

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 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; Jed Petersen, Public Works Director; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; Darren Sikkink, WHKS representative

- 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 There was no public input.
- Public Hearing:
Resolution 2737,
Certifying Unpaid
Utility Charges to be
Collected with Taxes
- Mayor Montgomery opened the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m. No one spoke during the Public Hearing. Mayor Montgomery closed the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m.
- Council Member Johnson requested clarification of the resolution language, and additional information was provided.
- A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Groth and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2737, certifying unpaid utility charges to be collected with property taxes.
- Consent Agenda
- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending January 31, 2024
 - B. Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2024, City Council Meeting
 - ~~C. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 402 and Summary of Publication, an Ordinance Amending City Code Title III Relating to Fees, Charges and Rates~~
This item was pulled by Council Member Jeppesen
 - D. Resolution 2734, Adopting Presidential Nomination Primary Election Judges for 2024, Adopting Presidential Nomination Primary Election Judges for 2024, and Setting the Hourly Wages

- E. Resolution 2735, Accepting a Monetary Donation of \$700 from The Henkel Foundation to the Library
- F. Approve 2024 Contracted Police Services Rate
- G. Approve Hire of Unscheduled Part-Time Employee B. Voshalike to the Ambulance Department
- H. Approve March 5, 2024, City Council Meeting Cancellation

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

Council Business:
Disposal of AEDs

Police Chief McCormick reported that the Police Department has received new AEDs and has repurposed three of the old AEDs. He stated that three units remain, one of which is currently not functioning properly. He requested Council direction in terms of the units and reviewed options in this regard. Mayor Montgomery suggested donating these AEDs to interested local nonprofit groups via a lottery system if necessary. Council Members expressed agreement with this suggestion. It was also suggested to try to repair the nonfunctioning unit. Other options for disposal were suggested, if no groups express interest within four weeks.

A motion was made by Council Member Groth, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to donate the remaining units to interested nonprofit groups within the community.

Resolution 2736,
Approving Plans and
Specifications and
Ordering
Advertisement for
Bids for 72nd Avenue
Way Improvement
Project

Darren Sikkink from WHKS, the City's contracted engineering firm, provided background information. He reported that the plans have been completed. He requested that the Council consider adopting a resolution approving the plans and authorize a bidding process for the project. He reviewed the advertisement and bidding process along with the next steps and timeline.

Council Member Johnson asked about the assessment process and referenced recent Council discussion in this regard. Mr. Sikkink summarized Council discussion during a recent workshop and reviewed the process of further discussing and approving assessments during the March 19 Council meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Jeppesen and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2736, approving plans and specifications and ordering

advertisement for bids for the 72nd Avenue Way improvement project.

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 402 and Summary of Publication, an Ordinance Amending City Code Title III Relating to Fees, Charges and Rates

Council Member Jeppesen referenced past Council discussion of liquor license fees. He expressed agreement with consideration of lowering the fees for bars and restaurants. City Administrator Jensen recommended adopting the second reading of Ordinance 402, followed by further discussion of the liquor license fees. He referenced comparison information with other communities and stated that he has added this topic to the agenda for an upcoming Finance Committee meeting.

Council Member Johnson stated that the City's sewer and water fees exceed those of surrounding communities, including Zumbrota, Pine Island, and Northfield. She suggested scheduling a workshop for further discussion of WAC and SAC fees and utility rates in addition to liquor license fees. Administrator Jensen commented that water and sewer fees were already approved as part of the budget planning process.

Council Member Kronenberger referenced past Council discussion of sewer and water rates. She suggested approving the fee schedule as presented and discussing water and sewer rates and WAC and SAC fees as part of the 2025 budget planning process. She cautioned against comparing sewer and water rates without considering the entire picture.

Administrator Jensen provided additional background information and discussed how water and sewer rates are tied to the cost of infrastructure upgrades. He suggested small incremental increases, as opposed to large increases. He also referenced the current rate of inflation and other factors and cautioned against lowering fees. He commented that other communities will be raising rates to pay for infrastructure projects.

Council Member Kronenberger asked whether funds are being set aside in the water and sewer budgets toward future repairs and improvements. Council Member Gesme and Administrator Jensen discussed how the City is preparing to meet future needs.

A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 402.

Reports:

Council Committees /
Commissions /
Nonprofit
Organizations

Police Chief McCormick summarized topics of discussion during a recent Police Commission meeting, including Council consideration of a cannabis moratorium, which was not approved. He stated that the Police Commission has directed him to research potential regulations and licensing options and work with Permit & License Technician Logelin on zoning considerations.

Staff

Chief McCormick also reported that a staffing update was provided to the Police Commission.

Mr. Sikkink summarized topics of discussion during a recent pre-construction meeting regarding the 2024 street improvement project. He discussed brush-clearing activities and utility work.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Johnson wished the Cannon Falls Bombers dance team good luck on their upcoming competition.

Council Member Groth requested an update regarding the former Terrace at Cannon Falls property. Police Chief McCormick provided an update, stating that the property owner indicated that a contractor has been hired. He summarized work that has been completed at this point. He stated that the City Attorney has been provided with an update and photos.

Mayor Montgomery stated that he will be providing a State of the City speech during the upcoming Chamber breakfast.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Kronenberger 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 February, 2024.

Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator