

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor John Althoff and Council Members Morris Mattson, Bill Duncan, Derek Lundell, Mary Jill Bringgold, Matt Montgomery, and Steve Gesme. Also present were Dave Maroney, City Administrator; Lanell Endres, Assistant City Administrator; Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief; Mike Althoff, Fire Chief/Public Works Director; Nicole Miller, Library Director; and Samantha Pierret, Zoning Assistant.

- Call to Order Mayor Althoff called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call All members were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Althoff led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Mattson and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda.
- Public Input Tim Dehmer, Cannon Falls, quoted from a Peace Officer's card, "Dedicated to Always Do the Right Thing" and discussed integrity, knowledge, and courage. He stated that integrity and courage have been discussed in the past, adding that he was struggling with the knowledge component. He referenced a comment from a recent article published in *The Beacon* describing Cannon Falls as being "in shambles." Mr. Dehmer stated that he was trying to understand if this was really true and how to move forward. He commented that people were not perfect, himself included, and they may say things that they were sorry for.
- Bikeable Community Workshop City Administrator Maroney introduced David Anderson from the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP). He stated that Mr. Anderson had been an instrumental partner in the local food program, which has received several SHIP grants. Mr. Anderson provided background information on efforts being made to make Cannon Falls safer, easier, and more enjoyable for children, adults, and seniors to be able to bike. He reviewed the goals of the Bikeable Community project:
- 1) Increase the number of students who bike to and from school.
 - 2) Increase the number of children, families, and seniors who are able to bike to community destinations, such as the swimming pool, the Library, and the fairgrounds.
 - 3) To increase the number of residents and visitors who bicycle to and from local businesses.

Mr. Anderson stated that people who bike would stop and spend money in town. He described an opportunity to take advantage of the

number of people who use the Cannon Valley Trail and the Mill Towns State Trail.

He reviewed benefits of the program:

- 1) Children, adults, and seniors who were active, walking and biking, would be healthier.
- 2) The program would help reduce the obesity epidemic.
- 3) Students who were active before school performed better in school.
- 4) Bicycle-friendly communities provide an opportunity to make communities vibrant destinations for residents and visitors and a place where people didn't just live, but work and thrive.
- 5) A bikeable and walkable community was vital for young families.
- 6) Taking simple steps to make bicycling safer and comfortable could pay huge benefits.
- 7) Residents enjoyed dramatic health benefits, reduced congestion, increased property values, and had more money to spend in the local community.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the next steps of the project:

- 1) Increase the number of people on the Bike Cannon Falls Team.
- 2) Recruit community residents to participate in the Bikeable Community Workshop on May 7.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the workshop partners and the goals of the workshop to develop 6-month and 12-month action plans that would make Cannon Falls safer, more convenient, and easier for people to get around. He requested that City staff and elected officials consider participating in this workshop.

Council Member Bringgold asked Mr. Anderson how many people he was hoping to have at the workshop. Mr. Anderson described 15 to 25 as an ideal number of participants. He stated that a presentation was also made to the School Board, as they are another key player.

Council Members thanked Mr. Anderson for the presentation.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending February 13, 2019
- B. Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2019, City Council Meeting
- C. Ruck March for 23 to Zero March
- D. Resolution 2411, Recognizing the Cannon Falls School Board
- E. Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 365, Amending

Chapter 152 of the Cannon Falls City Code, The Zoning Ordinance, Concerning Building Relocation
F. Allied Valve Sewer Credit

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

City Council
Workshop Discussion

Administrator Maroney described a proposed format for upcoming goal-setting sessions. He suggested that Council Members and City Department Supervisors engage in small-group discussions. He stated that he and Assistant Administrator Endres would help facilitate those discussions. He stated that this process would begin to identify goals and programs to be considered in the future. He stated that the results of these discussions would be compiled for further discussion and prioritization. He noted that action plans and strategies would then be developed for Council consideration in April.

Mayor Althoff and Council Member Duncan expressed agreement with the proposed format. Administrator Maroney stated that he would prefer to get an early start on goal setting and get moving forward as soon as possible. Council Members expressed agreement with setting aside time following the next two Council meetings to begin the discussion.

Staff Reports

Public Works Director Althoff stated that, with more snow on the way, Public Works would again be out plowing. He stated that the community has done a great job so far of keeping vehicles off the streets. He commented that the alleys and streets were getting narrower. He expressed concerns about putting garbage cans out in the street and requested that they be kept in the driveways.

Director Althoff reported with regard to a Minnesota Energy gas line project near the Third Street bridge, which would include a system upgrade.

Library Director Miller that stated that things have been busy at the Library. She discussed weather closures. She noted that the March schedule would include make-up programs. She reviewed upcoming events and activities.

Police Chief McCormick stated that the previous Council had requested that the Police Department petition Goodhue County and MnDOT to conduct a speed study of County Road 17. He reviewed the preliminary results of the study, which was conducted in

December of 2018. He suggested that another speed study be requested, to be conducted during the months of May through July. He stated his opinion that the December study was not an accurate reflection of the amounts of traffic that this road carried.

Council Member Duncan asked whether a particular time period was requested during the last petition. Chief McCormick stated that the Police Department was advised that a particular time frame could not be requested, adding that he would have expected the study to have been completed in the Spring.

Chief McCormick stated that the recommendation was for a speed reduction of 5 m.p.h. He commented that this reduction seemed minimal, considering the issues that had been identified.

Chief McCormick discussed concerns related to sharing the roadway with pedestrians and bicyclists, adding that the shoulders were narrow and the ditches were deep. He stated that the area had seen more young family development and that there were no paths. He referenced past discussion of potential solutions.

Mayor Althoff stated there were a lot of people that walk in that area, adding that there was no shoulder, the traffic was too fast, and it was not safe. Concerns about property owner cooperation were also discussed.

Chief McCormick reviewed the process of requesting another speed study. Council Members expressed agreement with this course of action.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Gesme discussed a recent Highway 52 open house. He stated that MnDOT was working on three potential options. He noted that the proposed interchange at Hader was discussed.

Council Members Montgomery and Duncan discussed a recent Public Works Commission meeting.

Council Member Bringgold referenced concerns expressed during a previous Council meeting by Council Member Duncan. She noted that Council Member Duncan made comments related to a specific individual, whom he was alleging had made threats, had been intimidating, and had been harassing City employees.

Council Member Bringgold described a concerning text that she received two days after that meeting from the individual, complaining

about Council Member Duncan. She referenced a conversation that she held with Director Althoff, during which he confirmed the behavior of the individual, as described by Council Member Duncan. She discussed bullying behavior and stated that it was time for this to stop. She suggested that everyone start working together.

Council Member Mattson requested more information with regard to the Highway 52 meeting. Council Member Gesme provided additional details about the discussion. He noted MnDOT's goal of reducing access points from the current 66 down to approximately 6. He discussed options that were being considered, adding that nothing had been finalized. The Mayor and Council Members expressed concerns about some of the proposed options and described some of the challenges of working with MnDOT. The communication process was discussed.

Mayor Althoff discussed an upcoming meeting with representatives from Mayo Clinic Health System on February 27.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Mattson, and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 5th day of March, 2019.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

David Maroney, City Administrator