

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Council Members Ryan Jeppesen, Chad Johnson, Diane Johnson, Laura Kronenberger, Chris Nobach, and Lisa Zimmerman; Mayor Matt Montgomery was absent. Also present were Jon Radermacher, City Administrator; Sara Peer, City Clerk; Jed Petersen, Public Works Director; Izzy Carlson, License & Permit Technician; Laura Qualey, Community & Economic Business Specialist; Brice Miller, Fire Chief; and Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief.

- Call to Order Mayor Pro Tem Kronenberger called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call Roll call was conducted. Council Members Jeppesen, C. Johnson, D. Johnson, Kronenberger, Nobach, and Zimmerman were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Pro Tem Kronenberger led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Nobach, seconded by Council Member D. Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
- Public Input Mayor Pro Tem Kronenberger reviewed the public input procedure.
- Goodhue County Commissioner Brad Anderson introduced himself as the County Commissioner representing Cannon Falls. He asked whether City Council Members had any questions for him.
- Council Member Nobach commented that a bike/walking path along County Road 17 is in poor condition due to drainage issues. He asked about talking with the County Engineer regarding potential solutions for the drainage issues. Commissioner Anderson referenced the long-range project planning process. He suggested working with Goodhue County staff regarding future trail connections and a potential grading project in this area. Council Member D. Johnson referenced plans for a County Road 17 resurfacing project in 2029. She asked whether that would be the appropriate time to consider trail improvements and a possible trail extension. Commissioner Anderson indicated that trail improvements would need to be incorporated into the County Road 17 project plan. Council Member C. Johnson referenced past discussion of including this trail in the Active Transportation Plan as a priority. Commissioner Anderson provided additional information relating to the project planning process, including right-of-way acquisition

versus prescriptive easement considerations. He suggested that the City Council help set the direction, noting that there may be some project cost sharing responsibilities.

Commissioner Anderson provided an overview of current and future Goodhue County road projects and discussed funding sources. He also provided assurances that the Goodhue County Sheriff's Department has always followed the statutes relating to immigration enforcement. He noted that the Department of Human Services staff have delivered programs with respect, dignity, empathy, and compassion. He stated that next year's County budget will be challenging. He commented that 2026 will be his last year as a County Commissioner. He noted that he is proud of his 30 years in public service and has enjoyed working with local leaders. He expressed disappointment with Federal and State legislators in terms of their inability to solve important problems.

Public Hearing:
Resolution 2859,
Certifying Unpaid
Utility Charges to be
Collected with Taxes

Mayor Pro Tem Kronenberger opened the public hearing for this item at 6:47 p.m. No one spoke during the public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Kronenberger closed the public hearing at 6:47 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member C. Johnson, seconded by Council Member Nobach and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2859, certifying unpaid utility charges to be collected with taxes.

Presentation:
EDA / Planning &
Zoning Year-End
Review Presentation

Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey provided an overview of the EDA members and activities during 2025. She reviewed 2025 EDA goals and detailed progress toward these goals.

- Break ground on Hardwood Estates 3rd Subdivision.
- Strengthen and support area businesses.
- Expand City limits by annexation.
- Improve accessibility within City limits.
- Investigate ideas for Industrial Park Expansion.

Ms. Qualey reviewed short-term (1 to 3 years) community collaboration strategic planning goals and detailed progress toward these goals.

- Successful School District referendum.
- Road to 5,000 population.
- Attract workforce.
- Foster collaboration among groups.

- Increase childcare capacity.

Ms. Qualey reviewed long-term (5 to 10 years) community collaboration strategic planning goals and detailed progress toward these goals.

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) crosswalk roundabout project.
- Preserve a vibrant Downtown.
- Keep pace with educational changes.
- Annexation and expanding City limits.

Ms. Qualey reviewed grant submissions and awards during 2025 and discussed how this funding was allocated. She provided an EDA revolving loan fund update.

Ms. Qualey highlighted 2025 projects and accomplishments.

- Data center research, education, and outreach.
- Hardwood Estates 2nd Subdivision lot sales and 3rd Subdivision final plat and ground-breaking.
- Business retention visits and meetings with prospective businesses.
- Local food maker events.
- Women in Business Peer Group.

Ms. Qualey discussed current and future EDA activities and initiatives.

- Marketing of EDA-owned real estate for sale.
- Cannon Falls area marketing activities.
- Local food maker recognition.
- FEAST tradeshow.

License & Permit Technician Carlson provided an overview of Planning & Zoning activities and accomplishments during 2025. She reviewed the members and work of the Planning Commission, noting that there is currently an open seat. She discussed land use applications and noted that one variance, five conditional use permits, one interim use permit, and two administrative subdivisions were approved during 2025. She discussed the annexation that occurred during 2025 along with preliminary and final plats for new development. She discussed a rezoning that was approved during 2025 and detailed zoning ordinance amendments that were approved during 2025. She highlighted permits and licenses during 2025 and provided comparison information with past years. Ms.

Carlson reported that 131 building permits were issued in 2025 and reviewed comparison information with past years.

Council Member C. Johnson asked about the Cannon Equipment building that is available for lease. Ms. Qualey referenced ongoing EDA discussion of industrial and manufacturing opportunities. Ms. Carlson indicated that she had no specific knowledge regarding the Cannon Equipment location.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims-Accounting Period Ending December 31, 2025
- B. Just and Correct Claims-Accounting Period Ending February 10, 2026
- C. Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2026, City Council Meeting
- D. Resolution 2860, Designating Polling Places for the City of Cannon Falls
- ~~E. Approve Hiring of Part-Time EMTs for the Ambulance Department~~
This item was pulled by Council Member C. Johnson
- F. Approve Appointment of Angela Grant to the Library Board

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

Council Business:
Payroll Technician
and Accounts
Payable / Human
Resources Assistant
Position

City Administrator Radermacher provided background information, noting that this position was approved as part of the 2026 budget planning process. He discussed how the position description was developed and summarized the roles and responsibilities for the position. He referenced Minnesota local government pay equity system requirements and discussed how the position was evaluated. He noted that other City staff positions will be re-evaluated over time. Mayor Pro Tem Kronenberger referenced the market analysis that was conducted in 2024. Administrator Radermacher commented that State-wide salary comparison information is also available.

A motion was made by Council Member D. Johnson, seconded by Council Member Nobach and unanimously carried, to approve the hiring of this position.

Checkup from the
Neck Up Program

Fire Chief Miller and Police Chief McCormick provided background information and discussed the benefits of a mandated mental health program for public safety staff. Fire Chief Miller requested direction

from the City Council. Council Member C. Johnson spoke in support of the program but suggested making participation optional. Police Chief McCormick provided rationale for a mandated program. City Administrator Radermacher relayed his positive experience with a mandated program in another community. Council Member Zimmerman also suggested making participation in the program optional. Police Chief McCormick stated that Police Department staff would not likely participate unless the program is mandated. He commented that the program would be geared toward public safety employees. Council Member D. Johnson spoke in support of a mandated program and recommended Option 2.

Council Members requested clarification of the program costs. Police Chief McCormick provided information in this regard, noting that program options would be researched. It was noted that data regarding the utilization of additional services would be provided but that employee confidentiality would be maintained. Council Members directed staff to research options and costs.

Approve Hiring of
Part-Time EMTs for
the Ambulance
Department

Council Member C. Johnson asked whether part-time hires have been budgeted. City Administrator Radermacher discussed staffing needs and noted that this expense has been budgeted.

A motion was made by Council Member C. Johnson, seconded by Council Member Nobach and unanimously carried, to approve the hiring of part-time EMTs for the Ambulance Department.

Reports:
Council Committees,
Commissions,
Nonprofit
Organizations

City Administrator Radermacher reported that a new Chamber Director has been hired and will be starting on February 23.

Administrator Radermacher referenced a recent committee meeting of the Joint Powers Trail Board, during which Bylaws updates were discussed.

Council Member Nobach summarized topics of discussion during a recent Library Board meeting, noting that officers will be elected during the February meeting.

Staff

Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey summarized topics of discussion during a recent EDA meeting, including the formation of a steering committee that will include community members to work on a Comprehensive Plan update.

Fire Chief Miller stated that a meeting will be held on March 2, which will include a 2025 year in review.

Public Works Director Petersen and Police Chief McCormick commented that a winter storm is in the forecast for this coming weekend. Winter parking restrictions were referenced.

Administrator Radermacher further discussed opportunities for public engagement in the Comprehensive Plan project. He referenced upcoming League of Minnesota Cities and Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities legislative action meetings.

Mayor and Council
Members

Council Member Nobach suggested connecting with Goodhue County representatives regarding a County Road 17 trail project. City Administrator Radermacher indicated that he has sent an email to the County Engineer.

Council Member C. Johnson reported that Valley View Recovery Center is requesting donations of men's clothing.

Council Member D. Johnson asked whether a list of Comprehensive Plan steering committee members will be published. Administrator Radermacher indicated that this will be the case.

Council Member D. Johnson wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Zimmerman, seconded by Council Member C. Johnson and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 3rd day of March, 2026.

Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jon Radermacher, City Administrator