

**Cannon Falls Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
January 12, 2026**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chair Diane Johnson; Commissioners Brian Douglas, Chad Johnson, Chris Nobach, and Isaac Naatz

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** All members were in attendance

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jon Radermacher, City Administrator; Izzy Carlson, License & Permit Technician

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair D. Johnson at 6:30 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was conducted. Chair D. Johnson and Commissioners Douglas, C. Johnson, Naatz, and Nobach were in attendance.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Nobach, seconded by Commissioner Naatz and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 8, 2025**

A motion was made by Commissioner Nobach, seconded by Commissioner C. Johnson and unanimously carried, to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.

**5. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. Conditional Use Permit for Outdoor Storage in I-2, General Industrial.**

License & Permit Technician Carlson provided background information and an overview of a Conditional Use Permit application submitted by Knutson Construction to allow outdoor storage. She noted that a CUP is required in the I-2 zoning district. She stated that the application meets all of the required conditions. She referenced draft resolutions to recommend approval or denial of the CUP request.

Chair D. Johnson reviewed the Public Hearing procedure and opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m.

Erin McMahon, Hoffman Street, Cannon Falls, stated her understanding that Knutson Construction would be storing cranes on the site. Ms. McMahon inquired about the height of the crane equipment and whether political or other signage would be allowed to hang off of the cranes.

No one else spoke during the Public Hearing. Chair D. Johnson closed the Public Hearing at 6:34 p.m.

**B. Northern States Power Company – Conditional Use Permit.**

*The Public Hearing was rescheduled.*

**C. Northern States Power Company – Variance.**

*The Public Hearing was rescheduled.*

**7. DISCUSSION**

**A. Conditional Use Permit for Outdoor Storage in I-2, General Industrial.**

Commissioner C. Johnson asked whether the City can regulate signage content. City Administrator Radermacher indicated that the City cannot regulate signage content, noting that this is protected by First Amendment freedom of speech. He clarified that the City can regulate signage in terms of size, placement, and manner.

Chair D. Johnson asked about the crane height. Tom Leimer, Senior Vice President of Knutson Construction, indicated that the cranes would be truck cranes and not tower cranes.

Commissioner C. Johnson inquired regarding the storage containers. Mr. Leimer described the storage boxes and provided additional background information. He indicated that Knutson Construction is in the process of purchasing a nearby property. He stated that there may not be any outdoor storage for 6 to 12 months, noting that the company desires the flexibility to do so in the future.

Commissioner Douglas inquired regarding the location of the storage area. Mr. Leimer indicated that a short- and long-range master plan would be developed for the site and submitted to the City for approval.

Commissioner Nobach referenced the paving requirement and noted that the application appears to meet this requirement.

A motion was made by Commissioner C. Johnson to adopt Resolution 2026-01, recommending approval of the CUP request as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commission Naatz, a voice vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

**8. ADJOURN**

Chair D. Johnson welcomed alternate Commissioner C. Johnson to the Planning Commission. She reviewed the application process for the vacant seat.

Commissioner Nobach inquired regarding the proposed Fairgrounds ordinance. City Administrator Radermacher stated his hope that draft ordinance language will be presented during the next Planning Commission meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nobach, seconded by Commissioner Naatz and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.