

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery; Council Members Laura Kronenberger, Ryan Jeppesen, Chad Johnson, Diane Johnson, Chris Nobach, and Lisa Zimmerman. Also present were Jon Radermacher, City Administrator; Sara Peer, City Clerk; Jed Petersen, Public Works Director; Tim Malchow, EMS Chief; 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 Kronenberger, Jeppesen, C. Johnson, Nobach, and Zimmerman were in attendance. Council Member D. Johnson arrived at 6:32 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance	Mayor Montgomery led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
Approval of Agenda	Mayor Montgomery indicated that discussion of Council Business Item B would be postponed until the next regular meeting, as a representative from Three Rivers Community Action was unable to attend the meeting. A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Zimmerman and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as amended.
Public Input	<p>Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure.</p> <p>Erin McMahon, Hoffman Street, Cannon Falls, reported that the figure skating and hockey rink is in pristine condition, thanks to the Public Works Department. She encouraged families to utilize this free and fun outdoor facility.</p> <p>Curt Beissel, Cannon Falls, Minnesota Street West, Cannon Falls, referenced ongoing Council discussion of activities at the fairgrounds. He requested more clarity in terms of specific directives of the Fair Board and how any violations would be handled.</p> <p>Jerry Shannick, Tamara Lane, Cannon Falls, inquired regarding the current status of the racetrack at the fairgrounds.</p> <p>Mayor Montgomery indicated that he would be available to discuss the fairgrounds situation after the meeting.</p>
Consent Agenda	<p>A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending February 13, 2025</p> <p>B. Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2025, City Council Meeting</p>

- C. Approve St. Olaf Internship Program and Hire Jane Spading to the Ambulance Department
- D. Resolution 2804, Authorizing a Utility Adjustment Agreement with MnDOT
Council Member Nobach indicated that he wished to abstain from voting on this item, to avoid a potential conflict of interest.
- ~~E. Approve Submission of Grants for Wayfinding Signage for City of Cannon Falls Trail System~~
This item was pulled by Council Member C. Johnson.
- F. Set Joint Work Session with Planning Commission
- G. Approve 2025 Street Maintenance Projects
- H. Approve Purchase of Pickup Truck and Boss Plow for Public Works Department

A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member D. Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, minus Item E, which was moved to the Council Business portion of the meeting. A voice vote was conducted and the motion carried unanimously, with Council Member Nobach abstaining from the vote.

Council Business:
Resolution 2805,
Adopting the Active
Transportation Plan
for the City of Cannon
Falls

Community & Business Development Specialist Qualey provided background information and reviewed the purpose of the Active Transportation Plan. She discussed how the plan was compiled, including opportunities for resident and student engagement. She summarized the draft plan. She reviewed the results of walking and biking audits; detailed the existing network of trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes; and discussed short- and long-term goals in terms of expanding the network. She discussed a planned demonstration project involving temporary striping. She highlighted potential future catalyst projects, program recommendations, and next steps.

Council Member Nobach asked whether City Engineer Bill Angerman or WHKS was involved in drafting the plan. Ms. Qualey indicated that City Engineer Angerman was aware of the project but was not asked to actively participate due to financial constraints.

Council Member Nobach referenced planned street maintenance projects and suggested consideration of incorporating Active Transportation Plan goals into these projects. Ms. Qualey summarized recent conversations with City Engineer Angerman and Public Works Director Petersen.

Budget considerations were discussed. Mayor Montgomery expressed agreement with long-term planning along with identifying cyclist and pedestrian safety as a priority.

Council Member C. Johnson expressed concerns about adding more bike lanes in terms of maintenance challenges and safety issues. It was noted that the project concepts included in the plan are only recommendations and ideas at this point. Ms. Qualey stated that areas of the community and specific routes have been identified where there are walking and biking obstacles and provided examples. She discussed the use of an interactive mapping tool that allowed residents to provide feedback.

A motion was made by Council Member D. Johnson, seconded by Council Member Zimmerman, to adopt Resolution 2805, approving the Active Transportation Plan as drafted. Council Member D. Johnson provided additional information relating to how the plan was drafted, with the goal of making Cannon Falls a more walkable and bikeable community along with providing safe routes for kids. Bicycle use in Cannon Falls by residents and visitors was discussed. It was clarified that adoption of Resolution 2805 does not bind the City to any specific projects or budget allocations. Following discussion a vote was conducted and the motion carried by a vote of 4:1, with Council Member C. Johnson dissenting and Council Member Nobach abstaining from the vote.

Memorandum of
Understanding with
Three Rivers
Community Action.

This item was removed from the Agenda.

Approve Submission
of Grants for
Wayfinding Signage
for the City of Cannon
Falls Trail System

Council Member C. Johnson expressed concerns about the expense of new signage and suggested painting the current signs. Public Works Director Petersen stated that complete reconditioning is needed. He discussed grant funding toward the materials, with Public Works providing in-kind labor. Community & Business Development Specialist Qualey further discussed plans for updated wayfinding signage. The warranty and sign coating were discussed. Council Member Nobach asked whether Gemini was offered an opportunity to submit a quote. Ms. Qualey stated that this is being checked into.

A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Zimmerman, to approve the submission of grants for wayfinding signage. A voice vote was conducted, and the motion carried by a vote of 5:1, with Council Member C. Johnson dissenting.

Reports:
Council Committees,
Commissions, and
Nonprofit
Organizations

Community & Business Development Specialist Qualey provided a Hardwood Estates development update. She discussed an upcoming strategic planning session with the EDA along with School Board representatives and other community partners, during which goal alignment, opportunities to collaborate on projects, and the sharing of resources will be discussed.

Council Member Jeppesen summarized topics of discussion during a recent Public Works and Park Board meeting.

Staff

Public Works Director Petersen reported that the conditions were recently favorable to burn the brush pile, noting that it has been drastically reduced in size.

Director Petersen also offered Council Members an opportunity to tour the waste treatment plant and infrastructure.

EMS Chief Malchow further discussed the internship program in partnership with St. Olaf College. He reported that Sheryl Stellrecht has been selected as a Minnesota EMS Star of Life honoree. He discussed the current EMS class, noting that there are 18 students, and reviewed recent staff training activities. He discussed the purchase of new radio equipment. He provided an update regarding ongoing work with a consultant pertaining to ambulance service revenue and expenses.

Police Chief McCormick discussed increased patrols along Highway 52 during dangerously cold temperatures. He provided a spring flood forecast.

City Administrator Radermacher expressed appreciation to the City Council and City staff for their assistance during his recent vacation. He discussed the scheduling of a strategic planning meeting in March.

Mayor and Council
Members

Council Member D. Johnson congratulated the Bomber Dance Team on their performance at the State competition.

Council Member C. Johnson suggested increasing the public comment period from 3 minutes to 5 minutes per individual. Mayor Montgomery suggested future discussion of this potential change.

Council Member C. Johnson referenced the Kwik Trip project. City Administrator Radermacher provided an update and discussed a recent traffic study.

Mayor Montgomery further discussed the ice rink and warming house.

Public Works Director Petersen stated that warmer temperatures are predicted in the near future, which will adversely impact the conditions of the ice rink.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member D. Johnson and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 4th day of March, 2025.

Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jon Radermacher, City Administrator