

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery and Council Members Laura Kronenberger, Derek Lundell, Lisa Groth, Diane Johnson, and Ryan Jeppesen. Later during the meeting Steve Gesme was appointed to fill the vacant Council seat. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Dan Howard, Public Works Director; Nicole Miller, Library Director (remotely); 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 Groth, Jeppesen, Johnson, Kronenberger, and Lundell were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance    Mayor Montgomery led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Oath of Office           City Administrator Jensen administered the Oath of Office for Mayor Montgomery, Council Member Groth, Council Member Jeppesen, and Council Member Johnson and Council Member Lundell.
- Approval of Agenda     Mayor Montgomery requested the addition of an item to the Council Business portion of the meeting relating to bank signature cards. A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as amended.
- Resolution 2668,  
Declaring a Vacancy  
on City Council         City Administrator Jensen reviewed the process of declaring a vacancy and filling the vacant Council seat.
- A motion was made by Council Member Kronenberger, seconded by Council Member Groth, to adopt Resolution 2668, declaring a vacancy on the City Council. A voice vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Mayor Montgomery nominated former Council Member Steve Gesme to complete a partial term of two years on the City Council. Council Member Lundell expressed agreement with the nomination, citing the benefits of experience and continuity. Another potential nominee was discussed.
- A motion was made by Council Member Lundell to appoint Steve Gesme to fill the vacant Council seat. The motion was seconded by Council Member Johnson.

A voice vote was conducted. Council Members Lundell, Johnson, and Groth voted aye; Council Members Kronenberger and Jeppesen voted nay. Steve Gesme was appointed to complete a partial term on the City Council by a vote of 3:2.

City Administrator Jensen administered the Oath of Office for Council Member Gesme.

Public Input

Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure. There was no public input.

Public Hearing:  
Introduction and First  
Reading of Ordinance  
389, Amending City  
Code Title III Relating  
to Fees, Charges, and  
Rates

City Administrator Jensen provided background information and referenced the proposed fees for 2023, including increased rates for water, sewer, storm sewer, and ambulance services.

Mayor Montgomery reviewed the Public Hearing procedure and opened the Public Hearing at 6:41 p.m.

Becky Youngmark, Cannon Falls, spoke in opposition to the proposed utility rate increases. She commented that WAC and SAC fees were waived for the Keller-Baartman project. She stated her position that the burden should not be placed on residents, especially as Keller-Baartman will be receiving tax increment financing assistance toward the project. She urged the Mayor and City Council Members to consider what is best for the residents. She noted that water and sewer rates were raised to pay for the new treatment plant, adding that the population grew by only 135 residents in the past 10 years, as opposed to the significantly higher population growth that was projected. She relayed feedback from residents relating to water quality. She suggested delaying action on the proposed ordinance, so that additional information can be gathered.

No one else spoke during the Public Hearing. Mayor Montgomery closed the Public Hearing at 6:43 p.m.

Council Member Lundell requested clarification of other fees, and it was stated that other City fees will remain the same for 2023. Data request charges and other fees were reviewed. City Administrator Jensen provided additional information relating to business licenses.

A motion was made by Council Member Kronenberger to approve the first reading of Ordinance 389 as presented, with the addition of the business license fees as discussed. The motion was seconded by

Council Member Johnson. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending December 29, 2022
- B. Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2022, City Council Work Session
- C. Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2022, City Council Meeting
- D. Resolution 2666, Accepting a Monetary Donation of \$100 from Seig McClure to the Police Department
- E. Approve Designation of Official Newspaper for 2023
- F. Resolution 2667, Designating the Depositories for City Funds for Fiscal Year 2023
- G. Approve Statutory Tort Limits
- H. ~~Approve 2023 Cost of Living Adjustments for Non-Union Employees~~  
*This item was pulled by Council Member Groth*
- I. Resolution 2669, Accepting a Monetary Donation of \$1,000 from Invenergy to the Fire Department

A motion was made by Council Member Groth, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Item H, which was moved to Council Business.

Council Business:

Approve 2023 Annual Appointments

Mayor Montgomery provided background information and referenced a list of appointments. He reviewed vacancies on the Police Commission and the Planning Commission. A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Lundell and unanimously carried, to approve the 2023 annual appointments as presented.

Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Montgomery discussed the Mayor Pro Tem position. Council Member Johnson nominated Council Member Kronenberger to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for 2023. The nomination was seconded by Council Member Jeppesen. A vote was conducted, and Council Member Kronenberger was unanimously elected to serve a Mayor Pro Tem for 2023.

Bank Signature Cards

Mayor Montgomery and City Administrator Jensen provided background information. A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Jeppesen and unanimously carried, to make changes to the bank signature authorizations, as discussed.

Approve 2023 Cost of  
Living Adjustments for  
Non-Union  
Employees

Council Member Groth asked about cost of living adjustments for union employees. City Administrator Jensen clarified that compensation for union employees is governed by labor contracts. He noted that cost of living adjustments were incorporated into these contracts. The contract negotiation process was discussed.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Jeppesen, to approve the 2023 cost of living adjustments for non-union employees. A voice vote was conducted and the motion carried by a vote of 5:1, with Council Member Groth dissenting.

Reports:

Council Committees,  
Commissions,  
Nonprofit  
Organizations.

There were no reports.

Staff

Library Director Miller discussed Library programs and activities. She also discussed an upcoming Library Board meeting on January 9 and offered to provide Library tours for Council Members.

Police Chief McCormick discussed winter parking restrictions and snow removal procedures.

City Administrator Jensen welcomed the new Council Members.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Lundell welcomed the new Council Members.

Council Member Gesme reported that the wood pile has been totally removed at the brush dump.


Mayor Montgomery expressed appreciation to Council Members for their service. He thanked his family and City staff for their support. He thanked former Mayor John Althoff for his service and guidance.

Mayor Montgomery reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

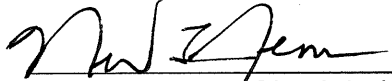
Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Jeppesen and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.

  
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Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator

