

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery and Council Members Derek Lundell, Steve Gesme, Lisa Groth, Ryan Jeppesen, Laura Kronenberger, and Diane Johnson. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Sara Peer, City Clerk; and Joe Berg, Police Lieutenant

Call to Order Mayor Montgomery called the City Council work session to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approve Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Groth, seconded by Council Member Gesme and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

Mayor Montgomery reviewed the work session agenda. He stated that community organizations that have received contributions from the City were invited to make presentations to the City Council as part of the 2025 budget planning process. Later during the work session Mayor Montgomery reviewed information that was provided by the City Attorney relating to the legality of contributions from the City.

Nonprofit
Organizations

A. Cannon Valley Senior Center.

John Hobert introduced himself as a member of the Board of Directors of the Cannon Valley Senior Center. He reviewed a history of the Cannon Valley Senior Center, noting that the organization began operating in January of 1995.

A video presentation was viewed, which described past and present leadership; senior recreation programs; concert hosting events; learning adventures and Book Buddies; cards and games activities; bus trips and outings; community service programs and volunteer opportunities; and special programs and workshops, including trail rides, TRIAD activities and programs, the Dresses for Girls program, crafts and quilting programs, and gardening activities. Mr. Hobert reported that the CVSC currently has 180 paid members, who pay dues of \$20 per year.

CVSC Board Chair Joyce Falink provided additional information. She noted that the purpose of the Cannon Valley Senior Center, formerly known as the Shepherd's Center, is to enrich the lives of local seniors.

Ms. Falink further described the programs and activities that improve seniors' quality of life. She discussed how the CVSC is funded and reviewed how these funds are utilized.

Cannon Valley Senior Center Director Lora Bremer further detailed expenses and funding sources. She noted that the minimum age for membership is now 50. She clarified that the CVSC utilizes rent-free space from the School District.

B. Historical Society.

Amy Dombeck introduced herself as the President of the Cannon Falls Area Historical Society. She stated that the organization has existed since the 1980s. She described some of the museum artifacts. She stated that the City assisted the Historical Society in purchasing the white house next door to the museum. She expressed appreciation for the support that the City has provided to the organization for many years. She detailed monthly expenses, including co-Director and administrative expenses, and discussed revenue sources. She reviewed past and future programs, student and public outreach activities, and other benefits of the Historical Society to the community. She described future maintenance needs for both buildings and discussed potential grant funding opportunities.

Ms. Dombeck provided a brief history of the museum building, noting that it was formerly used as a fire hall and then as a public library. She stated that a group of ladies known as the Tuesday Club, who are depicted on a mural on the Post Office building, later became stewards of the museum.

C. Cannon Valley Fair Association.

Ferlin Miller introduced himself as a member of the Board of Directors of the Cannon Valley Fair Association. Mr. Miller discussed the 100+ year community fair. He described the various ways that the City has supported the Cannon Valley Fair over the years. Mr. Miller provided financial information detailing fair expenses.

D. Chamber of Commerce.

Maggie Wilson introduced herself as the Director of the Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. She reported that the Chamber currently has 168 members, including 8 new members in 2024. She discussed Chamber programs and activities. She detailed community events, including the Fun Fest, Easter Egg Hunt, Trick or Treat Trot, and Deck the Falls. She reviewed Chamber finances and revenue sources.

Ms. Wilson discussed the Chamber event calendar, window clings, Discover guides, visitor information, and promotional advertising. Ms. Wilson discussed Chamber Dollars and scholarships. She reviewed current Chamber leadership goals, including membership engagement and a tiered membership structure. She expressed appreciation for the support that has been provided by the City in the past.

The Mayor and Council Members expressed appreciation for the many benefits that local nonprofit organizations provide to the community.

Later during the work session Council Members expressed a preference for maintaining the 2024 donation levels for the four nonprofit organizations that provided presentations. It was noted that each organization provides free and open community programming and events. The annual contributions for each organization were clarified.

Water and Sewer
Rates Discussion

City Administrator Jensen provided background information and discussed the water and sewer funds. He recommended consideration of smaller incremental increases in water and sewer rates to support operating expenses and capital projects. He noted that water revenue is down this year compared with last year, because of the rainy weather resulting in less need for irrigation. He requested Council direction, to assist with budget planning activities. He cautioned against comparing water and sewer rates with surrounding communities.

Council Member Johnson asked whether these funds can be utilized toward utility work during street improvement projects. City Administrator Jensen discussed how enterprise funds are utilized to support operating expenses and infrastructure projects and provided examples. He also referenced increasing operating costs.

Council Members spoke in support of 3% to 5% increases in water and sewer rates, noting that fees have been relatively flat for a number of years.

Council Member Lundell suggested evaluating the tiered rate structure, which is based on usage, with consideration of higher percentage fee increases for the higher tiers.

Following discussion, the Council consensus was to incorporate 4% water and sewer fee increases into the 2025 budget.

Council Member Johnson suggested future discussion of the recycling fund.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Jeppesen and unanimously carried, to adjourn the work session. The work session adjourned at 6: 03 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 6th day of August, 2024.



Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:



Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator