

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery and Council Members Derek Lundell, Steve Gesme, Lisa Groth, and Diane Johnson; Council Members Ryan Jeppesen and Laura Kronenberger were absent. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Sara Peer, City Clerk; Jed Petersen, Public Works Director; Bill Angerman, City Engineer; Zach Logelin, Permit & License Technician, Laura Qualey, Community & Economic Business Specialist; 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, 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 Groth, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
- Public Input Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure.
- Becky Youngmark, Cannon Falls, requested a correction to the August 15 City Council meeting minutes. She clarified that the Park Board reviewed the Sandstone Ridge property proposal but did not provide a recommendation relating to the property sale. She noted that the proposed park was discussed by the Park Board, with a recommendation to recommend approval of the Towering Bluffs parkland dedication. She stated that the Park Board did discuss concerns relating to the proposed location of the park and trail access.
- Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, summarized an email he received from someone identified as CF Insider. He referenced his past comments and data requests relating to Project Tulip. He stated that he is challenging the completeness of the public information that he received in this regard.
- Consent Agenda
- A. ~~Just and Correct Claims—Accounting Period Ending August 30, 2023~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Johnson
 - B. ~~Meeting Minutes for August 15, 2023, City Council Meeting~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Johnson

- C. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 395 and Summary of Publication, an Ordinance of the City of Cannon Falls, Minnesota, to Amend the Cannon Falls Zoning Ordinance by Amending a Zoning District
- D. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 396 and Summary of Publication, an Ordinance of the City of Cannon Falls, Minnesota, to Amend the Cannon Falls Zoning Ordinance by Amending a Zoning District
- E. Resolution 2696, Accepting DEED Appropriation for John Burch Park Wall Rehabilitation Project
- F. Approve Body Worn Camera Audits
- G. Approve Disposal of Pro Vision Body Worn Camera Hardware
- H. Approve Hire of Police Officer Nathaniel Fox
- I. Approve Hire of Unscheduled Part-Time EMT Anthony Rink
- J. Approve Full-Time Ambulance Employees Callback Pay
- ~~K. Approve Cannon Cruisers Car Club Use of Minneska Park for VFW Event~~

This item was pulled by Council Member Johnson

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, minus Items A, B, and K.

Council Business:
Resolution 2697,
Adopting the
Preliminary Tax Levy
and Budget
Collectible in 2024
and Setting a Public
Hearing Date

City Administrator Jensen summarized the budget planning process. He stated that the preliminary 2024 tax levy represents an approximately 4% increase from the 2023 tax levy. He reviewed estimated Invenergy, Local Government Aid (LGA), and bond interest. He highlighted major 2024 expenses, including employee wages and equipment purchases. He discussed planned 2024 projects. City Engineer Angerman discussed the completion of the Third Street reconstruction and utility project. Administrator Jensen reviewed the next steps in the process, including the scheduling of a Public Hearing on November 21, with adoption of the final 2024 levy and budget on December 19.

Council Member Johnson requested clarification of the Library capital budget, and Administrator Jensen noted that this will be revised.

Council Member Johnson asked about expenses relating to the Hardwood Estates development. Administrator Jensen noted that internal transfers will be finalized once the bids have been approved.

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Groth and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2697 as presented.

Hardwood Estates

Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey provided background information and an update. She referenced the final plat and PUD plan and discussed the bidding process. She stated that MnDOT will be requiring a right turn lane off of Highway 19, noting that this will need to be added to the final plat. City Engineer Angerman further discussed the right turn lane requirement and provided an estimated cost of less than \$50,000.

1. Resolution 2698, Approving Final Plat and Final PUD Plan for Hardwood Estates Second Subdivision.

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Groth, to adopt Resolution 2698. A vote was conducted and the motion carried by a vote of 3:1, with Council Member Johnson dissenting.

2. Resolution 2699, Approving Plans and Specifications and Ordering Advertisement for Bids.

Ms. Qualey further reviewed the bidding and approval process for the project. City Engineer Angerman provided additional information and discussed an addendum to the specifications relating to the right turn lane.

Council Member Johnson asked about project funding sources, and City Administrator Jensen provided information in this regard.

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Gesme, to adopt Resolution 2699. A vote was conducted and the motion carried by a vote of 3:1, with Council Member Johnson dissenting.

Meeting Minutes for
August 15, 2023, City
Council Meeting

The earlier comments made by Becky Youngmark were referenced, and a correction to the meeting minutes was discussed.

City Administrator Jensen provided background information regarding the former Sandstone Ridge development. . . He

noted that the Planning Commission and the Park Board have recommended approval of the property sale.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the meeting minutes as corrected.

Approve Cannon
Cruisers Car Club
Use of Minneska Park
for VFW Event

Council Member Johnson asked where the cars would be parked. Public Works Director Petersen provided information in this regard.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Groth and unanimously carried, to approve the use of Minneska Park for the event.

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

Council Member Johnson requested clarification of legal fees. Administrator Jensen indicated that he will research this and provide clarification.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the just and correct claims for the accounting period ending August 30, 2023.

Reports:
Council Committees,
Commissions, and
Nonprofit
Organizations

Council Member Groth reported that the Joint Powers Trail Board meeting was cancelled because of the lack of discussion items.

Staff

Public Works Director Petersen provided an update regarding the new plow truck. He referenced the original quote and reviewed the actual cost.

Director Petersen and City Engineer Angerman provided updates regarding the Third Street project.

City Engineer Angerman also discussed the assessment process for the 72nd Avenue Way project.

Director Petersen and City Engineer Angerman provided updates regarding John Burch Park projects. Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey discussed project funding.

Police Chief McCormick discussed the legalization of marijuana. He referenced guidance provided by the League of Minnesota

Cities. He requested direction from the City Council relating to local regulations and a licensing process. He commented that some communities have implemented moratoriums relating to marijuana dispensaries. It was clarified that the sale of hemp projects would not be affected, if a moratorium is approved. The State licensing process and projected timeline were discussed. Potential County regulations were discussed.

Council Members expressed agreement with recommendations provided by the League of Minnesota Cities. A potential moratorium was discussed, to allow time to consider potential regulations once the State process is known. It was suggested to request an opinion from the City Attorney and direct the Police Commission to research options.

Administrator Jensen referenced the current moratorium on residential treatment centers. He stated that City staff and the Planning Commission will be working on potential ordinance amendments.

Council

Council Member Lundell expressed concerns about the condition of a commercial property on Dow Street. Chief McCormick provided additional information and summarized discussion with the City Attorney relating to nuisance properties.

Mayor Montgomery issued a reminder to watch for pedestrians and young drivers, now that school has started.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Groth, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 19th day of September, 2023.

Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator