

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 7, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Robby Robinson and Council Members Bill Duncan, Jay Sjoblom (present at 6:32), Morris Mattson, Rodney Holst, LeRoy McCusker, and Merlyce Johnson. Also present were Ron Johnson, City Administrator; Dave Maroney, Community Development Director; Greg Anderson, City Engineer; Tom Bergeson, Public Works Director; and Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief.

Call to Order	Mayor Robinson called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Roll Call	All members were present.
Pledge of Allegiance	Mayor Robinson led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
Approval of Agenda	A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as submitted.
Public Input	<p>Melinda and Naji Aljabry, owners of Super America at 31600 65th Avenue, Cannon Falls, described the negative impact of the closure of the intersection of Highway 52 and County Road 24, stating that business is down at least 60%. They expressed concerns related to potential development at the new interchange, which would increase competition and further damage their business. They have been forced to reduce employee hours and benefits in an effort to stay in business. They are requesting that the City reject applications to build new gas stations in the future.</p> <p>Council Member Duncan inquired whether potential right-turn lane access would improve the situation. Mr. Aljabry replied that this would be beneficial. Ms. Aljabry commented regarding the uncertainty of the pending safety study results and potential access lane construction.</p> <p>Council Member Duncan commented regarding the consequences of attempting to restrict a particular type of business. The Aljabrys commented that other cities do attempt to limit the number of gas stations in a particular area.</p> <p>Community Development Director Maroney provided clarification with regard to current zoning for fuel stations. He added that these types of businesses are regulated through the conditional use permit process. Council Member Duncan inquired regarding the possibility of relocating closer to the new interchange. Mr. Aljabry indicated that this is not financially feasible at this time. He commented regarding environmental</p>

and other challenges involved with the sale of this type of business.

Mayor Robinson discussed researching ways to entice new business development that will result in increased traffic for all businesses in the area. He thanked the Aljabrys for bringing their concerns to the City's attention.

Council Member McCusker commented on the value of planning and added that elimination of the current traffic confusion along with signage should help the situation somewhat.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending October 3, 2014
- B. Meeting Minutes for September 16, 2014, City Council Meeting
- C. Downtown Trees
- D. 2015 Pool Season
- E. Approve Encroachment Agreement for 721 Main Street West
- F. Resolution 2099, Approving a Cooperative Snow Removal Agreement with MnDOT.
- G. Resolution 2100, Accepting a Monetary Donation for the Fire Department
- H. Hire Joshua Parrow as Paramedic
- I. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 339 and Summary of Publication, Changing Street Names in the City of Cannon Falls

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

Council Business:

Resolution 2101,
Ordering Feasibility
Report for the
River Road Public
Improvement
Project

City Administrator Johnson provided background information. The Public Works Commission has discussed a request by a property owner for installation of sewer access as a result of a failed septic system. The Public Works Commission recommended ordering a feasibility study for the sanitary sewer request, and it has been further recommended to research the feasibility of water main access and potential street improvements. City Engineer Anderson provided additional information, indicating that the property shares a well with a neighboring home. He agreed with the recommendation for a feasibility study in order to evaluate options.

Council Member McCusker agreed with proceeding with the recommended feasibility study related to sewer and water access but expressed concerns related to the necessity for curb and gutter street improvements for two

homes. It was clarified that there are three homes with driveways along River Road. Council Member Johnson recommended planning for eventual utility access for all three properties. Council Member Duncan added that the feasibility report will delineate each component. Mr. Anderson stated that the report can be structured for consideration of multiple options.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2101.

Review Feasibility
Report for 2015
West Side II Street
Improvement
Project

City Administrator Johnson provided background information. City Engineer Anderson reviewed the proposed project and the feasibility report. Utility issues, street condition ratings, and current sidewalk locations in the project area were discussed. Cost and assessment estimates were discussed. A proposed construction schedule was reviewed.

Council Member McCusker inquired regarding drainage concerns along one of the alleys. Mr. Anderson provided additional information related to proposed storm sewer improvements to address these problems.

Council Member Duncan recommended tabling acceptance of the feasibility report until the next Council meeting so that a resolution can be prepared. At that time further discussion of the project can be undertaken. Mayor Robinson added that funding of other projects may take precedence. Council Member Johnson advised against delaying the project too long. Council Member Mattson recommended discussing a potential one-year delay. Council Member Duncan suggested approving the feasibility report and discussing potential options during the next Council meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council member Johnson, to table this item until the next Council meeting. It was discussed that a resolution will be prepared to accept the feasibility report, but an improvement hearing will not be set at this time. Mr. Anderson indicated that the project area could potentially be split into two components. Council Member McCusker added that this project will need to be completed in the relative near future and discussed other upcoming projects. A vote was taken, and the motion to table this item unanimously carried.

Reports:
Staff

Public Works Director Bergeson provided an update regarding Troll Haven Park improvements. Mayor Robinson reinforced that the compost area is not to be utilized for disposal of tires, junk, or garbage.

Community Director Maroney provided an update regarding the infrastructure replacement project in front of Raw Bistro at the intersection of Third and Cannon Streets. He discussed the ombudsman process related to signage along Highway 52. A cooperative relationship is being sought with MnDOT with regard to developing satisfactory signage solutions.

Police Chief McCormick reiterated that citizens are encouraged to report incidents of illegal dumping and other suspicious activities, including use of 911 after hours. Chief McCormick discussed recent homecoming activities, including several donations of toilet paper. He reported that new street name signage has been installed, and the City is also working with local businesses and the Post Office.

City Administrator Johnson provided an update with regard to ongoing drainage issues at the Library.

Mayor and Council

Council Member McCusker discussed speed limit postings, indicating that that there are no speed limit signs near the new roundabout intersections. He expressed concerns related to confusing signage and traffic patterns.

Council Member Sjoblom expressed concerns related to lighting near the old hospital property and also along Mill Street. Public Works Director Bergeson will look into these concerns.

Council Member Mattson expressed concerns related to bicycle use on sidewalks. Police Chief McCormick provided clarification of allowed bicycle usage in the business district and near the bike trail and stated he will attempt to address concerns.

Council Member Mattson asked about problems with garbage dumping near the recycling bins. Public Works Director Bergeson replied that the recycling bins are the responsibility of the County to maintain. He added that there is a current problem with diaper disposal in City parks.

Mayor Robinson commented regarding the recent live broadcast of the Cannon Falls High School football game.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 21st day of October, 2014.

Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator