

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery and Council Members Derek Lundell, Steve Gesme, Lisa Groth, Ryan Jeppesen, and Diane Johnson; Council Member Laura Kronenberger was absent. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Dan Howard, Public Works Director; Laura Qualey, Community & Economic Business Specialist; Dianne Howard, Zoning Administrator; 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 Gesme, Groth, Jeppesen, Johnson, and Lundell were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Montgomery led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
- Public Input Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure. There was no public input regarding items not listed on the Agenda.
- Public Hearing:  
Resolution 2676,  
Certifying Unpaid  
Utility Charges to be  
Collected with Taxes
- Mayor Montgomery opened the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m. City Administrator Jensen provided background information. He stated that the purpose of the Public Hearing would be to provide property owners with unpaid utility charges an opportunity to speak to the City Council, prior to the City Council considering a resolution to certify unpaid utility charges to be collected with property taxes.
- No one spoke during the Public Hearing. Mayor Montgomery closed the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m.
- A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Lundell and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 2676.
- Consent Agenda
- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending February 2, 2023
  - B. Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2023, City Council Meeting
  - C. Approve Pay Equity Implementation Report
  - D. Approve Hire of Part-Time Cable Technician
  - E. Approve Purchase of Body Worn Cameras for Police Department
  - F. Approve Hire of Unscheduled Part-Time Ambulance Employee
  - G. Approve Purchase of Utility Vehicle

- H. Approve 2023 Pool Wages
- ~~I. Approve Professional Service Agreement for Hardwood Estates~~  
*This item was pulled by Council Member Johnson*
- J. Resolution 2677, Support for 2023 State Bond Requests for John Burch Park Wall Rehabilitation

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Jeppesen and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Item I.

Council Business:  
Number of Dogs  
Request

Police Chief McCormick referenced public input that was provided during a past Council meeting from a resident who requested permission to retain ownership of their four dogs. Chief McCormick reviewed the ordinance and requested Council direction relating to this request. Council Member Lundell asked how the ordinance is enforced. Chief McCormick stated his understanding that ordinance violations would be considered to be misdemeanors, adding that a specific penalty or waiver process is not indicated in the City Code. Council Member Groth asked whether the dogs under discussion are nuisance animals. Chief McCormick stated that a complaint was received regarding the number of dogs, noting that he is unaware that any of these dogs would be considered a nuisance.

Mayor Montgomery suggested reviewing the ordinance language. Council Member Groth suggested allowing this household to retain four dogs, if they are not considered to be nuisance animals. It was discussed that one of the dogs is elderly. Council Member Johnson suggested allowing this household to retain four dogs at this time, with the stipulation that if one dog passes away it will not be replaced with another fourth dog. City Administrator Jensen also suggested ensuring that these dogs are not nuisance animals. Chief McCormick indicated that he will follow through with this direction and let the Council know if there are any issues.

Revised Body  
Camera Policy

Police Chief McCormick provided background information relating to body camera use by the Cannon Falls Police Department. He referenced the current policy and requested consideration of policy modifications, based on the current body camera equipment. He stated that the proposed policy language has been posted on the Police Department's website for more than two weeks, with no public input received.

Chief McCormick noted that the policy language has been reviewed by the City Attorney. He suggested offering another opportunity for public input, prior to the Council taking action regarding the proposed policy changes.

Becky Youngmark, Cannon Falls, commented that she had no concerns regarding the proposed policy changes. She did suggest developing a better process of notifying the public when input is being requested.

Chief McCormick reviewed the current legal requirements and standards for implementation of body camera policies, as defined by the Minnesota Legislature. It was suggested to post a link on Facebook, submit information to the *Beacon* newspaper, and post a link on the City's website.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Groth and unanimously carried, to approve the revised body camera policy and share this on the City's website.

Hannah's Bend Park  
Trail Connection  
Grant

Mayor Montgomery provided background information and referenced discussion of this item during the earlier work session. He summarized recent discussion with Cannon Valley Fair Board Chair Greg Kurtz regarding the land agreement. Mayor Montgomery reported that the land acquisition work cannot be completed in time to take advantage of the grant funding. He requested Council action to cancel the grant.

A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to cancel the trail connection grant for Hannah's Bend Park.

Approve Professional  
Service Agreement  
for Hardwood Estates

Council Member Johnson expressed concerns about committing taxpayer funds to support a private housing project. She noted that other developers are not requested this type of financial support.

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Lundell, to approve a professional service agreement for Hardwood Estates. A voice vote was conducted and the motion carried by a vote of 3:2, with Council Members Johnson and Jeppesen dissenting.

Reports:

Council Committees /  
Commissions /  
Nonprofit  
Organizations

Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey provided an EDA update. She further discussed the professional service agreement with WHKS, which will provide assistance with the layout, grading

plan, and trail connection plans for Hardwood Estates. She stated that the EDA is drafting goals for 2023 along with working on a five-year plan.

Council Member Lundell summarized topics of discussion during a recent Park Board meeting, including trail wayfinding signage, the trail connection grant, pool wages, and park signs.

Council Member Lundell summarized topics of discussion during a recent Public Works Commission meeting, including the purchase of a new utility vehicle and a new sewer meter that was installed at Riverside Terrace.

Staff

Public Works Director Howard discussed snow removal procedures and utility work.

Zoning Administrator Howard discussed agenda items for an upcoming Planning Commission meeting, including the Endres project concept plan and a potential ordinance change.

Police Chief McCormick issued a reminder with regard to winter parking restrictions and the snow emergency notification process.

Mayor and Council

Mayor Montgomery referenced the upcoming meeting schedule.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2023.

  
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Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator