

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery and Council Members Laura Kronenberger, Derek Lundell, Steve Gesme, Lisa Groth, Ryan Jeppesen, and Diane Johnson. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Dan Howard, Public Works Director; Dianne Howard, Zoning Administrator; Laura Qualey, Community & Economic Business Specialist; 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. All members were in attendance.
- Pledge of Allegiance    Mayor Montgomery led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Agenda     The Agenda was discussed. Council Member Johnson requested the addition of a discussion item relating to posting all City meeting dates, agendas, and minutes on the City's website. Mayor Montgomery commented that City Council meeting agendas are published prior to the meetings. He suggested adding this discussion item to a future meeting agenda. Council Member Johnson expressed agreement with this approach.
- Following discussion a motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Groth and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
- Public Input             Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure.
- Greg Kurtz introduced himself as a member of the Cannon Valley Fair Board and referenced 100-year commemorative booklets. Mr. Kurtz discussed a portion of Hannah's Bend Park that is owned by the Cannon Valley Fair. He summarized recent discussions between Fair Board and City representatives regarding this property. He stated that the Fair Board is in agreement with donating this property to the City, in exchange for street vacations near the Fairgrounds. He described the Cannon Valley Fair as an asset to the community. He suggested that the Fair Board and the City continue to work together on this agreement. He added that volunteers are always needed to assist with the Cannon Valley Fair.
- Consent Agenda         A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending February 16, 2023  
                                  B. Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2023, City Council Work Session  
                                  C. Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2023, City Council Meeting  
                                  D. Approve New Therapeutic Massage Practitioner License for Payton O'Keeffe

- E. Approve Purchase of New Squad Car Replacement
- F. Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 390, Amending City Code Section 152.648 Relating to Indoor Storage

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

Council Business:  
Emerald Ash Borer  
DNR Grant

Public Works Director Howard provided background information and discussed the grant application. He requested permission to increase the amount from \$40,000 to \$50,000. He referenced the City's in-kind donation component, noting that there would be approximately 2-1/2 years to satisfy this requirement. The in-kind donation and timeframe were clarified.

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Jeppesen, to authorize staff to submit the grant application, requesting a \$50,000 grant award. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports:  
Council Committees /  
Commissions /  
Nonprofit  
Organizations

City Administrator Jensen summarized topics of discussion during a recent Finance Committee meeting, including the fire contracts and a private fireworks request.

Council Member Gesme summarized topics of discussion during a recent Planning Commission meeting, including a Public Hearing related to a proposed City Code change and presentation of a concept plan for the Endres development. He stated that the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the City Code change relating to indoor storage.

Council Member Kronenberger discussed a recent Library Board meeting, during which Library activities and Library maintenance were reviewed.

Staff

Public Works Director Howard discussed snow and ice removal activities. Police Chief McCormick also discussed the impending snowstorm and issued a reminder regarding snow emergency parking restrictions. Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey referenced the DNR grant application and discussed ongoing planning for Hardwood Estates.

City Administrator Jensen discussed the work session schedule and the City department tour.

Mayor and Council

Council Member Kronenberger requested an update regarding the fire contract negotiation and approval process, and Mayor Montgomery provided information in this regard.

Council Member Jeppesen asked about winter parking restrictions and permits, and Police Chief McCormick provided information in this regard.

Council Member Jeppesen inquired regarding participation in Council meetings by the City Attorney, as indicated in the City Charter. It was noted that the City Attorney attends Council meetings as needed or upon request.

Council Member Johnson requested an update regarding the property agreement with the Cannon Valley Fair. City Administrator Jensen provided an update and reviewed the next steps in the process, including the scheduling of Public Hearings relating to street vacations.

Council Member Johnson requested an update regarding the land acquisition process relating to the sewer infrastructure improvement project. City Administrator Jensen indicated that the City Attorney has contacted the impacted property owners by mail and email, requesting a response by February 28.

Council Member Gesme requested an update regarding the status of the License Center. City Administrator Jensen indicated that the State has not responded to his requests for information. He suggested contacting legislative representatives to request assistance.

Council Member Lundell referenced a letter from a resident relating to sewer and water rates. City Administrator Jensen indicated that this concern will be forwarded to the Public Works Commission for discussion.

Mayor Montgomery urged residents to be safe during the snowstorm and avoid travel if possible, in order to assist Public Works staff and emergency responders.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Lundell and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator