

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, 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 attended the meeting remotely. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Sara Peer, City Clerk; Jed Petersen, Public Works Director; Zach Logelin, License & Permit Technician; 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. Council Member Kronenberger attended the meeting remotely via Zoom.
- Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Montgomery led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Amended Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Groth, to approve the Agenda as amended. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Public Input There was no public input.
- Consent Agenda
- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending June 26, 2024
 - B. Meeting Minutes for June 18, 2024, City Council Meeting
 - C. Resolution 2765, Adopting Primary and General Election Judges for 2024 and Setting the Hourly Wages
 - D. Approve 72nd Avenue Way Improvement Project Deferred Assessment
 - E. Resolution 2766, Authorizing Fund Closures for Year End 2023 Cannon Falls City Audit
 - F. Resolution 2767, Granting Conditional Use Permit for Dollar General
 - G. Resolution 2768, Granting Variance from Front Setback for Dollar General
 - H. Resolution 2769, Granting Variance from Parking Stall Requirements for Dollar General

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

Council Business:
Executive Search
Consultant

Mayor Montgomery provided background information and referenced recent Council discussion of City Administrator Jensen's intention to

retire in early 2025. He summarized recent discussion by the ad hoc committee. He reported that proposals were received from two executive search firms, David Drown Associates and South Central Service Cooperative. He stated that the City has worked with David Drown Associates in the past, most recently on a pay study. He discussed each proposal and reviewed the cost. He indicated that the committee recommends working with South Central Service Cooperative. He noted that the scope of work would be the same but that the cost would be significantly less to work with SCSC.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson to contract with South Central Service Cooperative to assist with the search for a new City Administrator. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gesme. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports:
Council Committees /
Commissions /
Nonprofit
Organizations

There were no reports from Council committees, commissions, or nonprofit organizations.

Staff

Public Works Director Petersen provided updates regarding the mill and overlay project and the John Burch Park project. He discussed other projects, noting that the recent rainy weather has caused some delays. Mayor Montgomery suggested reaching out to MnDOT regarding a traffic study, noting that he has received feedback from residents. Council Member Johnson inquired regarding an estimated completion date for the Cannon Street project, and Director Petersen provided additional information.

Police Chief McCormick reported that river levels, while dropping, continue to be higher than normal. He noted that this has caused some issues with the parks. He reported that Lower Hannah's Bend Park will remain closed at this time. He summarized recent discussions with Cannon Valley Fair representatives pertaining to overflow parking areas and noted that alternate arrangements have been made, to avoid damage to the parks caused by vehicles.

Chief McCormick discussed street closures during the 4th of July parade and issues relating to fireworks. He discussed the use of the speed trailer. It was noted that the parade will be held rain or shine, unless there is lightning in the area. He noted that parade organizers will provide updates.

Council Member Johnson asked whether the paved path along the river is currently open or closed. Chief McCormick reported that this trail is currently closed until tree debris can be removed.

Chief McCormick reported that he, as the City's Emergency Management Director, has been working with County and State officials, noting that the situation will likely receive a FEMA declaration due to ongoing flooding issues. He reviewed the process of hiring trained professionals to assist with cleanup activities.

City Administrator Jensen discussed the upcoming work session on July 23, during which representatives of local nonprofit organizations have been invited to provide presentations to the City Council regarding requests for funding assistance from the City.

Mayor and Council

The Mayor and Council Members expressed appreciation to volunteers who assisted with sandbagging activities. Past flooding events were discussed. Chief McCormick commented that more flooding events are anticipated in the future.

Council Member Johnson referenced a recommendation for quarterly financial reporting to the City Council. It was noted that this recommendation will be implemented.

The Mayor and Council Members wished everyone a safe and fun 4th of July weekend.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Jeppesen, seconded by Council Member Groth, to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 23rd day of July, 2024.



Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:



Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator

