

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 3, 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; Sara Peer, City Clerk; Jed Petersen, Public Works Director; Bill Angerman, City Engineer; Laura Qualey, Community & Business Development 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                All members 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 Groth, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the Agenda as presented.
  
- Public Input            Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure.

Robert Moffatt, Cannon Falls, asked about odor control processes at the waste water treatment plant. Mayor Montgomery clarified the public input procedure. Mr. Moffatt further discussed his concerns and provided an example of an odor control system. Public Works Director Petersen offered to speak to Mr. Moffatt about his concerns following the meeting.

Babe O’Gorman, Cannon Falls, expressed concerns about funding support toward the Hardwood Estates development. He referenced the use of the City’s Municipal Reserve Fund and the General Fund for this purpose. He provided historical background information and urged the City Council to discuss and carefully consider the return on investment for this proposal.

- Consent Agenda
  - A. ~~Just and Correct Claims — Accounting Period Ending September 28, 2023~~  
*This item was pulled by Council Member Johnson*
  - B. Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2023, City Council Meeting
  - C. Resolution 2704, Accepting a Speed Trailer Donation from Goodhue County Sheriff’s Office
  - D. Resolution 2705, Accepting a Monetary Donation of \$3,120 from the Family of Marilyn Flom to the Parks Department
  - E. Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 398, an Ordinance of the City of Cannon Falls, Minnesota, Authorizing the Sale of Property

- F. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 397, an Ordinance of the City of Cannon Falls, Minnesota, Amending City Code 152.355(F) Relating to Signs
- G. Approval of New Tobacco License for Speedway
- H. Approval of Pay Request No. 1 for Third Street Lift Station and Forcemain

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

**Council Business:**

Just and Correct  
Claims – Accounting  
Period Ending  
September 28, 2023

Council Member Johnson requested clarification of a payment to Knight Barry Title. Community & Business Development Specialist Qualey noted that this expense pertains to a title search relating to a property split, noting that this expense was reimbursed by the applicant.

Council Member Johnson requested clarification of expenses relating to 72nd Avenue Way, and Administrator Jensen provided additional information in this regard.

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the just and correct claims for the accounting period ending September 28, 2023.

Resolution 2706,  
Receiving Bids and  
Awarding Contract for  
the Hardwood Estates  
Second Subdivision

City Administrator Jensen reviewed the competitive bidding process for the project, noting that there were 18 bidders. He stated that the low bid was submitted by Albrightson Excavating in the amount of \$1,245,857. 20. City Engineer Angerman reported that the low bid was approximately \$200,000 less than the engineer's estimate.

Council Member Johnson inquired regarding the Municipal Reserve Fund. Administrator Jensen discussed the use of this fund to support construction projects. He discussed the City's trend away from bonding for projects. Council Member Johnson asked about the current balance in this fund, and Administrator Jensen stated that there is approximately \$1.2 million in this fund, including this year's transfer of \$430,000. Council Member Johnson asked about funding toward the lift station, and Administrator Jensen provided information in this regard. Council Member Johnson asked about funding for the Third Street reconstruction and utility project, and Administrator Jensen detailed the funding sources for this project.

Council Member Johnson asked about 72nd Avenue Way improvements, and Administrator Jensen discussed this project. City Engineer Angerman provided additional information. He noted that, while that these improvements are eligible to be 100% assessed to benefiting property owners, the Finance Committee and subsequently the City Council will be asked to provide direction relating to the assessment process and a potential cost share with the City.

Council Member Johnson commented that new homes in this area were allowed to be built along a gravel road.

Council Member Johnson reviewed recent street improvement projects and discussed streets and alleys in need of repairs. Administrator Jensen referenced the street and alley improvement project schedule.

Council Member Johnson spoke in opposition to using taxpayer funds toward this project, when there are other projects in need of funding.

A motion was made by Council Member Groth, seconded by Council Member Gesme, to adopt Resolution 2706, accepting the bids and awarding the contract for the Hardwood Estates Second Subdivision. A voice vote was conducted, and the motion carried by a vote of 4:2, with Council Members Johnson and Jeppesen dissenting.

Reports:

Council Committees /  
Commissions / Non-  
Profit Organizations

Council Members Groth and Kronenberger referenced the Joint Powers Trail Board Annual Report and discussed planned projects.

Staff

Public Works Director Petersen reviewed the hydrant flushing schedule. He discussed new park and trail signage. He provided an update regarding the swimming pool parking lot paving project. He discussed the boring project underneath the river.

City Engineer Angerman reported that the feasibility report for the 72nd Avenue Way project will be reviewed with the City Council during the next meeting. He provided an update regarding the John Burch Park wall project and discussed a kick-off meeting.

Police Chief McCormick discussed walk to school day on October 4 and commented regarding traffic control.

Mayor and Council

There were no reports.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Groth and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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

  
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Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator