

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 5, 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 Sara Peer, City Clerk; Jed Petersen, Public Works Director; Zach Logelin, Permit & License Technician; Bill Angerman, City Engineer; and Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief.

- Call to Order            Mayor Montgomery called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call                All members were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance    Mayor Montgomery led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda    Mayor Montgomery requested a change to the discussion order for Agenda items. A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Groth and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as discussed.
- Public Input            Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure.
- Leon Hanson, Cannon Falls, referenced recent discussion of the challenges of encouraging public involvement on committees and commissions. He commented that he submitted an application to serve on the Planning Commission several months ago but has received no response.
- Becky Youngmark, Cannon Falls, discussed the proposed Park Board and Public Works Commission merger. She commented that some Public Works Commission applications were not accepted. She expressed concerns about the lack of communication and transparency relating to the proposed structure. She referenced Council Member comments that were quoted in a recent *Cannon Falls Beacon* article. She stated that she is disappointed about the way that Park Board volunteers were dismissed after serving on the Park Board for several years. She suggested that board and commission members work together to work out challenges and reach a solution. She discussed the benefits of public involvement in discussions involving City parks and recreational facilities.
- Mark and Kris Jessee introduced themselves as the founders of the Gray Duck Grit ultra-endurance cycling race.

Mr. Jessee stated their intention to organize an event at the Cannon Valley Fairgrounds over Labor Day weekend in 2024. He discussed past races and provided rationale for moving the event to Cannon Falls. He requested support from the City, from the community, and from the City Council. He noted that road closures would be minimized during this event.

Police Officer  
Pinnings

Police Chief McCormick commented that police officers dedicate their lives to serving others with honor, integrity, knowledge, and courage. He stated that Officers Luna, Hanson, and Fox are carrying on the legacy of their families, while Officer Jacobson will be creating his own legacy.

Mayor Montgomery administered the Oath of Office for Officer Jaxson Hanson, Officer Robert Luna, Officer Jeremy Jacobson, and Officer Nathaniel Fox. Family members participated in the badge pinning ceremony. The new officers were congratulated by those in attendance.

Public Hearing:  
2023 / 2024 Street &  
Utility Improvements

City Engineer Angerman provided background information and discussed the project. He referenced the preliminary assessment hearing and stated that a final assessment hearing is being conducted for the 2023 / 2024 street improvement project. He reviewed the project area and detailed the utility and street improvements. He discussed the assessment methodology. He noted that the cost of the sewer bridge, the lift station, the stormwater pond, and oversized pipe not being assessed to property owners. He stated that 23 properties are being assessed for 20% of the assessable project costs, totaling \$254,000. He stated that property owners received statements listing their proposed assessments. He noted that senior citizen, permanently disabled, and active military deferrals are available. He discussed a proposed interest rate of bond buyer index plus 1%, or 5.25%, with an assessment term of 10 years. He referenced the resolution language. He noted that the assessments, if not prepaid, would be added to the 2025 property taxes, adding that no interest would accrue until the assessments are certified to be collected with taxes.

City Engineer Angerman reviewed the project schedule and discussed the bidding process for the project.

City Engineer Angerman reviewed the purpose of the Public Hearing and detailed the assessment appeal process.

Mayor Montgomery opened the Public Hearing at 6:58 p.m.

Steve Ross, 317 Cannon Street, Cannon Falls, requested information regarding the assessment deferral process. City Engineer Angerman reviewed the process of requesting a deferral.

No one else spoke during the Public Hearing. Mayor Montgomery closed the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Johnson requested clarification of utility improvements, and City Engineer Angerman provided additional information in this regard.

- 1) Resolution 2723, Adopting Assessment on 2023 / 2024 Street & Utility Improvements.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Kronenberger and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2723 as drafted.

- 2) Resolution 2724, Receiving Bids and Awarding Contract on 2023 / 2024 Street & Utility Improvements.

It was noted that the bids came in lower than the engineer's estimate.

A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2724 as drafted.

Consent Agenda

This item was discussed following the public hearing.

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending November 29, 2023
- B. Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2023, City Council Meeting
- C. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 400, an Ordinance Repealing Ordinances 369 and 373  
*This item was pulled by Council Member Johnson*
- D. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 401, an Ordinance Establishing a Public Works and Park Advisory Board  
*This item was pulled by Council Member Johnson*
- E. Approve Squad Car Replacement
- F. Resolution 2720, Authorizing Budget Transfers for Year-End 2023 Cannon Falls City Audit

- G. Approve Vacation Extension Request
- H. Resolution 2721, Approve Right-of-Way and Utility Vacation of Old Sandstone Ridge Development.
- I. Resolution 2722, Accepting a \$500 Monetary Donation from the VFW

Council Member Groth requested clarification of Item H, and additional information was provided by Permit & License Technician Logelin.

A motion was made by Council Member Groth, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Items C and D.

Council Business:

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 400, an Ordinance Repealing Ordinances 369 and 373

Council Member Johnson expressed concerns about the process that led to the decision to combine the Park Board and the Public Works Commission into one advisory board. The role of the Finance Committee was discussed. Council Member Johnson stated that she would have preferred to have received input from the two bodies, prior to moving the process forward.

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Gesme, to adopt Ordinance 400 as drafted. The motion carried by a vote of 5:0:1, with Council Member Johnson abstaining from the vote.

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 401, an Ordinance Establishing a Public Works and Park Advisory Board.

Council Member Johnson asked about a language correction. She also commented that all City boards and commissions are advisory and suggested changing the title to Public Works and Park Board. City Clerk affirmed that all boards and commissions are advisory.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson to adopt Ordinance 401, changing the title to the Public Works and Park Board and correcting the language as discussed. It was clarified that the duties would remain the same. The motion was seconded by Council Member Groth, a vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports:  
Council Committees / Commissions / Nonprofit Organizations

Mayor Montgomery commented regarding the successful Deck the Falls event.

Council Members Kronenberger and Groth summarized topics of discussion during a recent Joint Powers Board meeting.

Council Member Gesme summarized topics of discussion during a recent Planning Commission meeting, including further discussion of residential treatment centers and discussion of a right-of-way and utility vacation in the former Sandstone Ridge development.

Staff

Public Works Director Petersen issued a reminder about garbage can placement and street parking during snow events. Winter parking restrictions were reviewed.

City Engineer Angerman provided an update relating to the Hardwood Estates utility work. It was noted that the first lot has been sold.

Police Chief McCormick discussed the communication and enforcement processes during snow events. Police department staffing was discussed.

Mayor and Council

The new officers were congratulated. The upcoming meeting schedule was reviewed. The Deck the Falls event was further discussed.

Council Member Gesme requested an update regarding the Terrace property. Police Chief McCormick provided an update. He discussed frequent safety checks and noted that no progress has been made. He stated that the City Attorney has received an update.

Mayor Montgomery discussed winter activities.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

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Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator