noting a goal of assisting 21 Cannon Falls homeowners to renovate or refurbish their homes. She discussed applications in process and referenced the program criteria.

Police Chief McCormick provided a reminder regarding parking restrictions during the Cannon Valley Fair parade.

City Administrator Jensen provided a pay study update. He also discussed the 2024 budget planning process and referenced challenges relating to the rising cost of equipment.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Jeppesen asked about the swimming pool parking lot paving project schedule. City Administrator Jensen indicated that this project will be completed after the pool closes for the season.

Mayor Montgomery further discussed the recent Fun Fest.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 20th day of June, 2023.

Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator