

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery and Council Members Derek Lundell, Steve Gesme, Lisa Groth, Ryan Jeppesen, Diane Johnson, and Laura Kronenberger (arrived at 6:31 p.m.). Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Sara Peer, City Clerk; Jed Petersen, Public Works Director; Laura Qualey, Community & Business Development 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, Jeppesen, Johnson, and Lundell were in attendance. Council Member Kronenberger arrived late.
- Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Montgomery led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
- Public Input Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure.
- Brian Douglas, Cannon Falls, expressed concerns regarding go-kart racing at the Fairgrounds. He stated that the Cannon Valley Fair Board has disregarded proper applications for permits and has ignored municipal and citizen concerns relating to noise, the environment, and property values. He stated that this situation has set a precedent that should be dealt with appropriately and without compromise. He played a video clip that demonstrated how lights and sounds from racing events interfere with the enjoyment of his home and property. He reviewed real estate disclosure requirements and described how disclosures relating to the racetrack could adversely impact property values. He referenced civil action available under the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA) – per MN Statutes 116B. He noted that the track was constructed illegally and urged the City Council to take action and stand up for the citizens of the community.
- Jerry Shannick, Cannon Falls, requested clarification of the legality of the go-kart racetrack. Mayor Montgomery indicated that this question will be researched, adding that the public input period is not meant to be a discussion.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending October 10, 2024
- B. Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2024, City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Disposal of Unclaimed / Abandoned Bicycles
- D. Approve Habitat for Humanity Lot Combination Fee Waiver
- E. Resolution 2783, Accepting a Monetary Donation of \$4,000 from Compeer Financial
- F. Approve John Burch Park Project Change Order #2
- G. Resolution 2784, Accepting Grant Funds of \$50,000 from the Department of Public Safety
- H. Approve Meeting Date Changes
- I. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 406 and Summary of Publication, an Ordinance Amending City Code Title III Relating to Fees, Charges, and Rates
- J. Approve Redevelopment Grant Application for Kwik Trip

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

Council Business:  
Professional Service  
Agreement for Phase  
2 of Hardwood  
Estates Third Addition

Community & Business Development Specialist Qualey provided background information. She reported that the EDA recently approved a professional service agreement with WHKS to begin working on plans and specs for the next phase of the Hardwood Estates development. She stated that 7 lots have been sold, with 3 additional lots under contract and set to close within the next few weeks. She reviewed the next phase of the project, and City Administrator Jensen discussed the anticipated timeline.

Reports:  
Council Committees,  
Commissions, and  
Nonprofit  
Organizations

Mayor Montgomery referenced a recent joint meeting of the City Council and the EDA. He reported that a Colorado company has expressed interest in locating a data center in Cannon Falls. He also referenced a redevelopment grant application by Kwik Trip.

Council Member Groth summarized topics of discussion during a recent Library Board meeting, including the 2025 budget.

Staff

Public Works Director Petersen commented that the 2023-2024 street project is wrapping up, with the completion of punch list items. He provided a progress report regarding work at the Hardwood Estates and Timber Ridge developments. He discussed ADA upgrades to Downtown sidewalks.

Mayor Montgomery commented that a citizen asked how the new sidewalks will differ from the current sidewalks. Director Petersen indicated that the new sidewalks will be ADA compliant. City Administrator Jensen noted that the State requirements have changed. Community & Business Specialist Qualey provided additional background information and discussed changes that will be made near the VFW.

Director Petersen also discussed a mill and overlay project scheduled for this fall.

Police Chief McCormick discussed the Trick or Trot event on October 31.

City Clerk Peer reported that there will be no Library Board meeting in November.

City Administrator Jensen noted that the racetrack will be further discussed during the Nov. 12 City Council meeting.

Mayor and Council  
Members

Mayor Montgomery referenced the recent interview process for the new City Administrator and thanked Council Members for their hard work.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Jeppesen and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

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Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator